

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 13th October, 2004

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

The Annual Report and Accounts of Maseno University for the year ended 30th June, 2000 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) for the year ended 30th June, 2002 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

Audited Accounts of Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) for the year ended 30th June, 2002 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Moi University for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Katuku) on behalf
of the Minister for Education,
Science and Technology)*

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Pest Control Products Board for the year ended 30th June, 2002 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) for the year ended, 30th June, 2003 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Katuku) on behalf of
the Minister for Agriculture)*

The Annual Report and Accounts of Postal Corporation of Kenya for the year ended 30th

June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Postal Corporation of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 2000 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) for the year ended 30th June, 2002 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Katuku) on behalf
of the Minister for Information
and Communications)*

The Annual Report and Accounts of Export Processing Zones (EPZ) for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Katuku) on behalf
of the Minister for Trade and Industry)*

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Lake Basin Development Authority for the year ended 30th June, 2000 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Katuku) on behalf
of the Minister for Regional
Development Authorities)*

The Annual Report and Accounts of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) for the year ended 30th June, 2000 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) for the year ended 30th June, 2001 and the Certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Assistant Minister
for Finance (Mr. Katuku) on
behalf of the Minister for
Lands and Housing)*

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

DISBANDMENT OF KENYA POLICE RESERVE

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

(a) Could the Minister inform the House under which law he disbanded the Kenya Police Reserve?

(b) Is he aware that as a result of the disbandment, crime levels are on the upward trend?

(c) Could the Minister reverse his decision as a matter of urgency and reinstate the reservists?

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

(a) The Kenya Police Reserve is constituted under the provisions of the Police Act Cap.84, Laws of Kenya. It is under the same Act that the Police Reserve can be disbanded. On enlistment as a Police Reserve Officer, one makes a declaration as contained in the Second Schedule of the Police Act.

(b) No, I am not aware that as a result of the disbandment, crime levels are on the upward trend. On the contrary, crime statistics show clearly that there is a declining trend countrywide.

(c) No, the Minister cannot reverse the decision and reinstate the reservists, but the Commissioner of Police is in the process of reviewing the proper modalities of advertising any available vacancies to recruit suitable candidates who will then undergo the necessary training before deployment.

Mr. Weya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the police reserve is a free service which citizens enjoy and which the Commissioner of Police can disband. I have the Act in my hand here and there is nowhere where it says that the Minister can disband it. It is an Act of Parliament, therefore, it is Parliament which can disband the Kenya Police Reserve.

Mr. Speaker: Are you answering the question for him or are you questioning him?

Mr. Weya: I am worried because the way the Assistant Minister has answered the Question is quite worrying.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry about your worry, but we have no provision for worries under the Standing Orders!

(Laughter)

Mr. Weya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a concern here because the Assistant Minister is telling us that the police reserve has been disbanded, yet we know that there are people acting as Kenya Police Reservists in service. I would like to mention a man by the name of Jeremiah Kamanda Mburu, Force No.9684. He is in service. He is operating like a police reservist and the Assistant Minister is telling us that it has been disbanded. Is the Minister aware of this?

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Commissioner of Police told us when he came here before the Departmental Committee, it is not that the police reserve has been disbanded, but that the police reservists in the major towns have been relieved of their duties. The police reservists in Turkana and Marsabit are still on duty.

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just informed the House that the police reserve are constituted under Cap.84 of the Laws of Kenya. It is under Section 57(2) that the Commissioner has powers to disband the force. I want to agree with Dr. Godana that in places such as the area where he comes from and in Tana River, the police reservists are still operational. It is only in the main towns that we recalled them. We have not disbanded them as may have been misunderstood previously.

Mr. Mwanzia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I tend to agree with the Assistant Minister because the Commissioner of Police appeared before the Departmental Committee on Security of which I am a Member. The Assistant Minister should give us reasons why these reservists were dismissed.

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a police reservist is enlisted in the service under Section 53 of the Act, they are meant to sign a form which is in the 5th Schedule of the Act. In this form the officer takes an oath of office which requires him to uphold himself to certain standards. It requires him to carry out his duties as provided for under Section 7 of the Police Act. It was the opinion of the Commissioner of Police with concurrence of the Ministry that some of the officers in various towns were either by design or default not keeping up with the oath of affirmation. Therefore, we had to do away with them. There was evidence that some of them were colluding

with some of the people who were supposed to be arrested.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Weya.

Mr. Weya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us give this chance to Mr. Noah arap Too because this is where he was working very closely with the Government. He can shed us some light.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Weya, do as you are told by the Chair. The Chair has given you the opportunity to ask your last question. I am very conversant with the face, name, and physique of Mr. arap Too. I will recognise him when I see it fit.

Proceed.

Mr. Weya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that some of these police reservists were providing even helicopters to chase thugs within different estates in this country. The Assistant Minister is telling us that some of these people were using those helicopters to chase crime. Can the Assistant Minister explain how he will deal with insecurity within the estates?

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated before, the statistics are showing us that the crime rate is coming down. As far as dealing with crime in the estates is concerned, we are trying to introduce community policing. We hope some of the other reforms that we are carrying out in the Police Force will enable us to combat any crimes within the estates.

DISPOSAL OF KENYA NATIONAL
ASSURANCE COMPANY ASSETS

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that all fixed assets of Kenya National Assurance Company (2001) Ltd are being sold and disposed off by the board of the company?

(b) Could the Minister confirm that the sale and disposal of the assets is justified and transparent?

(c) What steps is the Minister taking to protect the interests of former staff, pensioners and other claimants of the original Kenya National Assurance Company Ltd?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the fixed assets of Kenya National Assurance Company (KNAC) 2001 Limited are being sold and disposed off by the board of the company. I am, however, aware that some of the properties of the company are being offered for sale in order to settle policy claims.

(b) I wish to confirm that the sale and disposal of the said properties is justified and transparent.

(c) The mandate of the board and management of the KNAC is limited to:-

(i) Pay the outstanding claims of the closed life fund of the former company as set out in the schedule of transfer approved by the court.

(ii) To develop the new company into a viable life assurance company. The sale of the property investment is part of the necessary financial restructuring to pay off the court debts and rationalise the investment portfolio. In line with the requirements of the Insurance Act, the company has carried out the variation of life portfolio. The properties have been professionally valued by the Government valuer to ensure that interests of the policy holders are protected. Assets are being identified and have been retained to safeguard the future benefit of the existing policy holders and pensioners.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer by the Assistant Minister is misleading. The advert on the sale of property owned by the KNAC has appeared in the local Press. Practically, all the buildings in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nyeri and all the plots in Githurai are

up for sale. By selling all these assets, the Ministry is putting the KNAC---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muiruri!

Mr. Muiruri: I am finishing, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It does not matter whether you are finishing or not. What matters is whether you are right or wrong. You are there to ask a question.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister table the list of all the properties that are on sale and those ones that are not on sale? He should also table their valuations and what has already been disposed off because this is purely liquidating the entire company.

Mr. Katuku: As I had indicated in my earlier response, only "some" and not "all" houses were being sold.

In relation to his question, the ones which are listed for sale are Protection House, Salama House, Town House, Githurai plots, Bima Towers, Bamburi plots, Tiwi Beach manager's house, KNAC Building manager's house, Eldoret plots and Ex-Oshwal plots. There are just five assets which are not for sale. They include Corner House, Nanyuki houses, Eldoret Complex, policy loans and mortgages.

Regarding the other aspect where the hon. Member said that the assets are being disposed of at throw-away prices, none of these assets have been sold as I am speaking here. What happened is that the assets were advertised for sale and the people who quoted were far below the Government valuation rates and, therefore, they were not sold.

Mr. Owino: Could the Assistant Minister tell the House whether after selling all these properties, the company will be solvent and able to start providing insurance services to Kenyans again?

Mr. Katuku: When this company started facing problems, it had a total of--- For example the claims by ex-Kenya National Assurance Company staff were totalling to Kshs226 million, institutional claims were totalling to Kshs1.3 billion, while ordinary policy was about Kshs556 million, adding up to a total of Kshs2.1 billion. The Government provided Kshs1.7 billion in the 2003 Budget. If you look at the assets of the company, they amount to a value of Kshs2.2 billion, while the liabilities were about Kshs3.9 billion. So, the difference of Kshs1.7 billion was paid by the Government. It is anticipated that by 2005, this company will be back again in operation and that is the time-table we have. We have already paid all the pensioners. There is not even one of them who has not been paid. If any Member has any claim, he can bring it forward to me and he will be paid immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Muiruri!

Mr. Muiruri: I would like the Assistant Minister to be a bit more serious about this issue. When he says that there is no sale going on, this is not true. I have a letter here written to one of the bidders by the name of Protection Properties Ltd, selling Protection House. The valuation of this property is Kshs220 million, and the arrangement that is going on now is to sell this property at Kshs80 million. So, the sale is going on. The point is, would you go ahead and stop the entire exercise, because they are selling these properties to their personal friends.

(Applause)

*(Mr. Muiruri threw the document
towards the Table)*

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know. Has he tabled the document?

Hon. Members: Yes! Yes!

Mr. Katuku: Now that he has thrown the paper to me, I will handle it.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order! Mr. Muiruri, you do not seem to have a lot of respect for this House.

Mr. Muiruri: I do, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! You do not seem even to have respect for the Chair. Now, please, do not throw off papers like that. This is Parliament, my friend, and you better respect this House. If you have to table a document, you should do it properly. Do not throw it around!

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order--- Or could we seek your indulgence to know who is in order? The Assistant Minister has said that no houses or properties are being sold, yet here is Mr. Muiruri purporting to table a---

Hon. Members: He has tabled it!

Mr. Sambu: Yes, here is Mr. Muiruri tabling a letter whose authenticity we do not know. Could the Speaker look at the letter and see if it is authentic enough to be tabled? If the letter is valid, and the Assistant Minister has said that there are no properties being sold, this is a public company and many people have suffered as a result of the collapse of this company, could we---

Mr. Speaker: Very well, I think you are right, Mr. Sambu. That is why I said that you just do not toss papers around on the Table; you table it and they come directly to me immediately for me to decide the authenticity or admissibility of the same. So, can that document be given to the Clerk who will transmit it to me?

*(Mr. Muiruri laid the document
on the Table)*

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! On the face of it, it is, indeed, a letter purportedly written by Mr. Julius Nyenzo, the General Manager of the KNAC. It has some annexures which he seems to be referring to. So, it is properly before the House. Therefore, the Assistant Minister may wish to respond.

(Applause)

Can you look at it, Mr. Katuku?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing to celebrate about it. I want to clarify one thing. In my response, I said: "The houses are being disposed off". I did not say that they are not being sold. So, there is no question about it. I also said: "Some of the properties are being sold", so there should be no debate about this and that. The only issue here is that once these properties were floated for sale, and I want to go to specifics, with regard to this specific issue which has been tabled by Mr. Muiruri, the house was valued by the Government valuer to a tune of Kshs220 million. There were about three people who quoted for the purchase of the same; one of them quoted Kshs80 million, another one Kshs90 million, while the last one quoted Kshs71.5 million. In view of these quotations, it was not tenable to sell these houses to these fellows. What happened then was that we

wrote to the bidders telling them the reserve price, which is Kshs220 million. The letter which is before the House says exactly that. So, if the bidder can raise his figure to Kshs220 million, we will be able to sell the house to him.

So, what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that we are going to advertise the properties afresh, putting the reserve price for each property so that we do not lose. I want to confirm to this House that we are not going to sell any property below the valuation level. We better retain it as a corporation.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Next Question, Mr. Galgallo!

REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE
EQUIPMENT AT KNH

Dr. Galgallo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that services at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) are almost grinding to a halt due to dysfunctional equipment in the major departments of the laboratory, radiotherapy, casualty, kitchen and the surgical theatres?

(b) When will the Minister repair or replace all the broken down equipment to restore normal services?

(c) What is the fate of the obsolete equipment supplied to the hospital by the World Bank?

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that services at the KNH are almost grinding to a halt due to dysfunctional equipment in the major departments of laboratory, radiotherapy, casualty, kitchen and the surgical theatres.

However, I am aware that services at the KNH in these departments are not of the quality we would have liked, because some of the equipment has broken down, but we have equipment that is working in those departments.

I am also aware that the services that are being given in those departments are supposed to cater for 1,800 patients. However, the hospital is catering for 3,000 patients on any one given day, with the same equipment.

(b) We are in the process of repairing and replacing some of the broken-down equipment with the resources and the funds that were approved in the 2004/2005 Budget. Hon. Members will remember that we approved a sum of Kshs250 million for equipping the KNH, and for completing the casualty department.

(c) The obsolete equipment that was supplied to the hospital under the World Bank grants was done in the years 1993/97. There was a mistake and some of the equipment was not serviceable even at that time. We are evaluating the mistakes of that time, and we are going to correct them.

