

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 17th June, 2004

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we will start with Questions by Private Notice.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MEASURES TO AVERT FAMINE IN BURA

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that there is a looming drought that is likely to cause famine in Tana River, specifically Bura?

(b) What plan has the Minister put in place to avert this disaster and save human lives?

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

(a) I am aware that there is looming drought not only in Tana River, or specifically Bura, but in many parts of the country.

(b) The Government is activating contingency plans to address the situation and save human lives. In the last three months, the Government has dispatched 6050 (90-kilogramme) bags of maize, 335 (90-kilogrammes) bags of beans and 555 cartons of vegetable oil for free distribution to vulnerable people in Tana River.

Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) of Kshs725,000 has also been provided for secondary transportation. Arrangements are being made to dispatch vegetable oil. As a long-term measure, Tana River District has been placed under the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) which is involved in medium and long-term solutions to the problems of drought. It also provides early warning information which enables the community and the Government to prepare for an effective response. In addition, the Government is continuously monitoring the food security situation and will respond accordingly if and when the situation demands.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Wario: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after thanking the Assistant Minister for that answer, I would like to say that famine relief has never been a solution to drought. We have one location, Bangali Division, where residents are now moving because of lack of water. A 20-litre jerrican of water is going for Kshs50. What is the Ministry doing to provide water besides the famine relief he is talking about? How useful is famine relief in the absence of water?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is an important concern and there are areas,

particularly Makueni District, where water is also part of the relief. This is because of the disease that afflicted that particular area. I am sure that this matter will be raised with the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development so that there is also assistance in terms of water provision.

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Assistant Minister admits in this House that there is a looming drought in northern Kenya. However, outside this House, the Government has kept mum for the last few weeks and even months. Agencies ought to have responded. Moreover, as Mr. Wario has rightly put it, food is not enough to solve problems in these areas. As we wait for the activation of the contingency plan the Assistant Minister talked about, what emergency measures will he take to provide water even for domestic use in some of our locations?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I have already answered that by saying that our Ministry, together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will have to examine that situation. We will assist in terms of water provision for those very vulnerable locations; particularly the one which was mentioned. This is because food on its own will not be adequate even in the short-term.

Mrs. Mwendwa: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know whether in providing relief food, water is included. Where possible, boreholes should be sunk and where water can be extended, funds should be made available to the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development. This is because what we have seen is that the money that is allocated is very inadequate. There is no doubt that people need water even more than food. They are dying of thirst! Could they, therefore, be given at least water to drink? Is it possible for water to be considered alongside the relief?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need, first of all, to apologise. I said the Ministry for Education, Science and Technology but I meant the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development. My Ministry together with the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development will get into discussions so that there is requisite assistance.

(Mr. Ngoyoni stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; I am almost ending it now because of time. What is Mr. Ngoyoni?

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem with our Ministers is that they rely on heartless civil servants. They do not go out to the field.

Mr. Speaker: What are you saying?

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, heartless civil servants are the ones who are giving them information. It is very obvious that the Assistant Minister does not know what I am talking about. Could he declare emergency in those areas because people are dying?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it not possible for a civil servant to be without a heart and be alive. He would be dead. As I indicated clearly in my answer, we are monitoring all the drought-prone areas. The Government has no intention, as has happened in some countries, to hide the fact that our people are suffering because of drought and famine. Particularly when our people are dying, we always inform the international community and we receive assistance from everywhere. If the situation reaches a stage where we have to declare it a national emergency, we will do so.

*(The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu)
stood up in her place)*

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Ngilu, do you want to ask a question, or to raise a point of order?

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a point of order. I just want to give more information that the Assistant Minister does not have.

An hon. Member: You are out of order!

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! You know, Mrs. Ngilu, you can only give an hon. Member, or your colleague a point of information in a debate and he has to agree. In the meantime, I am encouraging you actually to give the information to Prof. Kibwana. The House will get it through him. So, feed him!

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Order, hon. Members! We are not about to change all the rules of the House. We must stick with them the way they are. I can probably understand the position of Mrs. Ngilu, because, maybe, Kitui District is drier than Makueni District. So, she, probably has first-hand experience. Mrs. Ngilu, please, talk to the Assistant Minister and he will be able to respond.

We need to finish now. Dr. Ali, ask your question!

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to add to what Mr. Ngoyoni said, this Government is more heartless than the civil servants. This is because it is just giving maize and beans. What will happen to the children who are more affected than the adults? Will the Government give them milk?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is important that what the Government does is appreciated so that it is encouraged to do even more. For example, even in Garissa District, the Government is also providing---

Dr. Ali: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to tell us to encourage the Government when it is its responsibility to help people? Shame on you!

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! At the beginning of this week, I advised hon. Members to keep their tempers cool and moderate their language. Otherwise, we will turn this place into an impossible arena and you know what I mean. So, every hon. Member must relax now, beginning with Dr. Ali. Dr. Ali, are you relaxed?

Dr. Ali: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very good!

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Whether Dr. Ali is relaxed or not, he must withdraw the words, "shame on you." He cannot tell an Assistant Minister, "shame on you." That is very serious. So, let him withdraw and apologise!

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Trust me, he is completely relaxed and he will not use those words again.

Proceed, Prof. Kibwana!

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, even in Bankale Division, the Government is

providing water from Garissa using a boozier. So, it has been made possible for such areas to get water. My colleague was in actual fact informing me that in other places, for example, Kitui and Makueni districts, water is also being provided. So, actually, there is now a policy, not just to provide food and oil, but also to provide water.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! I am sorry. I truly appreciate the gravity of the drought and hunger of the people, but the House must also appreciate the predicament of the Chair. I have to finish the Questions by 3.30 p.m. So, let us have the last question by Mr. Wario.

Proceed!