Dr. Galgallo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was about to rise and start praising the Minister for giving me a very good written answer, but what she is saying is different from the good answer she had written.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Departmental Committee on Health toured the hospital and the Minister was gracious enough to receive us at the hospital. We found that the laboratory department was operating more or less like a health centre unit, with most of the major equipment in a very bad shape. The hospital is sharing kitchen facilities with the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), and so, they would cook in turns. The KMTC would cook in the morning for some hours and then, next would be the KNH. The oxygen-manufacturing plant was dysfunctional---

Mr. Speaker: Are you answering the Question?

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chair challenged the Departmental Committees to travel around and see the country.

Mr. Speaker: Very good, Dr. Galgalo. I am very happy that you are working, as a Committee. But do me a little more favour in this House. Write your report and table it in the House for us to discuss it. This is now Question Time.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will table the report, but this matter is urgent because KNH is a national referral institution which is in a very bad shape, and we want the Minister---

Mr. Speaker: Please, ask her a question!

Dr. Galgalo: Could the Minister re-allocate the Kshs500 million which she had allocated to the National Bank of Kenya in the current Budget, to KNH so as to rehabilitate this important institution and save it from ultimate collapse?

(Applause)

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. It is true that the Departmental Committee on Health toured the hospital, and what they saw is what there is. It is also true that the hospital may be sharing kitchen facilities with the KMTTC. However, KNH is both a referral and a teaching hospital. Moreover, at the moment, it is catering for all the clinics that fall within Nairobi and its environs. That is why it is catering for 3,000 patients, and not the required 1,800.

As to the Kshs544 million that was put under the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to go to National Bank of Kenya, hon. Members will agree with me that we agreed to distribute that money to health centres and dispensaries within the rural areas to equip them. So, I do not know whether hon. Members are changing their minds on what we agreed here in the House. That is what we intend to do with that money.

However, I want to share with hon. Members that what we are doing at the KNH is to ensure that with the resources available, we will immediately put in place equipment, and ensure that those very sensitive departments are working. We are also talking with the Ministry of Finance and other donors with a view to sourcing for more resources.

I also want to assure hon. Members here that KNH is not what it was two years ago.

Dr. Manduku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a week ago, the Minister toured KNH. She saw how deplorable the hospital was and she said it. Some mothers were lying on the floor and had been detained there because they could not afford to pay for maternity services. She went ahead and commendably discharged them, and asked them to invite more mothers who are desperate to go and deliver at KNH, and I am sure many will go there. Has she put in place any more facilities to cater for the influx of the desperate mothers who will go to the hospital?

(Applause)

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true I toured KNH. But I think hon. Members are not listening to understand that I am saying that KNH is catering for 3,000 patients over and above the 1,800 that it can take.

However, I said that I am working very hard. Members of Parliament from Nairobi will agree with me that we have now opened up all the dispensaries and health centres within the city, and we have provided them with medical personnel, so that we can decongest KNH.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of those women who were sleeping on the floor after delivering and being detained there, this is happening often because of the cost sharing policy, which I am trying to work on to ensure that it can be done away with.

If only we were to pass the National Social Health Insurance Fund Bill, this would be a

thing of the past.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! If you do not like the planned programme by the Minister, that is no breach of order; you wait and oppose it.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said, and I want to say it again in the House, that all pregnant women must, first and foremost, seek medical support. After they have delivered, we do not want to see women dying in their homes and villages. I would rather that first of all, they come, deliver safely and they are detained. The Minister may pass through the hospital and release them, but at least, they will not be dead.

*(Several hon. Members stood
up in their places)*

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Sit down! You know, I appreciate the importance of all Questions, particularly this one. However, this is the third Question for the day. You can see, I am also running out of time. Nevertheless I will only give two more hon. Members an opportunity to ask their questions.

Mr. Sasura!

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has lamented about the issue of congestion at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). Only yesterday, it was confirmed to us that there is a District Officer operating in a dispensary in one corner of this country. That means that congestion is there to stay at KNH. Now that she has conceded that there is a breakdown in the major departments at KNH, and we have Voted Ksh250 million for her Ministry, could she assure his House that the rehabilitation works will begin and end very soon?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rehabilitation works have already began and they will end very soon.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that this country has some of the best doctors in the world; trained in the best universities using tax payers's money. Our doctors have been reduced to mere escorts; to escort patients to hospitals in London, Germany, South Africa and America. Although they are good doctors, we lack good equipment to treat our patients. The KNH is both a university teaching hospital and a referral hospital. It should, therefore, have some of the best equipment. What is the Government doing to ensure that we are not just sourcing, like the Minister has said, from donors and other people, to make sure that KNH is one of the best equipped hospitals in this region so that we can save both money and our people's lives? I would also like to see the Ministry improve the facilities of other lower hospitals so that as a referral hospital, KNH has less patients to treat because they will have been dealt with at the other hospitals?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kenyans lament that KNH is not doing well. I would like to share their concerns. However, KNH is taking in patients from various parts of this region. It is only a few Kenyans who are fairly wealthy, who want to leave our hospitals and go out of this country. I would like to assure this House that the Government is already looking forward to making KNH fully equipped with the latest equipment. We will provide resources for this.

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Capt. Nakitare, what is it?

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister in order to tell this House that patients are taken to seek treatment out of this country because they are rich or is it because of lack of equipment and expertise in our hospitals?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that all Kenyans saw the President of Namibia touring KNH and actually visiting patients from his own country who were being treated there.

However, may be the Kenyan standards, obviously are much higher than those of Namibia, but not much higher than other countries within the region. We would like to bring in the best equipment. The Government is already considering this. I have brought this to the attention of the Cabinet and the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, by the way, tomorrow do not think the Chair will be so generous. I have never been this generous! We have only tackled three questions in 45 minutes!

Proceed, Dr. Galgallo!

Dr. Galgallo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for your excellent mood today!

(Applause)

For KNH to be back on its feet, it requires about Kshs700 million, which is not too much for this Government. Could the Minister consider allocating that money to the hospital in the coming financial year so that we have an institution where we can enjoy good services?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member knows that we do not require Kshs700 million. In fact, in the health sector, we actually require 15 per cent of the total Budget. At the moment we still work with 7 per cent. I am not asking for 7 per cent nor for Kshs700 million. In actual fact, KNH requires Kshs7 billion every single year if it is to work properly. However, we only get Kshs2.6 billion. I will be asking for Kshs4.4 billion.

Mr. Speaker: Very well!

Let us move to Ordinary Questions!

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.612

GRAVELLING OF NDUNDORI- NJABINI ROAD

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

(a) if he could inform the House how much money was allocated by the Government under the *El Nino* Emergency Fund AFD project to gravel Road C69 (Ndundori-Njabini) in Nyandarua District;

(b) if he is aware that a very shoddy job was done between Ndunyu-Njeru and Njabini townships; and,

(c) when the defects liability period will end and in the meantime, what urgent measures he is taking to ensure that the defects are repaired.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Machage): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I received this Question this morning. I beg for the indulgence of the House that I am given time, by its very nature, to consult widely with the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, to give the answer on Tuesday, next week.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Waithaka, is that okay with you?

Mr. Waithaka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have really tried to consult the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. They tell me they are absolutely ignorant of what is happening with the *El Nino* funded projects. In fact, that is why I referred this Question to the Office of the President.

Mr. Speaker: So, could we give them a chance?

Mr. Waithaka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to try?

Mr. Speaker: Yes!

Mr. Waithaka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, up to when?

Mr. Speaker: Tuesday, next week!

Mr. Waithaka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is okay!

Mr. Speaker: Very well! This Question is deferred to Tuesday, next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No.628

DISBURSEMENT OF LATF MONEY
TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Mr. Sirma asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) if he is aware that local authorities received over Kshs4 billion in the 2003/2004 Financial Year through the Local Authorities Transfer Fund; and,

(b) if he could table a list of the projects to be carried out by the local authorities with the funds in each constituency countrywide.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that local authorities have received Kshs3.74 billion and not Kshs4 billion in the 2003/2004 Financial Year through the Local Authorities Transfer Fund as detailed in the special issue of the Kenya Gazette of 14th April, 2003.

(b) The list of the projects proposed for implementation under the Authorities Transfer Fund in each local authority and not constituencies, in the Financial Year 2003/2004 is hereby tabled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the document on the Table of the House

*(Mr. Kamanda laid the document
on the Table)*

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, hon. Members have been asking about the LATF. Since the Minister has just tabled the list, we cannot be able to go through it to know whether this project has been undertaken or not.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sirma, to be fair to you and to the other hon. Members, I will defer the Question to Thursday next week to enable all interested hon. Members to look at these documents, so that you could participate meaningfully in this Question.

(Question deferred)

Question No.413

DESTRUCTION OF TREES BY MOTORISTS

Mr. Kipchumba asked the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:-

(a) if he is aware that many trees are destroyed everyday by motorists who use twigs as a hazard sign when their vehicles breakdown; and,

(b) what steps he will take to stop this menace.

Mr. Speaker: Prof. Maathai, before we proceed, yesterday and today the House still

congratulates you. I think you deserve it. The House and Kenya are elated and proud of you! We will not tire of this.

(Applause)

Prof. Maathai, you may now proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Prof. Maathai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that motorists use twigs from plants which grow on road reserves when their vehicles break down. However, during the exercise of road maintenance and bush-clearing by the relevant Ministry, many plants and trees are cut down along the road reserves. This is what destroys many trees.

(b) My Ministry will consult with the relevant Ministries including the Department of Provincial Administration and National Security under the Ministry of State, Office of the President to come up with regulations which should require that drivers have necessary tools to use when their cars break down. This will protect trees, other kind of plants and habitat in general on road reserves.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe the hon. Member could ask about rioters who cut down trees and carry twigs.

Proceed!

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked this Question because there are many accidents which are caused as a result of many motorists destroying trees, in the process, and using them as a sign of danger. In many parts of the world, there is a requirement that one must use the necessary gadgets to signify danger. This also applies to all the East African countries except Kenya. I request the Assistant Minister to liaise with the Minister for Roads and Public Works to correct this anomaly. The use of branches from trees is a danger to our forests because trees that grow near roads do not cause any danger to motorists. However, these trees have been cleared in most parts of our country for no apparent reason.

Mr. Speaker: Are you making a speech?

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making a request.

Mr. Speaker: No. There is no time for making a request. It is Question Time!

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a request can also be a question. Could the Assistant Minister liaise with the relevant Ministry so that no more trees are destroyed? She has told me that she will do that. However, could she expedite the process so that more trees are not destroyed?

Prof. Maathai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already been in touch with the Minister for Roads and Public Works. We will do exactly that.

Mr. Arungah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister also consider stopping the usage of trees on building sites as scaffolds because this is also contributing to deforestation?

Mr. Speaker: As what?

Mr. Arungah: As scaffolds. The poles used to support structures during the construction of a building.

Mr. Speaker: So, what do we use?

Mr. Arungah: There are steel scaffolds which could be used and last for as long as 50 years. That would save our forests.

Prof. Maathai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we shall do that.

Mr. Weya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works has been destroying trees along the roads. Could the Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources tell us where trees should be planted along roadsides? We need trees on our roadsides to get carbon

dioxide away from human beings.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Madam Assistant Minister, did you understand what he is asking? In essence, he is saying that as much as we require trees, we also need pedestrian walkways along the roads.

Hon. Members: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not what he said!

Mr. Speaker: What did you say, Mr. Weya?

Mr. Weya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that people need to plant trees along roadsides. Could the Ministry liaise with that of Roads and Public Works and agree on where trees can be planted along roadsides so that they are not destroyed in future?

Mr. Speaker: Prof. Maathai, do you understand his question?

Prof. Maathai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I understand what the hon. Member has said. In that connection, we have already contacted the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. We have already requested it to allow trees to grow along our road reserves. This is because cutting of trees along with the excuse that they cause obstruction is not true. There have been many road accidents in this country. However, I have hardly heard of any accident that has been caused by obstruction of a tree. As a matter of fact, I would like to appeal to Kenyans to drive slowly along highways so that they can enjoy the beauty of trees and other plants which are along highways instead of rushing. I want to appeal to the Ministry of Roads and Public Works to allow vegetation to grow on road reserves. The vegetation is an important part of the ecology along the roads.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Capt. Nakitare!

Capt. Nakitare: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have heard what the Assistant Minister has said regarding environmental protection. We still insist that the Ministry of Roads and Public Works takes into consideration that trees which are by the roadside are sometimes ornamental trees which the State has spent money to plant. For instance, the trees which were planted along Mombasa Road. What steps is the Assistant Minister taking to protect the ornamental trees which were planted by Heads of States and other dignitaries?

Prof. Maathai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the protection of such trees may fall under my Ministry. However, this could also be the responsibility of the Ministry of Roads and Public Works.

Therefore, I can only emphasise that our Ministry will continue to liaise with all the relevant Ministries to protect the trees on road reserves.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, hon. Members, that the remaining Questions---

Mr. Kombe: On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! When I am talking, you cannot talk! That is why I am called the "Speaker!"

(Laughter)

When I speak, you do not speak! The remaining Questions will be deferred.

Question No.671

DISCHARGING OF INDUSTRIAL
WASTE INTO RIVER NYANDO

(Question deferred)

Question No.578

LOSS OF SHARES BY KILIFI/MALINDI
CASHEWNUT FARMERS

(Question deferred)

Question No.038

PAYMENT OF LOW SALARIES TO
MENENGAI ESTATE WORKERS

(Question deferred)

Question No.218

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON ADULT
EDUCATION TEACHERS

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: The relevant hon. Members should consult the Clerk of the National Assembly to fix dates which are convenient to them.

*(The Minister for Co-operative
Development and Marketing stood
up in his place)*

Mr. Speaker: Yes, what is it?

The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that I am a very experienced hon. Member of this House. I would not just pick up an issue with the Speaker. However, yesterday, I had a Question which was deferred and has also been deferred today. With due respect to the Chair, I think that we should rearrange these Questions so that if a Question is deferred from one day to another, it is given priority the following day.

(Applause)

If we stop doing other things to come and answer Questions because our main responsibility is in this House, then they are deferred, then we should not. The House comes first. However, everyday, Ministers also have other responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. members! Apart from Ministers coming here to answer Questions by the way, even if they have no Questions to answer, they are obligated to come here!

(Applause)

In the exercise of the powers conferred on me by the Constitution, I will declare your seat vacant, if you do not turn up. So, whether you are busy or not, or you have Questions or not, you must come

here. However, anyway, the suggestion you have made is good and, as a matter of fact, I have on several occasions directed that the Question that I have deferred must have precedence. I have deferred this Question and I hope the clerks will implement it. It is a good idea. Thank you very much, Mr. Ndwiga. However, you know, you are also part of the House and we really are glad to see you here and I hope you do not walk out now. You must participate in the debates.

POINT OF ORDER

HANDLING OF VISAS BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION

Maj-Gen. Nkaiserry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to request for Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Foreign Affairs as regards the handling of visas by the British High Commission. I went to the British High Commission this morning and I was actually subjected to humiliation because I was told that they had to take my fingerprints and I have always been travelling to UK before. They said that it is now a requirement. In that Ministerial Statement, I want the Minister to answer three questions. One, why are Kenyan Members of Parliament and Kenyans subjected to such humiliation as if we are a colony of the British? Two, are British Members of Parliament subjected to the same condition by our High Commission in the UK? Three, is Visa Handling Service Limited a Kenyan company? If not, why is the British High Commission contracting foreign companies and not local companies to handle the visa service?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wetangula, do you have any response?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we gave a Statement in the last Session on this issue but I can give a Statement on Wednesday morning next week. Sorry, it is a public holiday. Maybe Thursday?

Mr. Speaker: I am told Wednesday is a public holiday unless you want to come here alone! Do you intend to come alone?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already corrected that. I do not think it is an issue. Can I do it on Thursday?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Very good. Well, that ends the story now.
Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read being
12th Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 12 - Ministry of Local Government

*(The Minister for Local Government
on 12.10.2004)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 12.10.2004)*

Mr. Speaker: I understand Mr. Wetangula was on the Floor.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): That is true, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let me just remind you of your time.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was told it was five minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When the House rose yesterday, I was talking about urban planning, that is planning to create towns. The Ministry of Local Government should make it a duty that every urban centre has a planner to assist in planning and helping the towns on where to allocate residential houses and public utilities so that we do not have towns mushrooming like slums. If you look at every new and growing town, they are all slum-like. There is no planning and in the absence of planning, we are running an environmental hazard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the local authorities are charged with the collection of rates and service charge. If you recall at Independence, we used to agitate that: "No taxation without representation", because we wanted representation. I think it is time we started agitating against local authorities by saying: "No service charge, no rates without services.", because we pay rates and service charges, but we never see any services delivered from the local authorities.

Yesterday, in his contribution, one of the Members of Parliament from Nairobi made a very unwarranted and scathing attack on the Minister for Local Government. I want to reiterate what hon. Raila said here, that Members of Parliament are honourable and should remain honourable and should not be turned into mercenaries to come and settle scores for persons who lose tenders out there and come and call names to unconcerned persons. The Minister for Local Government is not the Mayor of Nairobi. He is not the chief executive of Nairobi. He does not get involved in the tendering system of Nairobi and it is idle for an hon. Member to stand here and cast aspersions against a Minister whose record as a crusader against vice and corruption speaks for itself. I think we should not lower the dignity of this House by playing cheap politics on the Floor of this House, that it is both unhelpful and unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one other thing that I would want to mention about local governments is that we need to relook at the Local Government Act and the LATF Act, and make it mandatory like the document that was tabled here by hon. Kamanda that indeed every year a statement of accounts showing how LATF funds have been used by every local authority must be tabled here for Members to scrutinise, questions to be asked so that we can improve the use of these funds. Councils should be given enhanced LATF funds depending on how well they used the funds that they were given the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also want to mention that as we congratulate hon. Prof. Wangari Maathai, I think it is now incumbent upon every Kenyan and, more particularly local authorities that are empowered to look after resources, to embark on environmental protection and management which includes planting of trees and running of tree nurseries; and, if the Minister is short of any funds on this item, he should come to this House for us to provide funds for such use.

With those few remarks, I beg to support this Vote.

Mr. Kajembe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The structures of local authorities in this country have remained the same since we attained Independence. There is need to change these

structures and the administration of local authorities in this country. I see no reason to have the executive officer, the town clerk and a mayor in a local authority. Time has now come for this country to make mayors executive mayors with the authority and who will be able to cover these local authorities. By this, I would suggest that mayors of our cities should be elected by the people themselves rather than by the councillors.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever there are mayoral elections, it is common of mayoral candidates to transfer councillors from one place to another giving them a lot of money and inducement. This is corruption and it should be brought to a stop. *Wananchi* should now be given the mandate to elect their mayors.

In our cities today, there are mountains of garbage. Local authorities have failed to collect garbage and, as a result, there are many infectious diseases which is too bad for *wananchi*.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no proper planning today in our towns. You cannot differentiate between a residential, a commercial or an industrial place. The planning has been messed up. In this case, it is important for all local authorities in the country to liaise with the Ministry of Lands and Settlement and the Department of Physical Planning to come up with masterplans for our cities. Before Independence, our cities had masterplans. There was a master plan for Nairobi and Mombasa. However, today, if you go to any local authority in this country, you will not be shown masterplan for its town. It is important that local authorities do their own masterplans for their towns.

On expenditure, even on very small amounts of money, for example, Kshs500,000, a local authority needs to seek the Minister's approval. Those who sit and make decisions on expenditures in local authorities are learned and qualified people. Seeking the Minister's approval should only apply to a big amount of money, for example, millions of shillings.

Of late, we have not seen any local authority in this country display its budget to the public and, yet people are paying taxes, rates and services charge. According to the law, local authorities are supposed to show their people in their respective areas; how they collect and spend their money. They should display that information to the people of that area. This is not happening. The Minister for Local Government should ensure that this is done. If the people are not shown how their money is being utilised by local authorities, they may decline to pay rates and services charge. We want local authorities to clean up our towns to our satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, clinics in local authorities operate only during office hours and close at 5.00 p.m. If somebody falls sick at night, he or she will not be taken to a local authority clinic because it is closed. I am talking with the experience of Mombasa. There is no municipal clinic which operates 24 hours. The Minister should now direct that the health centres in local authorities should operate 24 hours. People do not fall sick only during office hours but also at night. Therefore, there is a lot to be done in the Ministry of Local Government.

One bad thing which happens in our local authorities is allocation of land. After sub-division of any scheme, land must be set aside for public utilities like schools, health centres, open spaces and roads. However, today, you will see that land meant for roads, public toilets and other public utilities has been allocated to individuals. These people are called "the untouchables." The Minister for Local Government has been saying all the time, and it has become a song, that any land meant for public utility will be repossessed. Up to now, it is two years since NARC took over the power from KANU, but no public utility land has been repossessed. The land is still being administered by individuals who call themselves "the untouchables". These "untouchables" should be touched now. I request the Minister to take action against them!

Local authorities, as I said earlier on, need to change and let people know what is happening. In a City like Mombasa, people cannot play football in the Municipal Stadium at night

because there are no floodlights 42 years after Independence. Our young men will only go there to play during the day. We want our *vijana* to have activities in that stadium at night. We need floodlights at the Mombasa Municipal Stadium. As far as stadia are concerned, what we inherited from the *Mzungu* is still what is there. The only new stadia which were put up later were Nyayo National Stadium and Kasarani International Sports Centre.

When we talk of development of any kind in local authorities, let other small local authorities also grow. We should not only consider Mombasa and Nairobi when it comes to development, but other towns like Nakuru, Nyeri, Malindi and Lamu. However, the Ministry is mum on that one. The Ministry should be fully concerned and it should monitor development in those local authorities. The Ministry should be like a prefect of local authorities.

The officers in the Ministry are just there; waiting for their pay packages at the end of the month. We ought to change the structure of our local authorities.

If we look at our local authorities, we will find that residential places have now been turned into industrial areas and, yet no proper procedure has been followed to declare them industrial areas. As a result, you will find those who have built their houses in those areas getting a lot of disturbance from the heavy industrial activities.

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

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Mr. Wambora!

(Ms. Karua stood up in her place)

I am Sorry, I did not see the lady first but she will have the Floor next time!

Mr. Wambora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Vote.

May I start by congratulating the Minister for Local Government and his senior staff for coming up with a well-balanced budget. I am happy to see that the ratio of the provision for personal emoluments and operations and maintenance is 1:2. That is much better than in most Government Ministries. I am also happy that a substantial amount of money has been allocated for development. I congratulate the Minister for that.

I wish to, however, point out the challenges lying ahead for the Minister and his staff. Yesterday, in his speech, he explained to the House the efforts the Ministry is putting to train local authority personnel on budgetary matters. The most critical area that the Ministry must concentrate on is that of accountability for Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF) money. These funds are being misused by councillors.

Another challenge facing the Ministry is to ensure that there is zero-tolerance to corruption, especially by local authority officials. We are lucky we have a good Minister who does what he says. We are aware of his credentials as far as the fight against corruption is concerned. Mr. Kombo is the right person to ensure that local authorities become zero-tolerance to corruption. We are happy to have him as the Minister for Local Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me now talk about policy formulation and guidance. I am happy with the Ministry for adopting the participatory planning approach, where the local people are being involved in identifying projects. I am only worried about the activities of some councillors, who choose their own cronies to identify projects. In this regard, the Ministry must take care to ensure that the people, who will sit in the participatory planning committees to identify projects for LATF funds, are local prominent and respectable people. I am happy with the Ministry for introducing the concept of community contracting. That is most welcome, because it will put money into the pockets of the rural people. Contracts will now be awarded to people from within the local authorities.

Let me now turn to four areas of concern regarding the budget presented by the Minister. One of them is the area of solid waste management. I notice that the money allocated for this

purpose is very little. This is a very important area and the local authorities should take a leading role. We are talking of facilities like sewerage systems for local authorities. We are talking of places like Runyenjes Municipality - which I represent here - which does not have a sewerage system. It is pity, because Runyenjes Town is growing very fast. Definitely, the town centre and many small towns within Runyenjes Municipality need sewerage systems.

I have noted with pleasure that the Small Towns Development Project has been allocated Kshs120 million. We need to know the towns and projects which are going to benefit from this, so that we can monitor the expenditure of the funds allocated to them, because the emphasis has been directed in the right area; the small towns. I am also interested in the Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Project (KUTIP), which is scheduled to receive Kshs881 million from the IDA, and an additional Kshs145 million from the Government of Kenya. That adds up to Kshs1.026 billion. That is a colossal amount of money which, if properly utilised, will have a great impact throughout the country. My only fear is that most of these funds will benefit the cities, like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. I am more concerned about the poor county councils, like Samburu and small municipalities like Runyenjes, which should benefit from this big amount of money. So, this emphasis is well-placed. Providing such huge amounts of money for infrastructure is important, but it should not just go to the big cities and municipalities. The small towns should also benefit from these funds.

Another issue I would like to talk about is Poverty Reduction Through Optimizing Local Government Systems (PROLOGS). An amount of Kshs317.8 million has been allocated for this purpose. My concern is that we do not have enough information about how this money is going to be utilised. We need details on this very important expenditure area, which is addressing a very important issue of poverty reduction. Recently, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) introduced a conditionality requiring the Government to spend more funds on poverty reduction. We support that move. We are also asking for money to be spent on poverty reduction. However, we need to know how the Kshs317.8 million will be spent.

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

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to this Vote. I have not had the opportunity to do so, because I was assisting you in the Chair. So, you are justified in giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Local Government is very important. I want to advise the Minister, who happens to be my party chairman, that he will not manage this Ministry effectively if he behaves like a pope. This Ministry requires a ruthless Minister, who can make things move very fast. The Minister has to take off from where the late Mr. Karisa Maitha left and make sure that he shakes the Ministry and puts it in shape.

First of all, the Nairobi City Council, as a local authority, is the capital City of this country, and the Minister must put things right. Once he puts things right in Nairobi, he can then proceed to other areas and look into problems similar to the ones found in the Nairobi City Council. For instance, garbage collection is a very big problem in Nairobi. That is a matter which must be addressed very fast.