Mr. Wario: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Drought being a disaster and there are no signs of rain in place, could the Assistant Minister consider calling the international community to come to help these innocent Kenyans?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that drought is a major problem. As I said, we are monitoring drought and informing all stakeholders about the situation. If it becomes clear to us that it is necessary to call upon the international community and anybody else, we will consider it.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Mr. Moroto!

PUPILS' FAILURE TO SIT FOR
KCPE EXAMINATIONS

(Mr. Moroto) to ask the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that two pupils of Nateleng Primary School in West Pokot District were denied a chance to sit for the KCPE exams last year?

(b) What steps has the Minister taken against the officers who denied the two pupils the opportunity to sit for these examinations?

(c) What further action is he taking to ensure that the pupils continue with their education?

Mr. Speaker: I understand Mr. Moroto's Question is to be deferred to Thursday.

(Question deferred)

Next Question!

MASS EXODUS OF STUDENTS/TEACHERS
FROM LAISAMIS SECONDARY SCHOOL

(Mr. Ngoyoni) to ask the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that Laisamis Secondary School has closed prematurely due to mass exodus of students?

(b) What is the cause of the mass exodus of students and teachers from the school?

(c) What is the Minister doing to arrest the situation?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ngoyoni, I understand you also agreed with the Assistant Minister to defer the Question. Is that not so?

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have talked and because of the respect I have for her, I think we can defer the Question.

*(Mrs. Mugo stood up
in her place)*

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Mugo, why are you agitated?

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is because this was an agreement. It is not because of the respect he has for me. I have the answer to the Question which we consulted over and agreed to look into it again. So, the hon. Member does not have to say that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mrs. Mugo! You know, when somebody says he or she respects you, you should stand up and say: "Thank you very much for the respect."

Anyway, Mr. Ngoyoni, which day do you prefer; Wednesday or Thursday?

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I prefer Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: So be it. The Question is deferred to Thursday.

(Question deferred)

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS
IN NAKURU MUNICIPALITY

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

(a) Why has the Ministry condoned the illegal construction of permanent buildings on Nakuru L.R. Nakuru Municipality Block 10/197 without the requisite approval from the Nakuru Municipal Council?

(b) What is the Minister doing to ensure the law is complied with?

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

(a) My Ministry has not condoned illegal construction of permanent buildings on Nakuru L.R. Nakuru Municipality Block No.10/197. We have discovered that approval was given by the management committee after the councils were dissolved on October 2002. The council was supposed to ratify the approval after the reconstitution of councils. The Ministry has advised the council to ratify the same.

(b) To ensure that Local Authorities operate within the law, I have issued various circulars which will ensure that councils comply and enforce their development plans and nobody is allowed to construct illegal structures.

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to lay on the Table, the Minutes of the council dated 22nd April, 2003 rejecting those plans before I ask my question.

*(Mr. M. Kariuki passed on a document
to the Clerks-at-the-Table)*

Mr. Speaker: Mr. M. Kariuki, what are you distributing?

(Laughter)

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could I have the privilege---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. M. Kariuki! You know that I only allow hon. Members to lay documents on the Table from the Dispatch Box and not to distribute or even give Ministers. Any way, you can ask your question.

Mr. M. Kariuki: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have a spare copy for the Assistant Minister. This is a very serious matter. I have in the past, asked a Question relating to the controversy on that plot and the Ministry of Lands and Settlement issued a very clear statement that this was a public utility and it was putting machinery in place to ensure that, that plot reverted back to the intended use. Actually, it was a market plot. Ministerial Circular No.5 of 2002 dated 13th June, 2002 clearly spells out what council officers can do when a council has been dissolved. The Minister clearly stated that a council cannot approve plans when it has been dissolved. I am really surprised by the answer the Assistant Minister has give to this House that they have recommended that the council do ratify that plan, even after it had rejected it. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what she wants the council to ratify if the initial decision was, in fact, illegal because the council officers had no power to approve the plan?

(Applause)

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was done in October, 2002 and the management committee gave permission. My Ministry has taken up the matter and advised the council to ratify the same because it was allowed in law as there was no council at that time.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Bw. Spika, hilo ni swali muhimu sana. Umesikia Waziri Msaidizi akisema kwamba Wizara yake inatilia maanani sheria, na tunajua kwamba sheria nyingi katika Wizara ya Serikali za Mitaa zinavunjwa. Nyumba zinajengwa kiholela, hazipakwi rangi, hazimalizwi na wananchi wanakaa ndani. Je, Wizara hii inatambua kwamba wakati umefika iamke na ianze kufanya kazi kwa niaba ya wananchi?

Mrs. Tett: Bw. Spika, Wizara yangu haijalala. Tuko macho. Wizara yangu ina 175 local authorities na si vizuri mtu kusema kwamba Wizara imelala. Tunafanya kazi mchana na usiku. Tumeanza kujenga na kupaka rangi nyumba ambazo zilikuwa katika hali mbaya wakati wa KANU. Tumefanya mambo mengi sana na ni kipofu ndio hawezi kuona.

Eng. Muriuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. M. Kariuki has asked a very fundamental Question and it is important for the House to be informed. The point is that when councils are dissolved in-between elections, that management is not authorised by law to approve anything, and if it does, it only amounts to a recommendation, so that when a new council is sworn in, it can approve it or not. We are now being told that when the substantive council sat, it rejected that approval. So, could the Assistant Minister tell us under what law the Ministry of Local Government imposed a decision which belongs to the local authority?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a case which dates back many years. This case has been heard by a court which gave its verdict. It is now upon the Ministry to ratify the plan because we cannot go against the court's decision. If we do that, it will be against the law.