Unplanned structures within the Nairobi City Council are a major problem. We are too preoccupied with side issues - which cannot help us develop Nairobi - and forgetting to address the major issues. There are people who come to Nairobi everyday, who do not want to see an empty space. They do not like seeing any beauty in this city. They put up small structures. If they are removed, they demand to be allocated alternative places to carry out their business. In the first place, who brought them to Nairobi? They were not brought here by anybody! We cannot have space or land which is immeasurable where we shall be moving people who put up unplanned structures and

then we say that we must get them land on which they could be settled. We are in the city and it is the seat of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). It is a real dirty city. We live in a very dirty environment. You only need to go to the outskirts of Nairobi, like Kakamega Forest, and you will feel how fresh that air could be. When you come to this city, you breathe gas and nothing else. It is impurity which causes a lot of problems to people's health.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to touch on the question of councillors. The Minister for Local Government must come up with a law. He must get a law in place before the Ninth Parliament comes to an end. Councillors are the most important people in our political life. They are the people who are on the ground. They are the ones who attend to our constituents first and foremost before us; in terms of sickness, school fees and any other problems. They are the ones who attend to those problems. The allowances they get are shameful. It is not anything to speak about. Many municipalities and local authorities are unable to pay those councillors. It is high time that we stopped paying them peanuts from their respective local authorities and get them paid from the Consolidated Fund. Before we do that, we must get our acts right because the Exchequer may not be able to pay all those councillors because they are too many. We have too many local authorities which do not mean much. We need to consolidate all those local authorities to bring them into meaningful units. Once they are restructured, we can now start thinking about paying them through the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about my own local authority; that is Kakamega Municipal Council. In Kakamega Municipal Council, we have got the problem that actually faces Nairobi; where people are grabbing land left, right and centre. Some of those grabbing land are well-to-do and well connected. For example, we have got a primary school in Kakamega which had nearly eight acres of land but now it is only having about two acres because most of the land has been grabbed. When the Standard Two and Three pupils demonstrated against grabbing of their school land, somebody threatened them with a gun and the Government has not taken any action against those people. I want to implore the Minister for Local Government to intervene in this matter and make sure that the land which belonged to Kakamega Primary School is reinstated. It is a shame when you go there! People are putting up highrise buildings next to a school, which has got no compound, and yet it was a public land.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had a problem within the municipality. Previously, when another DC was there--- He has now been promoted for doing what he did in Kakamega. He virtually ripped off all the land. It was registered in the names of his cronies and relatives. The entire land in Kakamega went. It is surprising that land in Kakamega does not belong to the municipal council *per se*. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of that. The whole land in the municipality belongs to the county council. It has never been transferred to the municipal council. That land was ripped off by the then DC and given out to his cronies. It is a matter that needs to be attended to. It is important that the Minister addresses it before we rise up to go and reclaim the land which belongs to the public. It is a shame that, that has got to happen in our country without anybody raising an issue!

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Prof. Oniang'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this chance to contribute to this Vote of the Ministry of Local Government. I am glad that the Minister is actually here to listen and that he is not engaged in another conversation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for many Kenyans, local authorities do not exist. What do they do? For example, in Nairobi, do we rely on Nairobi City Council (NCC) funds or the Government support or the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) money? There is no collaboration, but an overlap on what the functions should be. As a result, the cities and the urban centres are not being managed properly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have often described Nairobi as the garbage capital city of the world. I recently lost a relative near the Dandora dumping site. Some of that garbage contains aborted foetuses. It is a tragedy for this country. I want to appeal to the Minister that if he does not become very shrewd, then he is not going to leave any legacy in that Ministry. He has been described as a Minister who walks the talk and is able to deliver. As Mr. Khamasi said, if he is going to behave like a pope or a priest, he is not going to live a legacy. Nairobi is a shame for Kenya. He has to start with the garbage collection sanitation.

When many Kenyans come to the city, they do not drink anything. There are no toilets to go to. If you dare to open the door of a toilet, you will find everything right in front. You cannot go inside. It is a dirty city. No wonder the lifespan of Kenyans has reduced to 45 years. More than 80 per cent of Kenyans in Nairobi live in the slums. I advise the young people to stay back in decent housing and environment in the rural areas. If that is going to be the case, then we have to develop the small urban centres in the rural areas and give them amenities which could make people want to stay there. For example, rural electrification, developing the village polytechnics and making sure that the postal and marketing services are available. We can then curb the influx of people from the rural areas into the City of Nairobi, which is becoming completely unliveable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what the Minister is going to do about the estates which have become disorganised and very unsafe because Kenyans are no longer safe in Nairobi. We truly have to do something, starting with Nairobi.

I would also want to say something about the housing situation in the cities, especially in Nairobi. We still have the one-roomed housing where a family cannot stay.

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans who have died from HIV/AIDS are taken back home to be buried. They cannot afford to bring their families to live with them in Nairobi because there is no proper housing. Life for the poor in the City of Nairobi is pathetic. If anyone of us in this House does not know that, then it means that we do not have relatives and friends living here. As we start to upgrade the slums, and I hope we will do this very quickly, we have to think about the housing environment. Houses should be subsidised, so that people can afford decent housing.

I have friends in the police force and I was also brought up in police housing. Half a century ago, the same poor housing conditions still exist. You will find a policeman and a policewoman, who are not related, being housed together. That is completely scandalous and unacceptable. All the problems in the Ministry of Local Government start in the City of Nairobi. The problems facing police officers are facing all the poor Kenyans. They do not have any medical care, proper housing or transport.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Tarus): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has raised the issue of police housing. Is she in order, given the fact that the Police Department falls under a different Ministry?

Prof. Oniang'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that point of order from the young Assistant Minister is completely shocking. We do not care how Ministers of the NARC Government do their work, so long as they talk to each other and do things properly! We want them to deliver.

This Assistant Minister is right here in the City. We want to see them doing things properly. Kenyans do not know which Ministry is which. All they are saying is that Mr. Kombo, the Minister for Local Government, will solve all their problems.

I want to appeal to the Minister to start with one small thing and show us that he can deliver. He should start by walking the talk and be a pope that will say: "Sorry, no nonsense" and deliver. I wish him good luck!

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I also want to support this Vote. First, I want to thank and congratulate the Minister for Local Government because our cities, in particular Nairobi, are looking a little bit better than they did a few years ago. That has come out of the hard work from the Minister, his predecessor and the NARC Government.

I would like to inform Prof. Oniang'o that this House voted a substantial amount of money for police housing in the Budget. I am not in that Ministry, but I know that construction work is ongoing. We have also rented better houses for police officers and the situation is better than it was previously. It is good to acknowledge where effort is being made and houses are being built. We also want to thank the Ministry for Lands and Housing and the Ministry for Local Government for initiating the Kibera Slum Upgrading Scheme, which is going on. We should appreciate all these efforts because they were not there before. We are not saying that these efforts are enough, but this is a good beginning and an indicator of where we are going. So, just open up your eyes!

Mr. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to suggest that none of those efforts existed when, in fact, highrise estates were put up in Kibera and Pumwani by the previous regime?

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to waste my time because it is very short, but Kenyans know what was existing and what they rejected.

We really need proper planning. The Minister needs to look into our planning efforts. The populations of this City and other towns has increased and the plans that were done before are no longer valid. If we follow those plans, we will not serve Kenyans the way we want to. I want to request this Minister, together with the Minister for Roads and Public Works, to look at the congestion of the City roads. Sometimes it takes two hours from an estate to the office in the morning. This interferes with our production. I hope that, very soon, this Minister together with the Minister for Roads and Public Works, will look into the issue of the road network before by-passes and new roads are constructed; to see whether they are still valid.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while we speak about roads, I would like to appeal to this Ministry to look into the issue of roads in the fastest growing areas like Dagoretti Constituency. In Dagoretti Constituency, roads are very narrow and are not tarmacked, and yet it is a very fast-growing area. If we are going to enhance production in Nairobi as the capital city, we must facilitate the road network. The Minister should look into the planning of roads in Dagoretti Constituency. I am particularly perturbed by Kavilia Road, which was allocated money at the beginning of this year and work has not yet started. I do not want to say that there is corruption in this Ministry, but something is going wrong somewhere. I think the contractor who was awarded this tender is a briefcase contractor. I want to request that, that contract be removed from him and given to a proper contractor. We must have a road from Dagoretti Market crossing through the next three wards. This can be very productive. It is Muto-ini, Dagoretti Market, all the way to Riruta Satellite. I want to plead with the Minister to look into that road. The money was allocated a long time ago.

I would also like to say something about sewerage planning. We have a lot of burst sewers,

especially in the wards there, and there is raw sewage passing on the surface. We have other areas like Uthiru where somebody has refused completely to facilitate the construction of a sewer plant and sewage is flowing through people's shambas. This has been going on for a long time. I have been calling the City Hall to look into this even from the Eighth Parliament and up to now, nothing has happened. That man should be in jail. He has refused to assist the people of that area. There will be a pandemic. It is a miracle that we have not had a pandemic in that area. This man is called Mr. Muchene. Could something be done about this Mr. Muchene?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Dagoretti Constituency, and in other major slums, we have to do something about sewerage. Whereas we cannot provide these facilities overnight, at least, a plan should exist as to when we will light the areas, provide water and sanitation facilities.

This is because we cannot alleviate poverty unless we deal with the basic needs. I also want to appeal to the City Council to look into the schools and to make sure that every high school has an extra classroom to absorb the many pupils who are coming out because of the benefit of the free primary education. I think the City Council has not yet started doing something about that and, come January, we are going to be flooded with many children who cannot be admitted to Form One. So, I appeal to the City Council to look into that. We have some donors who have given even materials, but, the Council has failed to contract people to construct those classrooms through some form of partnership. I have examples of such schools in my constituency and the donor, the World Vision, is withdrawing materials. That is shameful!

The other area I want to ask the City Council to look into very carefully is water. We have areas like Waithaka which is the headquarters of Dagoretti Constituency, where up to now we have no water. We cannot give any reasons for this anymore. I used to say: "The Government is not delivering." But now, I am in the Government and I cannot blame KANU anymore. I want to say that, the NARC Government should give my people water and I want to see water in Dagoretti Constituency because there is no reason why we should not have enough water in the City of Nairobi, and especially in Waithaka.

I want to commend the Ministry for lighting the streets which used to be very dark. We should not be so selfish sometimes that we must always come and fight something that is done by somebody else unless there is a good reason. I think we should support the Ministry to light up the City of Nairobi. By so doing, we can improve our security. I have no problem with anyone as long as they use the money well. It is not who lights the streets or how they are lighted. This is because we have been encouraging the private sector to come into development with us. I do not think we should say: "We do not encourage the private sector because So-and-so now is doing it."

I feel that, really, sometimes we interfere with development too much and we should learn from our beloved laureate here; how selflessly she has served. She did not care what she was receiving or not receiving. She stood her ground and in the end she has been acknowledged. Let us think about development in our areas as opposed to saying: "I am not given this and so, I am going to support that." There seems to be much of that going on sometimes. So, I fully support the lighting programme that is going on in the City of Nairobi and I would like to see more lights on, not only along the major streets but also some even in Dagoretti Constituency. I want to see light even where ordinary people live. There is room for partnership between the private sector, the Government and everybody else. We cannot say the Government can do it all.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to add my voice on the LATF money. We need a transparent way in the local authorities on how this money is used. It is good that we have empowered the people to say what they want this money to be used for. But we must also make sure that the money is used properly. I think there are a lot of loopholes between the councillors and the officers. We would like to be involved; to find out whether development is

really taking place. Money was allocated to construct some of those roads a long time ago and nothing is happening. So, let us not just tell people we are deciding what we are going to develop but the development does not go through.

There are also the issues of decentralisation of the workers from the Central Business District to the wards. There needs to be supervision. Those ward managers are not doing their work because the wards are very dirty. You are told there are 60 to 100 people working in a ward, but when you go there you do not see what it is they are doing. The place is just as dirty and the drainage systems are just clogged. So, could we get work for the money we are paying these workers? I think it is possible if there is transparency all through. The ward managers, when they go out there, should serve the people they are working for.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Khamisi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I would like to say that we should not encourage the Minister to be ruthless. I think the new Minister has brought in a lot of fresh air into the activities of the local authorities. While we do not want him to be a pope, we nevertheless do not want him to be a *Mungiki*. We are now seeing a lot of decency, sobriety and statesmanship in the Ministry and we would like to encourage the Minister to proceed the way that he had started, so that we can improve the local authorities in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am one of those people who fully support the payment of salaries to councillors from the Consolidated Fund. I say this because I have seen the rot, particularly in my own councils, where councillors have become "looters". They have become people who go around looking for plots to allocate themselves and sell so that they can be able to survive. We have also seen a tendency of councillors paying themselves salaries for as long as six months in advance. I think this is very detrimental to the operations of the councils and it encourages mismanagement of funds.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also want to talk about the planning of cities. When we talk about planning we seem to be zeroing in on Nairobi City. But there is also a need for planning in our local urban areas. Here, I have an example of Mtwapa Town, in my own constituency, which is totally misplanned. In fact, it is so misplanned that it is very difficult to access estates in Mtwapa. Houses have been built in a very haphazard way. There are many kiosks and unplanned structures which obstruct access for vehicles, particularly emergency vehicles. This is creating a lot of problems and also encouraging crime because many criminals actually do hide in these illegal structures and it is making life very difficult for everybody.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch on the question of sewage and garbage collection. I am very disappointed to see that the Kibarani dump yard has been restored. Previously, this dump yard had been moved elsewhere but now it has been brought back to Kibarani; a place that is very strategic in terms of tourists coming into the City. It has become so bad that the foul smell that is coming from that dump yard is really a shame to Mombasa City. I would like the Minister to reconsider moving the dump site to another place that will not give a wrong picture of a very beautiful coastal resort of Mombasa. It is also a cause of a lot of pollution. We are having a lot of pollution in Mombasa today because all the smoke that is coming from Kibarani is blown into the City to the extent that life becomes extremely unbearable in Mombasa at certain times of the day.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also want to, in the same vein, raise the question of kiosks that are littering the road from the airport to Mombasa City. It is disgusting that very unkempt kiosks have been allowed to mushroom on that road, giving a very negative picture of Mombasa, particularly for first-time visitors to that City. I would like the Minister to look into

possibilities so that we can have unlimited access and a clean environment in that area.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of cemeteries, which has not been raised here. Most of our cemeteries are full. Langata is one of them. All the cemeteries around Mombasa District are also full. It has become a health hazard, and people who go to bury their dead have to go through bones and dead bodies before they find a space for burial. I would like the cemeteries to be re-looked into, and if possible, fresh land should be obtained so that new cemeteries can be created and dead bodies can then be honourably buried.

We have talked about a metropolitan police for Nairobi. This has not taken place and we would like to see it as soon as possible. The crime rate in Nairobi has become extremely worrying.

We have also talked about the tourist police in Mombasa. I do not know under whose jurisdiction that falls: Again, it is the question of security for residents of the city. We would like the Ministry to liaise with other Ministries to make sure that the metropolitan police is established and kept in full operation as quickly as possible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my area, almost all the schools, under the jurisdiction of the municipal council there, do not have title deeds. This is very worrying. It is creating a lot of uncertainty in terms of learning and management of those schools. I would like the Minister to work together with the Minister for Lands and Housing to make sure that all school under the jurisdiction of the municipal council are provided with title deeds. Any annexation in terms of grabbing should be stopped so that the pupils can learn uninterrupted and we will be able to progress without any fear of eviction by anybody.

I would like to talk about the LATF money very briefly. We have been told that there is a gross misuse of these funds and it is true. I think there is need for accountability on a regular basis so that we and *wananchi* who pay rates are aware of how their money is being used. In Kilifi, we have tried to talk to the chairmen of the councils there to access documents that are related to the accounting of the LATF funds, but we have been very unsuccessful. It is important that *wananchi* are given a very clear picture of how their money is being spent on a regular basis.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not want to take too much time, but I would like to mention the issue of hawking. Hawking is a very big problem, not only in Nairobi but all over. The problem is that the council is not providing facilities for the hawkers to be able to sell their goods and earn a living. It is important that we do not unleash *askaris* to go and manhandle our people, beat them up and destroy their goods because we want to ban hawking. We need to come up with a very clear plan and markets of where we can locate these people so that they can be able to conduct their business without any harassment from the police and in a clean environment.

If you look at the so-called Maasai Market, it is an eyesore. It is our duty to make sure that if we are to provide facilities for visitors and tourists to buy our artifacts, they need to be hygienic and not in places that hinder traffic movement. The areas should also be easily accessible. There is usually a big traffic jam on Tuesdays at the Maasai Market. This is because it is located in the wrong place. In our endeavour to clean up this City of Nairobi, the Maasai Market should be relocated to a better place outside the normal traffic of the city.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Arungah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to make my contribution. I was particularly delighted when my party chairman, Mr. Kombo, was given the task of running the Ministry of Local Government. This is because, before he joined the Ministry, we used to share the frustrations that we used to experience when we were dealing with the local councils, and councillors in particular. Little did he know that he will be given the task to clean up this mess. So, he has been given a wonderful opportunity to show what he is made of.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about Nairobi. I do not want to dwell on that. I will only make one comment. Nairobi is the capital city of this country. It is now the home of a laureate and the headquarters of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The Minister should look at the state of Nairobi River. That river should not exist in our capital city. One way for him would be to set up a task force and give the chairmanship to the laureate, and there will be change within a very short period.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in town, there is a lady who has come up with a concept of sponsoring a light. The Minister can borrow a leaf from the lady and request private companies in Nairobi to sponsor the cleaning of the Nairobi River. I am sure they will support him and within a short period of time, the Nairobi River will be much cleaner than it is now.

The issue of allowances for councillors has been referred to as well. It is extremely important for us to look at the issue of the councillors' pay. The councillors play an oversight role. Currently, they operate at the whims of the chief officers. This is because they get peanuts. The net effect is that the chief officers simply connive with the civic leaders to control the funds of the local authorities. The councillors are reduced to observers and they have no idea what is going on in those local authorities. Therefore, if we paid the councillors well, we would give them a certain amount of independence. One hopes that they will be able to exercise the oversight role more than they are doing at the moment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will also comment on the issue of the Local Authorities Service Delivery Programme (LASDP). I come from Butere-Mumias County Council and, as far as I am concerned, this process is carried out in a mysterious manner. I have been in this position for two years now and I have not known how this exercise is carried out. I would suggest that the Minister ensures that when this LASDP process is being carried out, hon. Members and other members of the public are involved so that they can participate in the identification of projects that are to be funded by LASDP funds.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when it comes to the actual implementation of these projects, many hon. Members are not aware of the projects to be funded and who is supposed to do it. The law, as it is at the moment, does not necessarily involve Members of Parliament in what the councillors and the council officers do. It is my humble submission that since now we have the concept of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and I see a danger of duplication where, for example, a

councillor says that he wants to engage in a project to protect stream A and a hon. Member of Parliament, through the CDF allocates money for the same project. I, therefore, suggest that the Minister for Local Government should issue circulars to councillors instructing them to involve hon. Members of Parliament in identification of the projects they want to implement. That way, we shall avoid allocating funds for the same project.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to LATF, the Minister gave us the conditions that are supposed to be met before any council benefits from the LATF. My observation is that many councils, including my own, receive LATF on a regular basis. However, I do not think they fulfil the conditionalities that the Minister referred to. I have an example in mind. During the Financial Year 2002/2003, our county council of Butere/Mumias received Kshs14 million from the LATF. That means that Kshs7 million must have been used on capital projects. I know that despite Kshs1.3 million having been earmarked, only about Kshs400,000 was actually disbursed. The following year, 2004/2005, Butere/Mumias also received money from LATF. It, therefore, means that the Ministry does not really ensure that the conditionalities are adhered to or somebody falsifies

the records in order to qualify for the Fund. I, therefore, would like to appeal, as my colleagues have done, that this Fund be thoroughly scrutinised and councils made to ensure that 50 per cent of the money that is meant to be used on capital projects does actually end up in good use.

The issue concerning planning has been raised here and I wish not to elaborate much on it. In the case of Khwisero, we do not have anything resembling a town. We have markets and I know that, tomorrow these markets will become towns. It is not possible to achieve anything in the form of planning without surveyors. Butere/Mumias County Council does not have a surveyor. The markets are, therefore, expanding in a very haphazard manner. When we shall eventually get a planner or surveyor, it will be difficult to make sense out of what is happening on the ground.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important that those with plots in the market centres should have title deeds. It is not possible for them to possess title deeds before the survey is done. I would urge the Minister to expedite the process of giving Butere/Mumias a surveyor so that the plots in the district, and particularly in Khwisero, are surveyed and owners of the plots get title deeds. That way, they will be able to develop their various businesses.

With regard to the monies normally sent to municipalities, there is the component of bursaries. It is not quite clear at the moment how bursaries from the councils are disbursed. It is my humble request that the Minister issues a circular so that the funds committed for bursaries are merged with the Constituency Bursary Fund and then subjected to the same criteria that is required of hon. Members of Parliament and also to avoid duplication. There are cases where students have been awarded bursaries by the councillors and at the same time receive money from the Constituency Bursary Fund. I humbly submit that the money given to councils for bursary should be given to the Constituency Bursary Fund.

Finally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the councils levy certain charges on the poor women on the ground and who are subjected to all weather elements. These women come to see me and ask why the levies are charged on them when there are no services rendered in return. They demand that the councils justify the levies that they collect.

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

Mr. Bahari: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this much sought-after opportunity.

The idea of establishing local authorities in this country was well meant. It was a wonderful idea, but it has regrettably been perverted to serve selfish interests. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating hon. Kombo for having been appointed Minister for this very important Ministry and which has been neglected for a long time. I am saying so because I know hon. Kombo has been in the forefront fighting corruption. He has attended many international forums on the fight against corruption. In this House, he has led a Committee that was looking into corruption and he has written; I have read some of his articles, on how to fight corruption. Given that local authorities are a den of corruption, I think, hon. Kombo is in the right place as my colleagues have said. All of us are looking unto him to provide the solution. The solution along the line of what happened in the Judiciary, cannot be avoided in the councils if any meaningful change is to occur in the local authorities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the development in this country is greatly undermined by this kind of malpractices. They are the ones that are pulling everybody down. When Kenyans are working hard to move forward, these are the institutions that are pulling us in the opposite direction. My message to the Minister is that we should spend a lot of time thinking a lot. Once they get their position right, the Minister with his team must move forward and ensure that sanity is brought in the local authorities. I know there is a lot of push-and-pull and unless you ignore it like it was done in the Judiciary, then, you will not get a solution to the problems facing our councils. You need to

ignore leaders who will advise you wrongly. Kenyans are tired of the way the local authorities are run. The ordinary citizens are suffering as a result of mismanagement of local authorities.

One area I want the Minister to address himself to is the mismanagement of local authorities. I am surprised that audit in local authorities has not had casualties that are known to me. What happens to audit in local authorities? I have not seen anybody taken to court in local authorities. Why is this? I think this is very sad. It is high time the Minister used that as one of the instruments for control in local authorities. Right now, what we lack in local authorities is a proper instrument for control and supervision. It is extremely important that these issues are addressed. I know it is an enormous task, but once the right instruments are in place and the right people are there to carry the task out, the Minister will not go wrong.

Time and again, Members of Parliament here and Kenyans have talked about how local authorities are mismanaged yet nothing is being done. I think we are tired of this because, at the end of the day, it is a one-man show. The more corrupt you are the more times you will be elected as a council chairman. Look at how the elections are conducted. It is a mockery of democracy in this country and the election system. The whole system, from A to Z is perverted. It is very sad for this House to sit back and watch. It is high time the relevant Committee of this House tried to drive this Ministry in the right direction if the Minister and those who are in charge will not act.

At no time are Ministerial policies adhered to. These people get away with it, with absolute impunity. What are we doing at the end of the day? No wonder when a clerk has a problem he is suspended. He goes to lie low and he is posted to another council where people are not aware that he is a mess! This must stop! We know many examples. The more corrupt they are, the better the council they get posted to. At the end of the day this looks like a syndicate and we should not allow it to continue. This must stop!

Look at the local authorities and how much they owe in terms of statutory obligations. There is the NSSF, NHIF and the SACCOs. Yesterday, I was with an old man who had just retired from Nairobi City Council and he could not get his co-operative society shares. Why is this? It is his money! When I talked to somebody who is in charge of the co-operative society, he said that Nairobi City Council owes them over Kshs1 billion. I asked that person: "Why do you not go to court and wind up the council if the Minister does not want to do it?" That is the most logical thing to do. This is people's hard-earned money and it is not remitted for many years. There are people who are in charge of those councils and, at the end of the day, they are enjoying themselves. They are making unnecessary trips outside this country when they cannot even pay salaries. This is extremely ridiculous!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot that we can say about councils; it is a mouthful. These are the institutions that we expect to be the agents for development at the grassroot level. In fact, if councils are run very well, I have no doubt that the NGOs will be irrelevant. This is because all the donors will say: "Here is a local authority run by locals" and these are the organisations that they will fund. Therefore, some of these NGOs can wind up and go. It is extremely important that the issue of management of councils is strictly addressed.

What we have seen happening in connection with the LATF money is complete lack of involvement of the people. There is no mechanism in place. It is there on paper, but the actual implementation of that is non-existent. Members of Parliament and the public are not aware, but these are the facts. These are not mere allegations. If we are asked to bring cases here, we will table them. We can bring those records here. We are just sitting here assuming that everything is all right while things are actually going wrong. If we cannot transform local authorities then we have to look for an alternative.

I agree that councillors are underpaid. We must restructure the councils so that they can also

generate sufficient revenue. They are all capable of doing that. It is only that there is a lot of leakage in the system. The revenue that is supposed to be collected never reaches the councils. Some of the revenue clerks have very good reasons. They say that even if they collected this revenue, at the end of the day, the big bosses will "eat" this money. So, why should they also not eat? So, it becomes a "culture of eating"; from the top to the bottom. I must say that Kenyans are almost giving up on the councils. We do not want to give up because the hon. Minister is there and we have a lot of respect for him. I have no doubt that he will do something about local authorities.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! I have got only three or four minutes left before I call upon the Minister to reply. I will give the four minutes to Mr. Muchiri.