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that they are ratifying a court decision. Certainly, it is not about the plan. The case relates to something else and has nothing to do with the approval of the plan. It is important for this house to appreciate the fact that the Minister and the Assistant Minister who is in the House, visited the plot in March, this year. They told my constituents that they would ensure that the illegal structures were brought down. Now, another story has emerged; that, the council is being compelled to ratify something which was actually a nullity by the council officers. Could the Assistant Minister tell us under what laws he

expects the local authority to ratify a decision it has rejected?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, during a special Town Planning and Works Committee meeting held on 22nd July, 2003, the council recommended to set aside Kshs10 million to purchase that particular plot. But the valuation from the Ministry of Lands and Settlement was Kshs60 million. There is more than meets the eye and it is not just what the hon. Member has said. The hon. Member knows very well the problem that place faces.

Mr. M. Kariuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are talking about illegal structures. Whoever the owner may be, the Ministry of Local Government has a responsibility to ensure that only approved structures are constructed within the local authorities. The issue is very clear here. The council has rejected the plan. Could the Assistant Minister put a machinery in place to demolish the illegal structures?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Zubedi was granted a court injunction, restraining the council from demolishing the structure under Civil Case No.38 of 2004. How do we go about it? That is a court matter.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! I think that rests the matter there.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.494

REVAMPING OF NOMADIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Dr. Ali asked the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

- (a) whether he is aware that nomadic primary schools in arid areas are no longer functional;
- (b) what was the purpose of constructing these facilities; and,
- (c) what plans he has to revamp these institutions.

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

(a) I am not aware that the nomadic primary schools in arid areas are no longer functional. I have confirmed that the three schools built in 1983 by the World Bank and handed over to the Government are still operational to date.

(b) The purpose of constructing nomadic primary schools was to encourage nomadic children to attend schools by providing accessible learning institutions for them in their immediate environment.

(c) My Ministry has no immediate plan to revamp these institutions because they are already provided for under the free primary education and low cost boarding primary schools programmes.

Dr. Ali: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thank the Assistant Minister for the answer she has given to this House. One nomadic school was build in a district, and it was supposed to serve the whole district. The facilities which used to be in those schools are no longer there. So, the free primary education does not help. What does the Ministry intend to do with the grants those institutions used to receive?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such grants cater for the low cost boarding primary schools programme mainly in North Eastern Province. But we are also negotiating with the USAID and it has agreed to fund a programme which will help us add some facilities in North Eastern Province. We are very concerned with facilitating education to all the children in that area. In fact, some

schools do not have enough children up to now.

Mr. Kamama: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objective of establishing those schools was noble. They were meant to enhance enrolment of students in ASALs. Those were model schools. In the Free Primary Education Programme, there is no provision for model schools in ASALs. What is the Ministry doing to have model boarding schools in those districts?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, one of those schools is a boarding school. It is either in Ramu or Bute arid zone. We shall establish more boarding schools as soon as we get funds from USAID and other donors. We realise that those children, because of the very nature of their parents moving from one area to another, will need more boarding schools. That is our target.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kombe, please proceed! There is no interest on the Government side!

Mr. Kombe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the absence of donors, what plans does the Government have to make those schools functional?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, those schools are functioning! What we are doing is to improve and keep them going. That is why we are appealing to donors to, especially, support that area. Even from our own resources, that area gets more money for schools than any other.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Abdirahman! I will come to you, Mr. Leshore.

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister does not seem to be well informed. In fact, Ramu Arid Zone and Bute Arid Zone are both boarding primary schools. They are operating below their capacities. Bute, for instance, was expected to accommodate over 300 students! But, today, it is operating with less than 80 students. What we want to get from the Assistant Minister are clear-cut strategies. They are giving Kshs100,000 across the board for all boarding primary schools in ASALs. Could such kind of schools get additional allocations? It could be in the form of grants. Wherever you get them, it is not our problem! Could she consider that? Otherwise, we are not benefitting from free primary education.

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand quite well. Last year, Ramu Arid Zone received Kshs1,134,000 for the low cost boarding facility alone. For free primary education, it received Kshs407,900. So, that statement was not quite correct. But, we are aware and, as I said, we want to make as many schools as possible, boarding schools. That is our target. The amount that we have given to that school is not Kshs100,000 like anywhere else. It is more.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also have one school in my district, known as Basoloi Arid Lands School. It used to have a lorry and a school van. Could the Assistant Minister tell us why her Ministry stopped giving special funds to such schools?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was no free primary education before. A lot of money has been geared towards free primary education. The money is now being distributed to many more areas which never used to get any. But, as I have just said, we are looking into new ways of funding, so that those schools will continue getting support. But they still get more money than any other schools. I will take notice of your school.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister telling us that those schools will remain closed because of lack of facilities because her Ministry has not taken any steps to ensure that funds are available for nomadic schools?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Member saying that the school is closed because it did not get the grant? I am not sure that, that is what he means! The school is not closed because of the grant. We have not closed any schools because they are not getting any grants. I said that we are even going to put more effort to make sure that those schools get more support and remain open. Kenyans are paying more taxes because they know their money is taken care of, unlike before, when it was misused.

Mr. Speaker: Last question! Dr. Ali!

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Assistant Minister pointed out earlier, there are three nomadic primary schools in North Eastern Province. One is called Balabala in Garissa; another is called Bute in Wajir; and the other one is Ramu, which is in Mandera. Unfortunately, the money that Ramu gets, the other two schools do not get. I do not know why. Could the Assistant Minister help Bute Arid Zone with repairing its vehicle, so that it can help all the children from Wajir District?

Mr. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Next Question by Mr. Ndambuki!

Question No.488

LACK OF FUNDS AT MACHAKOS
AFC BRANCH

Mr. Ndambuki asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), Machakos Branch, has more than 500 pending loan applications due to lack of funds;

(b) what plans he has to solve that problem; and,

(c) how much money was allocated to that office to be advanced to farmers.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. J. Nyagah): My apologies, Mr. Speaker, Sir! However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that there are pending loan applications at the AFC, Machakos Branch.

(b) The Government has, so far, released Kshs1.289 billion to the AFC to finance wheat and maize production, as well as provide development loans to farmers country-wide. Also, the Government has approached development partners to supplement budgetary allocations.

(c) The Machakos AFC Branch was allocated a total of Kshs34,412,000 to lend in this financial year.

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the answer given by the Assistant Minister! The AFC, Machakos Branch, serves four districts; namely, Makueni, Kitui, Mwingi, Machakos and, sometimes, Kajiado District. The money that it received this year was not Kshs34 million, but Kshs8 million. An amount of Kshs3 million went to Kajiado District. Only Kshs5 million was left for the other four districts. Could the Assistant Minister tell us where the balance of Kshs26 million went?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just re-checked! I am fairly confident that Machakos District received Kshs34 million for the region. That amount might look small if you compare it with other districts that produce large quantities of food. But it is sufficient for that area for the time-being. However, we will increase that amount in future.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! There was a question by Mr. Ndambuki. He is saying that, out of the figure of Kshs34 million that you have given, Kshs3 million went to Kajiado District and Kshs5 million to the other four districts, making a total of Kshs8 million. What he is asking you is: Where is the balance of Kshs26 million?

(Applause)

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have available indicates that Kshs34 million was given to the Machakos branch and Kshs17 million to Oloitokitok branch. However, I am aware that Machakos branch is having problems of disbursement as people get used to the rules of borrowing.

(Laughter)

Mr. ole Metito: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell the House what measures the Government is taking to assist those without title deeds access the AFC loans?

(Applause)

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, AFC is currently working on a programme to work out new modalities of how to finance people in communities which do not have title deeds. They have gone fairly far in terms of coming up with a micro-finance concept where members of the community guarantee each other. It is at an advanced stage at AFC because we do recognise the need to lend money to people without title deeds in such communities like the Maasais.

(Laughter)

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of agricultural potential in ASAL areas but these loan facilities are not available. What plans does the Ministry have to extend this facility to the ASAL areas like Moyale, Marsabit, Isiolo, North Eastern Province and the northern part of Rift Valley? What plans does the Minister have to extend loan services to those areas?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are looking into how we can expand into those places. The problem why we were not able to expand into those areas was that for the last decade, lending by AFC collapsed from a high of almost Kshs800 million to Kshs3 million in the year 2001. So, we are restructuring the whole thing because after ten years of basically no lending by AFC, we are trying to strengthen the existing branches. However, we are working towards these areas, particularly with the importance of livestock now.

Ms. Mwau: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the conditions to obtain loans from AFC is that one must have a title deed. Title deeds are non-existent in Makeni District. Furthermore, women do not have title deeds because they do not own land. How many of the beneficiaries of these loans are women? Could the Assistant Minister tell us what happens since women lack title deeds?

(Applause)

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have statistics of men and women but in these days where we have got the term "persons", we do have statistics of persons, irrespective of gender.

(Laughter)

I will be able to hand in a list of these particular people.

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really need your help before I ask the last question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I am here at your service.

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Assistant Minister is not telling this House the truth. We never got Kshs34 million. Could he go back and bring the actual figures of what we got in that area?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, you said that Kshs34 million was given to Machakos region. How much of it was given out and what is the balance?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know how much we spent. However, as you

know, borrowing is a continuous process. That was what was given to the branch but I am aware that in the case of Machakos branch, there has been a delay. For example, some people who came to look for money had no title deeds but they applied because 20,000 people applied for some Kshs6.3 billion. The problem we had was that the expectation of what is available for them is too much. However, I will be quite happy to go back and find out what is outstanding but as I said, it is a continuous process. I will be very happy to lay on the Table, what we have released. It is a total of Kshs1.289 billion because the Government has been wonderful this last year in helping farmers. So, let me lay it on the Table as I provide more information.

(Mr. J. Nyagah laid the document on the Table)

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Very well. That is a wise move. Your application to get more of that information is granted by the Chair and you will bring it on Wednesday.

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could I ask the last question?

Mr. Speaker: No! Relax! Next Question by Mr. Ojaamong!

Question No.431

UTILISATION OF HEALTH FUNDS
IN TESO DISTRICT

Mr. Ojaamong asked the Minister for Health:-

- (a) how much money the Government allocated to Teso District for health services delivery in each financial year from 1997 to 2003; and,
- (b) how these funds were utilised.

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

(a) A total of Kshs11,702,057.97 was used on Recurrent Expenditure and Kshs16,947,725.97 was used on Development Expenditure in Teso District for health services delivery each financial year from the year 1997 to 2003.

(b) The amounts spent respectively in each financial year for the last five years are as follows: Recurrent Expenditure - 1997/1998, Kshs947,676; 1999/2000, Kshs1,896,158; 2000/2001, Kshs3,707,371.50; 2001/2002, Kshs2,536,650.47 and 2002/2003, Kshs2,614,202. That makes a total of Kshs11,702,057.97.

On Development Expenditure - 1999/2000, Kshs127,500 was spent on immunisation by KEPI; Kshs50,000 was used on public health care. In 2000/2001, we spent Kshs70,000 on public health care; Kshs150,000 was spent on KEPI and Kshs70,000 on KEPI. In 2001/2002, we spent Kshs70,000 on public health care and Kshs122,000 on KEPI and a further Kshs70,000 on public health care. Kshs122,000 was spent on KEPI again, making a total of Kshs1,091,5000. In the year 2002/2003, we spent Kshs160,000 on KEPI; Kshs70,000 was spent on public health care; Kshs750,000 was spent on the district hospital (public health and malaria). All these totalled to Kshs1.680 million. Other development donors and NGOs spent Kshs500,000. The total expenditure was Kshs16,947,725.95.