Mr. Muchiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance. First of all, I think the Nairobi City Council and the Ministry of Local Government must review the building by-laws. Under Item 329, Kshs3 million is not enough.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have in mind things like changing or enhancing plot ratios, plot coverage and minimum plot sizes. I know a lot of water companies are coming up in every local authority, but I am a bit concerned that there is an acute water shortage in Nairobi, for example. Could the Minister, or the Ministry, find out why there is chronic water shortage, for example, in Karen and South C? All these are areas falling under Langata Constituency. Why is it that residents in those areas constantly lack water from January to December? I think that is an issue that needs to be sorted out.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) has been raised here. But I want to make one statement; that we need a Committee at the constituency level to administer LATF. In so far as the management of local authorities is concerned, I want to tell the Minister that there are people who are trained in local authority management. These are the so-called valuers and property managers. These are people who were trained in town planning, local Government law, estate management, repairs and maintenance, and on evaluation and rating. These are the proper people to manage our local authorities, either as town clerks or deputy town clerks. It is no point for them to just stop at evaluation section. These are the people who are properly trained in local authority management, and their curriculum vitae can be sought. I am one of them and I am not saying that because I am one of them. But I know that these people are properly trained.

Many of our wards are very large, and I think there should be a review of the boundaries for the wards which councillors represent. There is one ward in my constituency which is one-third of Ndaragwa Constituency. Such a ward is too large to be administered or supervised by a councillor. So, I am calling for the revision of boundaries of the locational wards, so that we can have effective management in the representation of the people. Again, there is no point of urban authorities encroaching into the rural areas. When they encroach into the rural areas, they are going to levy rates and do all sorts of things, and people in the rural areas do not want to be over-taxed. So, could we have the local authorities concentrating on the urban set-up? I appreciate the fact that in the Karatina Municipal Council, the people refused to allow the council to spread out to the rural areas.

Because time is up, I beg to support.

Thank you.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to pressure, I will donate three minutes to hon. Munyao, two minutes to hon. Billow, hon. Ethuro and hon. Munyes respectively.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank Mr. Kombo for donating three minutes to me. I have only three things

to say.

First, I want to congratulate Mr. Kombo for the beautiful work he has done in the Ministry within such a short time. It is not very easy to manage the local authorities, but he has managed them very well. Congratulations both to you and to members of staff of your Ministry.

At one time, that is 20 or 30 years ago, before the Government and the Minister for Finance laid the Budget on this Table, he used to go to the City Council to borrow. The Kenyan Government and for that matter, the Minister for Finance never knew whether the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the rest existed. The question is: What has happened that Nairobi City Council, which houses all the resources, has now become bankrupt and a "beggar"? This is a question which the Minister and his capable officers must ask themselves.

Secondly, the local authorities, urban councils and town councils are too many. This might be the appropriate time to recommend the reduction of some of these councils so that they do not become a burden to the taxpayer.

Having said that, we are asking the Minister to try and encourage physical planning because people in all areas, particularly traders in the various markets, need title deeds. Right now, the plots have no value because they have not been physically planned; there are no title deeds and there is nothing. We, therefore, urge the Minister to begin working on this issue right from Makueni upwards to Malakisi.

(Laughter)

With those few words, I congratulate the Minister and I support you to do the best.

Mr. Billow: I need not over-emphasize the comfort that hon. Members of Parliament now have with the stewardship of the Ministry. Very quickly, I want to mention a couple of items in the two minutes that I have.

First, in my view, one of the main problems in this Ministry are the powers that are being enjoyed by the Minister. Those powers do not necessarily, by themselves, benefit the country in enhancing the improvement of the local authorities. If used badly, the way we have seen in the past, those powers have been largely responsible for the mess we have had. But I would suggest that the Odongo Omamo Report, and many others which have been done which, advocate for more powers to be given to the local authorities, but with increased accountability--- You need to increase the checks and balances that you give to the local authorities, but give them the powers to run their services. For instance, when a county council like Mandera requests for a budget of Kshs200,000, it is not necessary for the Ministry to give that approval. I think those kind of things will reduce the bureaucracy that we have seen.

Secondly, there is need to rationalize the number of local authorities in this country. You travel for four kilometres and you find a ward, which does not really add any value as there is no revenue coming from that ward and so forth. So, there is need also to rationalize this.

Let me come to one of the main reasons which, in my view, are responsible for the mess and this is one, the over-politicization of the local authorities. The whole aspect of the management of local authorities is politicised so much both by the councillors, the Ministry, the political parties and all these. I think there is need to reduce the degree of politics in the local authorities. Secondly, the issue of corruption has already been mentioned. In my view, there is need to do a drastic purge in the inspectorate department of the Ministry, because if you send these people down to the field, they find the wrong-doing, but they do not take any action, but get compromised. There is need to start from a clean slate with regard to the Inspectorate Department. I also believe that the illiteracy of the councillors, or the qualification or lack of it, largely also contributes to the mismanagement that we have often seen in the local authorities.

Lastly, I must mention that with regard to LATF, the Minister should do us a favour. Please make it a requirement that LATF should be placed in the pool of the District Development

Committee money, so that we can all decide where all that money goes. The current trend of distribution of Kshs200,000 to each council should end.

We want the local authorities to succeed because we want to go for devolution of power or the decentralization of governance. We want the local authorities to be an example and, in that regard, the management of resources is a very important thing. So, please, enhance the capacity of the local authorities so that we can all say that devolution of power will work.

With those few words, I support the Vote.

Thank you very much for donating your time to me.

Mr. Ethuro: I have limited time, but I want to thank the Minister for giving me this time and also to acknowledge, in a most sincere manner, the kind of support we get at the Ministerial level and at the Permanent Secretarial level. But that is where the goodness ends. Below that structure from the Inspectorate Department, whenever they are sent to inspect these local authorities, they start by saying that there is nothing and, at the end of it, after being bribed by the councillors and chief officers, they come up with wonderful recommendations. That has to stop. If there is any corridor of corruption, it is that wing of Jogoo House!

I would like to urge the Minister to be firm and to enforce the rules that govern the elections of local authority leaders. As we speak now, Lodwar Municipal Council decided to pass a "vote of no confidence", a portfolio which does not exist! They have a clerk who is supposed to guide the councillors, but he is not doing a good job. For how long are we going to condone people who shun the responsibility given to them by an Act of Parliament?

If we need to stop the misuse of LATF money, I would urge the Minister, in the true spirit of the NARC Government, to ensure that councillors are paid like any other public worker from the relevant Ministry. If we were to rely on the general revenue of the councils to pay these councillors, they will never render any good service to this country.

I beg to support the Vote.

The Assistant Minister for Water (Mr. Munyes): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Ministry, and specifically so the Minister, for the great work that we have seen over the few months he has taken office.

In my contribution, I just want to highlight one point that is evident in Turkana, and that is the effect of the refugees in Turkana and which greatly affects the council. We have lost revenue as a result of the tripartite agreements signed by the Government, the councils and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). You will find the refugees taking up all the businesses in Kenya. If you go to Dadaab or Kakuma refugee camps, there are 10,000 cows and 18,000 goats slaughtered, and we cannot get any payment from the refugees. They do not pay taxes. So, I am calling upon the Ministry to take action on this.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) should pay for the sand they take from Turkana and everything else they take from our people, because that is what we can use to pay our councillors.

I also want to challenge the Ministry on its Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) policy. In ASAL areas, we need to do things differently. There are priorities in those areas that have been left out, including environmental issues and water, and yet, the Ministry is doing other things. I want to call upon the Ministry to find a way of conducting seminars for councillors from ASAL areas so as to find a way of shaping their priorities. I propose that there is an exhaustor for all ASAL areas.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me start by thanking my colleagues, Members of Parliament, for the very positive contributions that each one has made. If I had the time, I would really go through each one's contribution by name and thank them. But let it suffice to thank them in block.

Let me, however, especially touch on the contributions of the Shadow Minister for Local Government, hon. Sirma, who was in the Ministry before. He knew what he was talking about and

some of the messes we have to deal with are those we inherited from him.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you heard the advice given to me that I should not behave like the Pope. I wish I could actually behave like the Pope, because the Pope has a huge, obedient and very loyal following. The Pope is never disobeyed. If I could get the local authorities never to disobey me, I think our problems would be over.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of the local authorities are many. If you allow me, I would just go through the issues as they were raised in block. I want to assure Members that I am determined to make things work. With the help of Members, I believe we will make them work, both in financial management, because that is an issue that has been raised in many aspects, especially through Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) which I am going to deal with, in personnel matters, in planning, so that we do not have these mushrooming kiosks and so on. I am determined to deal with all those issues.

As far as the reforms are concerned, the Ministry is actually implementing reforms, and is accelerating these reforms. In addition, the Ministry is now linked to the broader Public Sector Reform Programme in the Government, and whatever we are doing, we would do it together with the public sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in restructuring and finding capacities for the local authorities, that is an area that we are determined to work on. The last speaker was talking about making sure we give the local authorities power but with accountability and responsibility.

The idea of decentralisation, as you know, is an idea that has come to stay, not just in Kenya, but throughout the world. We are going to move in that direction, but we will also ensure that there is sufficient capacity within local authorities to perform the functions that we would be giving to them.

Questions were raised about LATF; what impact? Yes, I agree. I think that is a very valid question; what impact? The Ministry has decided to carry out a forensic audit so that next year, same time when I come here, I will be able to say what impact has LATF given to the development of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of money, as you heard yesterday, that we were putting through LATF and it has been done, since Sirma was there. In fact, when he was there, Kshs3 billion was given, but what impact? So, these questions are not new; they are old, and we would deal with them.

I admit that there is rampant corruption in local authorities. We cannot run away from it. When Transparency International carried out their audit they told us that our local authorities are among the top ten in the corruption index. So, where truth must be said, it must be said.

However, within the Ministry, the senior officers and my Assistant Ministers are very clear that those days are gone, and we are going to do everything possible. I want to take this opportunity to give a very stern warning to chief officers in local authorities and chairmen of county councils, urban councils and so on, that those days are gone. We have now set up an anti-corruption committee within the Ministry and within the major local authorities. These committees will pursue the corrupt to the last point.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of pre-school education was raised. I want to say that the Ministry is liaising with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, because indeed, it is correct to say that pre-primary education is important and we appreciate that. So, together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, we shall see what to do.

Personnel issues were also raised, and my Ministry is addressing the matter of staff appointments, again, jointly with the Public Service Commission. A Human Resource Capacity Building Programme targeting local authority officers and councillors is also on course. Discipline will continue to be enforced whereby errant or corrupt officers will be subjected to serious disciplinary action.

To-date, we have put an embargo on employment within local authorities. This is because, a

major reason that makes local authorities insolvent is the issue of too many staff. This issue was raised by hon. Members. But it is staff at the lower level, because in the old days, each councillor was given a quota to hire and all that a councillor could do is hire a sweeper, a cleaner and those kind of people. That is why we have over-staffing at the bottom end, but without specialised skills.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are issue that we are dealing with, and we will make sure that politics does not interfere with staff matters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members asked about Local Government Act, Cap 265. What is happening about the reform? I want to say that a draft Bill is under review at the moment, which would ensure that we modernise the Act. When we are ready, it will be discussed with the stakeholders and then brought to Government for approval and to this House for debate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this we are looking at issues which include, the division of assets that my friend, hon. Salat, was talking about yesterday, so that we deal with that effectively. Hon. Sirma, in fact, is the one who divided the assets in Kericho and gave Embomos to Buret and not Bomet, and hon. Salat is now up in arms. But he did the right thing, because Embomos is in Buret and not in Bomet as hon. Salat would want us to believe.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of election of chairmen and mayors, one of the major weaknesses in the local authorities is that as soon as a mayor or a chairman is elected, he or she starts looking over her back because she is told: "In 18 months we shall be around and it will be payback time." Therefore, they spend all their time not working, but looking over their shoulders. So, these are issues that we are looking at very critically. In fact, in my thinking, which I hope I will persuade others to accept is that, once somebody is elected mayor or chairman, he should run for a period of five years, he does his work in that period, then we can judge them accordingly, not on the basis of this short-term period.

The issue of by-laws was also raised. Again, we are working together with the Kenya Institute of Policy Research Analysis (KIPRA) and other organisations to make sure that we modernise our by-laws.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me now touch on the issue of solid waste management. The issue of garbage has been discussed in detail. Complaints have been raised and my Ministry is actually looking, not just at Nairobi, but at other cities as well, so that we make sure that something is done. There was a big story in this town, as you know, about a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed by Jacorossi and the City Council of Nairobi to privatise solid waste management in the city. After very careful examination, I have come to the conclusion that it is not just Jacorossi, but that we are going into an international tender in so far as solid waste management in Nairobi is concerned. So, it is now about time for all those who are interested to start thinking about it, so that we make sure about the way forward and to clean the city pretty fast. We are already talking to a procurement organization that will help us to do the tendering of this project so that we put on notice those who are interested.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of small town development was also raised. I would like to say that, that is an ongoing programming. There was also the Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Project (KUTIP) that was raised. We are waiting for a forensic audit that was done by an international group. The report was finished on 30th September, 2004. As soon as it has been handed over to me, we will make sure that we move on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issues of Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) are many, and they have been raised. I appreciate and accept all that has been said, that something needs to be done. We are working on it. Last week, officers from my Ministry and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met to discuss these very issues that the hon. Members were raising in this House, and we are quite aware of that. We are unhappy that the auditing of local authorities has not been done for years. We are discussing with the Controller and Auditor-General because all these councils actually send their books, but they are not audited because the Controller and Auditor-General seems to have no capacity. We are looking into this issue so that we can see the

way forward.

On the viability of local authorities, I would like to say that this is on course. A committee was set up and has produced its report, which has been sent to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has accepted the report. I would like to say that there will be some local authorities that will disappear; some will be down-graded because we appreciate some of these problems.

I would like to touch on the question of service delivery in this city. The trend towards service delivery is participatory in approach. Local authorities, whose roles are transforming into enablers are mandated to engage in innovative ways on how to deliver services where they cannot. One of the areas that Nairobi City has come up with an innovative way is street lighting. Adopt-A-Light is one such project, that I believe is very innovative. The City Council entered into an agreement with Adopt-A-Light in 2002. This is nothing new. It is something that I found in place; I found it a good idea.

Today, as we dedicate ourselves to the fight against corruption, and yesterday the President was absolutely clear that our road to zero tolerance remains. As we re-dedicate ourselves, we will not allow the delivery of services to stagnate because we are afraid somebody will scream that there is corruption going on. In my case, I will ensure fairness to all. However, I will not be held back by those people who are shouting and making those accusations. With regard to the case of Adopt-A-Light, a project I found in place, I am satisfied that other players will be given an opportunity to do business in the city. However, they must do business in a disciplined manner. Most of the players complaining today are people who have been in the advertisement business in this city and enjoyed it too good for too long because they never paid a cent to the Nairobi City Council. Now that we are coming up with a system that will net them in, and ensure that they are able to do business and pay then, under this programme, the Nairobi City Council will have enough money to light the slums, for example, Mathare and Korogocho, including Embakasi where Mr. Mwenje comes from. I would like to repeat that this is a project that I found in place, it is a good idea.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to say that he will source international tenders for solid waste management, and for street lighting, he will go for Adopt-A-Light? What interest does he have in this matter?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is really saying absolutely nothing. I said that I found this project in place. It is a project that we will go on with because if we light this city, we will be fighting crime. A secure city means that citizens can do business for long hours. That is what we are looking for; to do business until 10.00 p.m., and when we do business for longer hours, it means our economy will grow. That is what we are looking for. I really would like to---

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Mwenje! Your point of order is overruled!

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, really, notwithstanding the heckling, I just want to thank my colleagues most profusely for supporting me during this time. I will work very closely with every hon. Member of Parliament.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

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

Vote 12 - The Ministry of Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT a sum not exceeding Kshs769,635,905 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the Financial Year ending 30th June, 2005 in respect of:-

Vote 12 - The Ministry of Local Government

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Mwenje to walk up and down the rear Bench uttering words in Kikuyu language which we all do not understand, but now understand from Mrs. Mugo, that the use of the words is an abuse?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Mwenje, did you do that?

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I did not even speak. I was only talking to Mrs. Mugo. Mr. Wetangula does not understand the Kikuyu language. He does not know what we were talking about.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Mwenje! I do not understand any other language apart from English and Kiswahili.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I did not say anything!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Mwenje! Could you now maintain order!

VOTE R12 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 120 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 360 - Planning and Development

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister to clarify why the figure on Item 140, Electricity Expenses, has increased tremendously compared to the one of the previous Financial Year figure.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that the hon. Member knows that the cost of electricity has been increasing. Honestly, this is a straightforward question. The tariffs have increased.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you can see, that figure was initially Kshs75,000 but it has now increased to Kshs1 million. I do not think that can be justified by the increase in tariffs if any.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, apart from the increase in the Ministry itself in the previous years, its Bills were tied together with those of the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs. We have now split. We are now within the headquarters and are making our payments directly.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman. On page 465, Head 360, Item 188 on Medical Scheme, there is an amount of Kshs5.9 million. What is the reason for increasing the amount from zero to Kshs5.9 million?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman,

Sir, this money was lumped together to take care of the NSHIF Scheme.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Item 300, Rehabilitation of Street Families, perhaps the Minister should explain to us which towns, or where exactly this Kshs40 million will be spent. He should also tell us how successful the Kshs40 million which was spent last year was and how many children are out of the streets.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I do not think I got an adequate explanation to the amount I queried. Did we have the NIIF Scheme in operation last year? If so, where was the amount to cater for it?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): I agree with you, Mr. Angwenyi. I thought that Mr. Billow was following up your question. Mr. Minister, dispose of Mr. Angwenyi's question first.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is money that we put in the budget to cater for the insurance scheme which we are all talking about.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the Minister tell us; if the new scheme is not approved by this House. In fact, it is wrong to anticipate approval of a Bill before the House approves it. Will some of this money be allocated for the construction of Daraja Mbili Market in Kisii Town?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will discuss that with Mr. Angwenyi if he comes to my office.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Minister, you may proceed and answer Mr. Billow's question.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Street Families Project, apart from being in Nairobi, is in operation in Nakuru and Nyeri where we have already acquired a school which will cater for the school-going children. We are working together with the Catholic Church nuns who will do that. We have a piece of land here in Nairobi for that project. Other towns apart from Nakuru with the project include Naivasha, Eldoret, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Malindi, Kwale, Voi, Mombasa, Meru, Embu, Maua, Isiolo and Kirinyaga. The money will be utilised, apart from paying school fees to school-going children, to establish new facilities. The criteria used in choosing these towns was that those which were willing were given opportunities to come forward to participate in Street Family Programmes.

Mr. Chepkitony: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I want to ask a question regarding Head 360, Item 321 on page 465. It is on Grants to Nairobi Health Management Board. Why has the Ministry found it necessary to support the Nairobi Management Board? The Board has been allocated Kshs3 million and Kshs5 million in the Financial Years 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 respectively.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think you know that Nairobi has a population of 3 million people and the health facilities have been appalling until a management board was put in place. This management board has actually streamlined the health facilities to such an extent that today we have decongested Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), and that is why we feel quite strongly that the board should be supported to decongest KNH even more.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same item, what proportion of this amount will go to Pumwani Maternity Hospital?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Pumwani Maternity Hospital will get the largest share. I cannot tell you what proportion it will get, but all the other dispensaries as well need help, and we will support them proportionately.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 365, Item No.191, Monitoring and Evaluation, in the last financial year we had no allocation, but this financial year there is Kshs1 million. Could the Minister clarify what we are expecting from this tremendous increase in expenditure on this monitoring and evaluation?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if my hon. brother heard me in my response, I said because of the problems we have faced on LATF and all these things that we were not doing before, this time round, we are going to monitor so that we can be able to tell you what is happening in those areas.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very important department. It is the head office department that deals with planning and development but when you look at items 110 and 112, I am worried that the allocation for travelling and external travelling has been reduced from almost Kshs9 to Ksh10 million last year, to about Kshs2 million. My worry is that if you want to enhance the inspection of the local authorities and very many Members had expressed concern about the planning of most of these towns, how are you going to do this if you drastically reduce those particular items and leave other things like telephones and whatever at Kshs6 million constant for all the years?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is a good question and I think it does not just affect my Ministry alone. It was an area that we were all victims of the Treasury which cut down on travelling costs and so on. However, within the Ministry, the Accounting Officer has been instructed to find ways and means of ensuring that where travelling has to be done, because we need to check on local authorities, it must be done. So, we will find ways to utilise another Vote Head.

Head 372 - Local Authorities Reforms

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 466, Sub-Vote 120, Item 500, that is Grants to Local Authorities(LATF), my question is: Do they include, as a basis of granting these grants, the provision of each of the services enumerated in the Cap.265 of the Local Government Act, to make sure that all those services are provided before we can give these grants?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I did say earlier on, and hon. Billow agreed, that we must decentralise our services. So, the idea of LATF is a good idea to local authorities. What we need to do is to re-evaluate it now that we have gone through a period with LATF to see the weaknesses that exist and so on.

On some of those suggestions that hon. Angwenyi is raising, we will give him an opportunity during our stakeholders meeting when we go to his province in order to help us, so that we enhance on how LATF should be utilised.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I just wish to seek a clarification on the next page 467, Item 685, Reimbursement from LATF, Appropriations-in-Aid. I wanted a clarification on how the Ministry raises A-in-A of the same amount of LATF?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that normally comes from the Treasury.

(Heads 360, 362, 372 and 375 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 120 agreed to)

SUB VOTE 122 - CONTRIBUTION IN LIEU
OF RATES

Head 367 - Contribution in Lieu of Rates

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like a confirmation from the Minister on Head 367, Item 393, Contribution in Lieu of Rates of Kshs300,520,380. There has been a very bad behaviour by Nairobi City Council, who incite their workers so long as there is contribution in lieu of rates. So, they will always go on strike so that they can access this contribution in lieu of rates when it is being channelled from the Treasury. Could the Minister confirm that other local authorities will not be denied this money because of the continuous strike of the Nairobi City Council which has been a frequent behaviour; in fact, chronic?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is part of the discipline we are trying to instill in local authorities. In fact, it is not on that item alone. Even on LATF, as soon as it hits the banks, some of them go on strike, but we are insisting that it does not happen.

(Heads 367 and 415 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 122 agreed to)

(Vote R12 agreed to)

VOTE D12 - DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 120 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 360 - Planning and Development

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I make reference to Item 326, Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Project (KUTIP). Does the project still exist, and if so, where is this project being carried out? The project still exists but we had problems with the World Bank and some hon. Members alluded to it. It is an issue I had mentioned in my earlier reports. I said that the forensic audit has been done and completed and as soon as I receive the report, we believe, the project will be reinstated.

After that, we will discuss what areas will benefit.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my query is on Item 328 - Poverty Reduction Through Optimising Local Government systems (PROLOGs). What is this project about? Do we have it anywhere in Gusiiland?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have looked at my list and there is something for Kisii Municipal Council.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Minister, the query was: What does PROLOGs mean?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me just consult.

*(Mr. Kombo consulted with the
Ministry officials)*

Mr. Billow: But, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Billow, let him consult first!

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): I am sorry, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I will "eat" my words. In fact, the areas we have at the moment under that Item are just a pilot scheme which is yet to be rolled over to other areas. The pilot scheme is being implemented in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nandi and Kwale. We are working together with the DFID to see whether the councils could participate in poverty alleviation. These will include programmes for women and the youth. However, it is still in the pilot scheme.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Minister, where is the pilot scheme taking place?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I said that the pilot scheme is being implemented in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nandi and Kwale.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am on Item 326 - Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Project (KUTIP) which has been allocated Kshs881 million and, yet there are several projects which actually stalled when the KUTIP started repairing roads particularly in Nairobi. Those projects were never completed. Could the Minister tell us the amount of money which was not paid and whether it will be released? Could he also tell us whether those roads will be done now?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, first, let me assure the hon. Member that the money is available and as soon as the forensic audit is over, we will move on with the projects. This is because we have just stopped them until the forensic audit is over.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, he has not fully clarified the issues I have raised. This is because there were some monies which remained unpaid and that is why the projects stalled. The other reason why the projects stalled was because the Ministry was not appointed by the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) as an agent. So, could the Minister assure us, now that it has been appointed an agent, it will complete those roads? Could he also tell us the amount of money they paid and what remains unpaid from the Kshs881 million?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Mwenje, the Minister has repeatedly given us that assurance in responding to that question! I think it is unfair to ask him to respond to it again.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Mr. Mwenje should also not mix the KUTIP and the Fuel Levy. These are two different things. He is talking about the Fuel Levy and at the same time the KUTIP, which was a World Bank loan.

Mr. Mwenje: I am talking about the KUTIP projects!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Mwenje, I gave you the opportunity to speak! Mr. Minister, the Chair has ruled in your favour. If I were you, I would relax and take it easy!

(Laughter)

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I represent a rural constituency which is very poor. I want to know why almost 80 per cent of this Development Vote is concentrated in urban centres. I want to show the Minister that. From Item 210 - Environment and Urban Development Project to Item 270 - Urban Water and Sanitation Management Project (UWASAM; then from Item 326 - KUTIP, which we have just looked at, to Item 328 - PROLOGs, going down all the way to Item 425 - Urban Infrastructure Improvement Programmes (Roads) and Item 428 - Urban Road Safety Initiatives, everything is on urban centres. Where has he left the rural areas where poverty is very high? For example, the Government's own survey last year clearly showed the areas which had the highest poverty index in this country. If he wants to start a pilot project, why would he start it from areas where poverty is very low and ignore the areas where poverty is very

high, like my constituency? On what basis did he do that?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in terms of districts, and I also come from a district and not an urban area--- We are discussing with the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, and the last meeting we had last week actually addressed that very problem. How do we sort out this disparity? We appreciate that, and we are concerned just as much as he is concerned. We are looking into that aspect. Together with the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, we are now saying that, for example, this year's Kshs6 million roads money should not be used to do roads in urban areas, but those in the rural areas.