Mr. Ojaamong: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year I asked a similar Question and the Minister assured me that about Kshs12 million had been allocated for Teso District to improve the delivery

of health services. But if you add up the figures in the Financial Years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 you will realise that Teso District has only been given Kshs4 million. So, the deficit thereof is Kshs8 million. Where did this money go to?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of the hon. Member that Teso District has only one constituency. Therefore the funds allocated are adequate for that constituency.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked of allocations for development purposes. When she was accounting for the allocations she talked about immunisation programmes and Malaria control. I do not believe that immunisation is a development issue because in my view it is an ongoing process which is part of medical care provision. What development activities did the Ministry undertake in Teso District with the money set aside for development?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these funds have also been used to support some of the facilities in Teso District. We do not carry out immunisation programmes outside our health facilities. We carry them out in our health centres.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked the Minister a very simple question. She had said that the Ministry for Health allocated some millions of shillings for development in Teso District. I want her to tell us of any one development project the Ministry engaged in for the last five years with the millions of shillings that were allocated.

Mr. Speaker: Kshs11 million, to be specific.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, Teso District is a very new district. We had sent money for the rehabilitation of the Teso District Hospital.

Mr. Ojaamong: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer by the Minister is quite elaborate and fictitious.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: What did you say?

Mr. Ojaamong: Very fictitious. In Teso District we do not have functioning ambulances; water in hospitals; and, health personnel. In fact, we have very few nurses and no clinical officers and doctors yet a lot of money has been allocated for Recurrent Expenditure. Since her answer is fictitious, I would appeal to the Minister to visit Teso District and see for herself the situation that is on the ground. Also, could she also confirm to me that she will tour the district by herself so that she sees with her own two eyes the situation down there?

Mr. Speaker: A very good invitation there!

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to first of all thank the hon. Member for inviting me to visit Teso District. It is actually part of my work and I have to do it. Therefore, I want to assure him that I will visit Teso District. However, I want to agree with the hon. Member that our facilities are not up to the required standards. The answer I have given to the hon. Member is not fictitious. It is factual. I am certainly going to support him and more so the District Hospital.

Question No.422

REVIVAL OF RIOKINDO WATER PROJECT

Mr. Onyancha asked the Minister for Water Resources Management and Development:

(a) whether she is aware that Riokindo Water Project in Kenyena Division stalled over 15 years ago; and,

(b) what plans she has put in place to revive the project in line with the Government policy to address stalled projects before introducing new ones.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that the construction of Riokindo Self Help Water Project stalled in 1996 when it was about 80 per cent complete. By the time the project stalled, a total of Kshs5,744,000 had been spent. The project was partially operational for a short period before it stalled due to vandalism, inefficient management and inadequate funding.

(b) The main outstanding works for this water supply project include completion of reticulation system, rehabilitation of the pump house and the storage tanks and construction of a new water treatment plant. We are in the process of reviewing and updating the original design with the aim of establishing the financial requirement. We will do this through the newly established Lake Victoria South Water Services Board. However, I would also like to appeal to the hon. Member to spare some of the Constituency Development Fund towards this project.

Mr. Onyancha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect the Minister, but I am afraid that this time round she got her facts wrong about the project I mentioned. First, the Riokindo Water Project was never 80 per cent complete because even in part (b) of her answer she has talked of missing storage tanks. Also there are no treatment tanks for the whole project. So, how could the project be operational without the storage tanks? After going through this year's Budget, I have discovered that there is no provision at all for this particular project. Could the Minister undertake to allocate funds for this project?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Onyancha! I am sorry I did not mention before the Minister for Health left the Floor that hon. Dr. Khalwale wanted a Ministerial Statement on a disease presently in Western Kenya.

Mr. Onyancha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Minister might have got wrong facts about what is on the ground with regard to this project. The project was never 80 per cent complete. In part (b) of her response she admits that there were no tanks for treating the water. So, the project never really started. Could she undertake to allocate funds for this project?

Mr. Speaker: Ms. Karua and Mr. Onyancha, sorry for the interruption, but I am running out of time on this Question. I would be unfair to stop it at this stage. If both of you agree, we can have the Question on Tuesday, next week.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I just answer what he has asked?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, please.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that one of the problems in this project is vandalism by the intended beneficiaries. We expect that hon. Members and other leaders will encourage the beneficiaries not to vandalise what the Government has installed. This project only requires Kshs755,000 to complete. The hon. Member can obtain that money from the Constituency Development Fund.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. I will defer the Question to Tuesday, next week in order to be fair to all who are concerned.

Dr. Khalwale, please, use only one minute because time is up!

(Question deferred)

POINT OF ORDER

OUTBREAK OF LEPTOSPIROSIS
IN WESTERN KENYA

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Health concerning an emergency in Sirisia and Mt. Elgon Constituencies in Western Province of Kenya where 26 people have died including four school children. I would like clarification to the following points: Why did it take the Minister for Health one month to respond to that particular emergency? I remember that besides the media highlighting this matter, I also raised it in this House last month. Secondly, we would like the Minister to come clear on whether she believes in the diagnosis of leptospirosis which in principle is an occupation disease that affects livestock. If at all that is true, then, this problem ought not to have started in a school, rather it would have started in a ranch or a dairy farm. Thirdly, we want the Minister to come with certified copies of tests done on specimen collected from students in Chesamis High school and analyzed at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to confirm the diagnosis. Leptocirrhosis is a bacterial illness that does not have the kind of virulence to the extent to which this disease is spreading. We would like the Minister to---

Mr. Speaker: You are now debating, Dr. Khalwale!

Dr. Khalwale: Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to clarify on what measures she has put in place at the Kakamega Provincial Hospital to handle this emergency. Could she also confirm whether she has brought better antibiotics than ampicillin, penicillin and tetracycline, which are there at the moment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Well, Mrs. Ngilu, you were absent. So, you will take and read a copy of the HANSARD. I will try to give you an opportunity next Tuesday to respond.

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a good concern that the hon. Member is showing. But we are already on the ground and we are ahead of them because we have already taken action. All the students who have been affected by this illness are in hospital. We have put all of them under one roof and we are going to call all the other students who had been taken home by their parents. In particular, we have set up a sick bay where all the students who might be affected would go. We have supplied the right drugs and, indeed, the Director of Medical Services is on the ground. We have also sent some money for any emergencies. Otherwise, the disease has been contained.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Thank you very much, Mrs. Ngilu. I think your explanation is adequate. Next order!

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

(Order for Committee read)

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

(The Minister for Finance on 10.6.2004)

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 16.6.2004)*

(4th Allotted Day)

Mr. Speaker: Was there anybody on the Floor? Eng. Okundi you were on the Floor. You

have six minutes left.

Eng. Okundi: Give me eight minutes.

Mr. Speaker: You have six minutes!

Eng. Okundi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When the session ended last night, I was talking about roads. When I talk about roads, I feel very emotional, because roads are the key to economic performance of the nation as a whole. Roads need very big attention. I am happy to see that the Minister has allocated a fairly substantial sum to handle the roads in this financial year. But I would say that roads are of a very high priority such that the allocated funds need to be disbursed with the highest possible speed from the Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister mentioned some roads, and in the entire Southern Nyanza, we have a very famous road which serves the area, and which really traverses along the entire shoreline of Lake Victoria. That is the road from Kendu Bay, Homa Bay, Mbita and Tumuuru. Over the past many years of the KANU Government, we were promised that this road will be tarmacked. Last year, there was an allocation for actually tarmacking this road. This has not happened. I would like to see that, this time round, this road gets the allocation and that work starts during the financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding energy, Mr. Angwenyi and I just came back from an international conference hosted by the Republic of Germany where Parliamentarians from all over the world were discussing the issue of new and renewable energy sources. While there, we found out that the rest of the world has advanced substantially, and they are talking about the promotion and development of renewable energies such as solar power, biomass and geothermal power. I was happy to see that there was quite some considerable progress which had already been done in Kenya. The rural electrification programmes for a number of countries were quite advanced. I am happy to see that the Minister has allocated a substantial sum of money to handle rural electrification.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that funds have been allocated, we would like to see very high quality rural electric connections which have been done efficiently, and that the main centres are connected. The centres that I am talking about are the schools, health centres, market centres and major villages in the rural areas. This is important because a large number of Government institutions, for example, schools and health centres fail to do their jobs because they do not have electricity, which they need in order to preserve drugs for the treatment of our people. They do not have water, which they need for the good health of our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding water, I am glad that the Minister has allocated some money for water. This time, we need the concerned Ministry to use this money with speed. We are seeing diseases which are affecting our people on an epidemic level. When you look at this scientifically, it relates to the quality of water that our people are drinking. At this point, I need to say that we need water in as many areas and as fast as possible in order to improve our health and to assist in the emergency treatments that we have even been talking about this afternoon in the House.

Regarding education, the Minister has talked about Kshs3 billion which has been allocated to provide information technology communication to schools. I know that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology had good plans to introduce computer or information technology education in our schools. But this will not happen unless electricity is supplied to these schools. This money is enough to enhance the electrical connection to all our schools in which the information technology education will be introduced. So, I would like to see that this allocation in the Budget is balanced and counter-parted with rural electrification connections to the schools, learning centres, and polytechnics.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked about Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). If we remove taxes on LPG like the Minister has done, this will promote the use of LPG. This is designed to save our forests so that people do not use charcoal. This should be promoted. Regarding oil, we would like to give the Minister---

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up, Eng. Okundi!

Eng. Okundi: With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, Mr. J.K. Koech!

Mr. J.K. Koech: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Budget Speech. I rise to support the Budget. I have a number of reasons for doing that and I will be pointing out a few areas which I would request the Minister for Finance to look into.

I congratulate the Minister because I believe he prepared the Budget under very difficult circumstances. The situation which has been prevailing in the country has not been conducive for development. I want to congratulate the Minister for introducing measures aimed at instilling discipline in the banking sector in this country. We are beginning to see a very stable financial sector. The stable financial sector will promote development in this country. Without a stable financial sector, it will be very difficult to achieve any development. Many of us have pointed out that the Budget does not have adequate provision for agriculture and development. I want to request all of us to sacrifice and make sure that this country develops.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we came to this House, we requested for an increase in our salaries. When this was approved, we were very happy. The university lecturers, teachers and civil servants also followed suit. They also wanted an increase in their salaries. I am happy the Minister has granted them the increase. If we are going to increase salaries, this will mean that Recurrent Expenditure will continue taking a bigger portion of the total Government revenue leaving very little for Development Expenditure. At the moment, Recurrent Expenditure is about 90 per cent of the total Government Budget. This is because we keep on increasing our salaries. If we agree to reduce our salaries, we shall generate enough resources for development, particularly the agricultural sector. Sometime back, we asked the Minister for Finance to increase our salaries and even threatened not to support Government businesses if he failed to do so. Where will he get the money to allocate to the agricultural sector when all the money has been spent on our salaries? The National Assembly is a Government Department and it is spending a lot of money. It has not been like that before.