Mr. Bahari: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. My concerns are the same as Mr. Billow's. On page 305, there is Item 424 - Fire Disaster Prevention and Management. I would like the Minister to clarify the areas we are trying to invest in---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Bahari! Which Item is that?

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary deputy Chairman, Sir, it is Item 424 - Fire Disaster Prevention and Management.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Which Head?

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is Head 364.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Bahari! We are not yet there. You are ahead of us. The question which was raised before you took the Floor was with regard to Head 360.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, On Head 360, Item 428 - Primary School Construction in Poor Urban Areas, they have got this amount of money. We have Daraja Mbili Primary School whose roof was blown off. This school is in a very poor neighbourhood. Have they captured it under this Item?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not know what to do with Kisii. However, this money is specifically meant for Nairobi schools and we signed an agreement just the other day. The MOU for Nairobi schools will be honoured. We have not chosen the schools yet, but we have sent out teams to look for this money, which we have been given by the Federal Republic of Germany. That is what they wanted us to do. This is the beginning. This project was not there before. Therefore, let us roll out. Let us see how we implement the project in Nairobi, go out and ask more for Mandera and Kisii.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we appreciate donors support, but it is going to be a mistake if we allow donors to dictate where projects will go. It is a shame that out of an amount of about Kshs500 million provided for poverty reduction and schools, nothing is going to districts with the highest poverty indexes in this country. As hon. Members representing those constituencies, it is a shame to approve money for Nairobi and Mombasa throughout this Development Vote. The Minister should make it clear that in his next budget, he will address those areas, and not just urban centres.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member should also appreciate that Nairobi's enrolment of school-going children is extremely high. So, we are starting where the major problem is. As we roll out the programme, we will look into other areas as well.

Head 360 - Planning and Development

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, first of all, the hon. Member also lives in Nairobi. So, he should not talk against Nairobi. So, in that regard, I commend the Minister.

I notice that an amount of Kshs7 million has been provided under Head 360, Item 271, Informal Settlement Improvement. We have a lot of informal settlement in this country, particularly in Nairobi. Could the Minister tell us what particular informal settlement this amount is meant for?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, the amount also covers Embakasi.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. That is not a fair reply. You will agree with me that I did not ask whether the amount covers Embakasi.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): I agree with you, Mr. Mwenje. Mr. Minister, Mr. Mwenje did not ask whether the amount covers Embakasi. He asked you to say which areas the funds are meant for. So, which areas are these funds meant for besides Embakasi?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the projects being funded under this item are scattered all over the slum areas in Nairobi. We want to bring discipline. Mr. Ligale talked about planning. These are some of the projects we will be undertaking to ensure that those areas are covered. They are many of them.

Mr. Chepkittyony: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, which projects are covered by Item 536; Small Towns Development Projects? In which towns are these projects and what criteria has the Minister used to select these towns?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the project is being implemented in a number of small towns, including Voi, Suneka, Ol Kalou, Naivasha, Nyeri, Kwale, Kilifi and Malindi. The project started rolling out last year.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Minister, part of the question was the criteria used to identify those towns.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is yet another donor-funded programme, which started last year. Honestly, I cannot tell what criteria was used to identify the towns. Again, the donors picked on some of these towns.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, with appreciation, I notice an amount of money provided for a bypass in Kisii. When will this work commence?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Angwenyi, we appreciate your Kisii connection, but for the benefit of hon. Members, could you say what item you are referring to?

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am referring to Item 431, Kisii bypass.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it will done as soon as possible.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. This Minister is well above saying that the work will be done as soon as possible. He should give us a date.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it will be done within this financial year. It will be in place by December.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wanted to follow up on the issue of Small Towns Development Projects just before you gave the Floor to Mr. Angwenyi. There are so many small towns in other areas like in Northern Kenya, including Lodwar. It looks like in most of these donor-funded projects, these areas are completely forgotten. I do not know whether the problem is the donors, so that we can address them, or it is the Ministry which is directing these projects elsewhere? We are not satisfied.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I note Mr. Bahari's sentiments. I can assure the hon. Member that in our next lot, we will consider other small towns. I can tell him that in our discussion, Lodwar is included.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am still on the Small Towns Development Projects. I wonder where Kitale is. It does not appear under the poverty reduction projects or under the Small Towns Development Projects. It is not listed anywhere.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir,

the hon. Member will be happy to note that Kitale is one of the towns which benefited from the Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Programme (KUTIP), and other hon. Members did not complain.

(Head 360 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 120 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 125 - DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Head 364 - Basic Infrastructure Facilities to Local Authorities

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 364, Item 424, Fire Disaster Prevention and Management, the Ministry has provided for Kshs104 million. The provision is mostly for centres outside Nairobi, and I would like the Minister to clarify which centres they are investing these funds in.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, while moving debate on this Vote, I dwelt on this issue at length, because fire disasters are a reality that is with us. In fact, I pointed out that the Kshs104 million provided is not enough. So, we are just going to buy small deployment vehicles for various towns, but we are working on the programme. We are now talking to some donors, so that we can talk to various local authorities, so that part of their Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) allocation can be utilised together with our budgetary provision to provide fire fighting equipment to as many local authorities as possible.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to Item 435, Street families facilities rehabilitation. I am aware that a particular company handed over land to Nairobi City Council to rehabilitate street children.

Could the Minister confirm that this amount has been provided for the development of that particular land to facilitate the rehabilitation of street children?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): That was not just for one particular area. The Kshs25 million will also be utilised in Nyeri, Eldoret, Nakuru and all other areas. We are trying to develop the plots in Nairobi.

Mr. Arungah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Item 430 - Construction and Improvement of Markets, could the Minister tell us where these markets are? Are they also in Nairobi?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The hon. Member will be pleased to note that Mumias is one of the areas. So, they are not all in Nairobi, but other areas include HomaBay, Mandera, Wajir and others.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Item 425 - Urban Infrastructure Improvement Programme (Roads), is this under KUTIP? If not, in which urban centres are those improvement projects?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, most of those roads would be in Nairobi, but Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) will also be in the smaller towns.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Minister! The question was on Item 425.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): That is what I am addressing.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): You are addressing Item 434, - Non-

Motorised Transport instead of Item 425 - Urban Infrastructure Improvement Programmes.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are doing those roads to prepare pedestrian walkways and so on.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Minister, that is Item 434, and the query was on Item 425. That is why I was distinguishing the two.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, apart from Nairobi, we are still assessing the other towns. I will make sure that Kisii and Isiolo are considered.

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Item 419 -Water and Sanitation Management Support Programmes, yesterday, in my contribution, I expressed concern at the dwindling water resources. The Minister is talking about water management support programmes. The amount allocated is only Kshs5 million. That is a disaster in the making. Could the Minister explain how he intends to go about the support programmes? What does he envisage?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under the Water Act, water has been privatised in some local authorities and a number of local authorities have water and sanitation companies that will be managing the water programmes. So, with that little amount that is in there, it is just to give little support where necessary.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, mine is a policy question on Head 364 in general. You would notice that most of those activities, including the construction of markets and bus termini, I do not understand how they could allocate money in Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF) for various local authorities to provide the same facilities. The same local authorities generate revenue in which they prepare budgets to provide the same facilities. The Ministry, again, determines that certain towns should have money for markets and bus termini. Would it not be more appropriate that at the Ministry level, we do not engage in that kind of selective resource allocation? It really beats logic why you would spend money building bus termini when LATF money could be used for that purpose. That does not fit into the policy.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are still building capacity within local authorities. The Ministry is still midwifing the programme of putting everything to local authorities. Eventually, the policy is to ensure that once local authorities have the capacity, they can manage everything.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, again, this is on Item 424. You realise that every time we have fire in the City, the Council does not have facilities to combat it. Could the Minister expound on what he intends to do with this money? Will they add more fire-fighting equipment? With regard to the issue raised by Mr. Billow, could the Minister also expound on what LASDF is? We do not see it. He sends the money to the councils, but it is never felt in any project. What does he intend to do about the LASDF and LAFT money, which does not reach our people?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, with regard to the first question on fire-fighting equipment, if the hon. Member was listening to me earlier on, I said that I am negotiating at the moment with various countries to see where we can get the best facility. We are talking to China, Germany and Belgium because we are concerned about the fire-fighting equipment in the City. I explained this very clearly. Nairobi will benefit from that programme. However, Kshs104 million is a small amount of money.

With regard to LATF, I have consistently said that we are reviewing it. To talk particularly about Nairobi, I will be going to hon. Members of Nairobi's constituencies to help because LATF money is chopped up into little amounts of money to every ward, and so, the impact becomes invisible. If Mr. Mwenje could lead the crusade to ensure that when we give them Kshs600 million from LATF, they pick one road and do it, the money will be visible within Nairobi. These are some of the programmes we want to do.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am still on Item 424 - Fire

Disaster Prevention and Management. Fire-fighting equipment is not based on areas with high populations. For example, if fire breaks in Kibera or within Mr. Mwenje's constituency, there is no access for fire fighters to save lives. Could the Minister consider decentralising fire stations, so that we can have fire stations in Kibera, Eastlands and Westlands?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): We are planning to decentralise fire stations. In fact, we will have seven fire stations within Nairobi alone. In the slum areas, we are looking into the infrastructure, so that fire-fighting equipment can access them. This is part of the major programme in our slum up-grading.

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 364, Item 423 is on Solid Waste Management. The involvement of the Ministry is increasing. Last year's Budget was Kshs10 million; this year it is Kshs40 million; next year it will be Kshs100, and Kshs170 million the year after that.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the money in the budget is actually not just meant for the Nairobi City alone, because it will be used to carry out feasibility studies in certain clusters of towns around the country. We have a number of clusters. For example, we have one cluster consisting of Meru, Embu, Kitui, Machakos, Malindi and Kilifi. The other cluster that we are going to look at in our studies consists of Eldoret, Kakamega, Busia, Bungoma and Kitale. Then we have another cluster consisting of Kisii, Homa Bay, Kericho and so on. So, we are going to carry out the studies to see how we manage the solid waste. But in the meantime, in the major cities of Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu, we are moving ahead with commercialising the programmes.

(Head 364 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 125 agreed to)

(Vote D12 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

*(Resolution to be reported
without amendment)*

(The House resumed)

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

REPORT

Vote 12 - Ministry of Local Government

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered Vote 12 - Ministry of Local Government, and approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kombo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my only comment is that, now that we have allowed the Minister to spend the money, and because we know him as a man who has not been corruptible at all; I want to plead with him not to allow any corruption at this particular time in the Ministry and to strictly remain what he has always been. He should not allow any monopoly in any local authority, including Nairobi City Council, either for repair of roads or lighting. He should always allow for a free tendering system, and that is where transparency will be seen, and he will be known to have remained the way he was before. If that does not happen, then a second thought will possibly have been seen, that there is a change of heart. With that, we approve the budget of this Ministry.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate the Minister for spearheading the passage of this Vote. I think it is emerging that there was no specific location in the budget. If any, bias was heavily on the urban centres. The Minister has assured us, and we hope he will be true to his word that in future the rural areas, including Turkana, will be included in his urban programme.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister. I would like to also comment that as much as he has requested the approval of this money, he seems not to be focused on the rapid population growth in the towns. He is not thinking about increasing the public facilities, especially toilets, which have been put up by the Nairobi Central Business District Association (NCBDA), to cater for the population growth. Some of the toilets and fire stations were grabbed. So, he should think about what to do with them. He could be planning to do good things, but he has no space to do them.

Thank you.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister for spearheading the passing of this Vote. I would like to ask the Minister, like my colleague has just said, to consider rural areas and small towns upcountry, so that he can divert the movement of people to Nairobi back to the countryside.

I would also like to ask the Minister to ensure that the LATF funds are utilised for the intended purposes.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would want to congratulate the Minister and raise two points.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have gone through rituals of presenting these kind of Votes every year. We would want to see that next year, the Minister will still be in this Ministry to come back here and tell us that he has implemented all the good points and suggestions we raised, so that we move on from there. There we shall be making progress.

Secondly, I would want the Ministry to focus on providing adequate facilities in the growing urban centres. These include, water, electricity, housing, roads and all other amenities, so that we can ease the pressure on the land for agriculture by people moving to live in these areas.

Thank you.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must also thank the Minister for his maiden management of the budget and the Vote of his Ministry in this House. I would, however, like to echo what the last speaker said. In the next 20 years, we are told that 60 per cent of the population in this country and many others in this region will be living in urban centres. I think that in order to decongest Nairobi, it is time the Ministry looked at the development of other urban centres in various districts. In this regard, the provision of electricity, sewerage and water supply should be the main focus. We should grow beyond these bus termini and markets at local authority levels.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 14th October, 2004, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.