When I came to Parliament in 1980, we used to address ourselves as "*waishiwa*". During that time, we could only afford to buy a second hand Peugeot 504 vehicle. Today, things have changed. There is a price to everything. If we continue demanding for salary increment, then we will not have any development. I am saying this because at times we blame the Minister for not increasing the allocation for Development Expenditure. I want to request the Minister to find ways and means of increasing the allocation to Development Expenditure through the State corporations. State corporations have been a conduit for the Treasury to let out money. Many of the parastatals have not been meeting their obligations. They are so much indebted. It is the Exchequer which always bails them out. The Minister should make sure that non-performing parastatals are wound up. Also, those parastatals which are doing jobs that are done by other Government Departments should be wound up. There is no point of having parastatals which are running some water programmes when we have a Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development. This is duplication of duties. We have machines which are shared unevenly such that the effectiveness in the provision of water becomes less. I am happy the Minister promised to look into the issue so that there is no duplication.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many bodies have been established in this country and one wonders what they do. We have bodies such as the Lake Basin Development Authority and the Ewaso Nyiro Development Authority. It is high time some assessment is done on these bodies, so that if they are not performing, they are wound up and this money can be used for development. These are the areas where the Minister can get some money to increase the Development Expenditure. Otherwise, every

year, our Recurrent Expenditure will be more than the Development Expenditure. I think we need to look into this area, so that we can generate money for the agricultural development.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about corruption. Corruption was so rampant in the previous Government and we thought it was over when the NARC Government came to power. We are surprised to hear that corruption is still going on. Our people had a lot of hope in the Government that there was going to be zero-tolerance to corruption. Corruption is causing a lot of problems to this country and our people have lost hope in the Government. However, I am happy that, nowadays, corruption is being exposed. I congratulate some of my colleagues, particularly Mr. Maore, who has exposed some of the serious scandals in the Government. It is good that the Government is not protecting some of the people who are corrupt. If you listen to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), you will hear that a Minister has been implicated in corruption. This means that we are becoming more transparent. Previously, the KBC never used to mention anything bad about Ministers. I want to congratulate the NARC Government for exposing corruption. When corruption is exposed, that is a step forward to ensure that there is no corruption in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even if we enact wonderful laws and the people are corrupt, they can always collude. For instance, we have got competent accountants and auditors in a Ministry, who are well paid. If they are corrupt, they will always embezzle funds. If they are exposed, this will help reduce corruption in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to request the Minister to put some ceilings for the Ministries, especially for telephones and maintenance of vehicles. The expenditure on Government vehicles and telephone bills is too high. In some countries, Ministers are allocated a certain amount of money every month. If they exceed that allocation, they are required to pay the rest. The Minister should also introduce that system, if he wants to cut down expenditure on vehicles and telephone bills. If this is not done, a lot of money will be misused in the name of spending for the good of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of the Constitution, so much has been said about the new Constitution. It has been alleged that some of our people were interested in having a new Constitution and others were not. We are asking ourselves whether the Zero Draft is acceptable to the majority of Kenyans. Is it workable? If there are some problems, we should bring the Zero Draft here, so that we can discuss the areas where there is contention. Once we have done that, we should give our people a Constitution which is not only workable, but acceptable to the majority of Kenyans. I think that will be the best thing. I congratulate Mr. Raila for admitting that the Zero Draft is not 100 per cent right. When you ask a tailor to make a suit for you and when you go to pick it you find that it does not fit you, you do not take it home. You ask the tailor to reduce it, so that you can have a jacket which can fit you. You do not take it home and bring it back the following week.

Mr. Speaker: Order! What page is all this in the Financial Statement?

Mr. J.K. Koech: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will come to that if you can give me time. This must be related to everything. If we continue with this wrangling, donors might not give us funds and we will not be able to bridge the deficit in the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we go back to Bomas of Kenya and find that the jacket is still not fitting us, we should ask the fundi to adjust it and we pick it next week when it is adjusted. This is why we want this House to steer the consensus for a new Constitution.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing (Mr. Kenneth): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in support of the Budget Speech.

I want to thank the Minister for it although some hon. Members have complained that he

took too long to read it. I, however, think that he had to articulate the difficulties that we had in writing it, and the way forward it envisaged. I want to thank him in particular for transferring certain aspects of banking from the Treasury to the Central Bank of Kenya. In the past, the Central Bank of Kenya has acted as a regulator while the Treasury has acted as a licensing arm. However, the Treasury also acted as a licensing arm, which did not make much sense.

The Minister has now taken banking services to the Central Bank of Kenya where they can be monitored. The Treasury has previously placed the pension schemes under the Retirement Benefits Authority and the capital markets under the Capital Markets Authority. I want to appeal to the Minister to consider establishing an insurance authority under the Insurance Act. In this particular Budget Speech, the Minister spoke about insurance. I think that insurance is a very important area in this country in terms of finance. Insurance firms need to have their own authority. He has now handed over the authority to the Central Bank of Kenya and to other instruments of finance. I want to appeal to him to start an authority for insurance firms so that they can regulate themselves instead of regulation of insurance firms being done by a small department in the Treasury. I also want to appeal to the Minister to be on the forefront in banking matters. He should ensure that the Micro-Finance Bill and the Co-operative Societies Act are harmonised with banking laws. This will allow SACCOs and Micro-Finance enterprises to take up banking services and issue financial instruments to the common man, whom commercial banks have neglected.

I want to thank the Minister for banning the use of sachets as a way of packing alcoholic drinks. Sachets have done great destruction, especially in the rural areas. The main reason why this House has spoken about illicit brews in the past is because of the manner in which they are packed. I know that there is an hon. Member who wanted to bring a Bill to provide that alcoholic beverages be packed in bottles. We are avoiding the use of sachets because we have not been able to control use of alcoholic beverages at the grassroots level. Even if we were to do away with sachets and use bottles, we must ensure that there is enough policing so that even beer in bottles is not harmful to our people.

I also want to thank the Minister for removing VAT on liquefied petroleum gas. It is a very good sign. I, however, know that there is a lot of gas that is going to waste at the refineries in Mombasa. It would have been prudent for us to encourage people to stop using kerosene and firewood by further reducing the price of gas. I know of various countries in Africa today which are producing oil and are using cheap gas as an incentive to ease pressure on forests. I will appeal to the Minister that we need to reduce the price of gas and encourage Kenyans to turn to its use.

Having said that, I think that with such a big and well presented Budget, we need to address the issue of black holes that seem to appear in the Treasury very often. Indeed, this must be one of the very good times, as the Minister has said, that there is some money that has found its way back to the Treasury. This means that we have bottomless pits which are monitored in the Treasury. We have black holes. Instead of him issuing a Ministerial Statement when damage has already been done, he needs to do a bit more in ensuring that the black holes do not creep back to the Treasury. This is the only way in which we can direct attention to provide a Budget that will provide basic requirements to the common man. What the country needs today, over and above the Government's intention, is to provide the basic requirements to Kenyans.

Our health care system, as you have heard, is down. Our education system got a boost when we started the free primary education programme. However, we know the kind of pressure the free primary education programme has produced. We applaud the Treasury and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for making that bold move. But we must be seen to inject more in terms of teachers, facilities, classrooms and laboratories into the programme. This is why I am appealing that we start emphasising on the basic needs of the common man.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget Speech did not touch on security. We should invest more in this. We need to see the importance of policing in this country. That is the only way in which the common man can know that there is law and order. We need to invest in the basics.

A lot has been said about the Budget Speech in terms of energy. I know that the Treasury has provided some money to ensure that all coffee factories have electricity. However, we must be human like. If those living near the factories are not users of the electricity, yet they are producers of coffee for which electricity has been provided, there is no human face in the arrangement. The Government must go an extra step to ensure that transformers are placed in areas where Kenyans can benefit from them. They must not just be taken to coffee factories. I know that in my constituency, coffee factories that have benefited in the past have had electricity taken up to their doorsteps. However, coffee producers living a metre from the factories do not have electricity. I do not think that the Government would generate revenue if it only took electricity to the factories. It should take power to where people are so that it may sell it and generate VAT. The Government will be a beneficiary of this, and the common man too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that the Ministry of Finance should take a bold step and address the issue of coffee debts that are bedeviling this agricultural product. I know that the Government has intention to, indeed, write off coffee debts. However, we must take that extra step to ensure we provide money to write off the debts. Unless we do that, coffee farmers will be overloaded with debts and may not be willing to buy more implements to improve their coffee. I want to appeal to the Minister to ensure that he addresses the issue of coffee debts as he has done in the sugar industry and the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC).

We provided a lot of money to the roads sector. It is important that we see re-construction of roads. Providing money, talking of infrastructure and not seeing new roads is not doing enough for this country. We need to be told what roads were constructed with the money that was provided last year. We are yet to see this. Unless the common man sees the reality of the Budget, he might not believe what we believe is a very good Budget. I want to appeal that, whatever the intentions of the Budget Speech, we must see its implementation. That is the only way in which wananchi can see that services are being provided, and appreciate that, indeed, the objectives of annual Budgets are achieved.

On education, I want to applaud the Government for decentralising the bursary funds that were in the past going to schools from the Ministry. I know the Treasury has provided a lot of money for that particular scheme, but I want to appeal about the manner in which it will be distributed. When you look at the amounts that we were given and the poverty index, it does not make sense that some areas with higher student numbers were getting less than some areas which are even richer by that index.

Finally I want to appeal to the Minister to address the sugar issues because they are getting out of hand.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I support the Budget Speech.

Prof. Oniang'o: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this Motion. I want to say that Kenyans are great people. They are very patient. They wait every year for a Budget which does not make any difference in their lives. They are patient when the Budget has made sure that prices, which should be announced on the Budget day, take effect earlier. Between the last Budget and this one, the prices of maize meal and other essential commodities have gone up. Why do Kenyans wait for Budgets? Therefore, we want to compliment Kenyans.

I also want to complement our party, KANU, for making sure that we release an alternative budget a day before the Budget day, and that we are keeping this Government on its toes. We shall continue to do so, and to point out the many gaps and deficiencies in the Budget it has presented. I

also want to appeal to the Minister to be bold enough and prepare the Budget differently. He does not have to do it the same way it has always been done. He does not involve the people. He does not even take into consideration the views that come from the ground. He goes ahead and puts in items which do not make any sense.

You will find that Kshs22 billion has been allocated to the Office of the President for development. We do not know what the Office of the President will do with Kshs22 million. We do not even know what structures it will put up. In the meantime, Kenyans are unable to get to their places of work because transport is so expensive. Kenyans are unable to afford secondary school fees for their children because they are very poor. Kenyans are unemployed and in the streets. They are looking up to this Government to make a difference. Much as I complimented this Minister soon after Budget delivery, I compare this Budget to a beautifully iced cake. When you look at it, it is beautiful; but that is all. When you look inside, you cannot eat it because things have been hidden in there by its makers who hoped that nobody would see them.

I was extremely disappointed when we were told that Kshs1 billion was a misprint. The Minister should go and fire his people, who cannot edit this document. How can Kshs1 billion for a Vice-President's House be a misprint and yet it was delivered here in this hon. House? How can we have a blacklisted company like Anglo Leasing and Finance, whose name we cannot even pronounce, and is based in London, being given money, which has now been retrieved? Had we not actually called this out to the attention of the Ministry, this money would be lost, when Kenyans are dying of HIV/AIDS and are very poor.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister really disappointed me. This is an experienced Minister, who took a record three hours to deliver the Budget Speech when the President was sitting in here, and all of us were dozing off because it was too long.

Mr. Speaker: Really, were you dozing?

Prof. Oniang'o: Yes. Actually the camera caught me dozing off. It took so long and I thought he had given it a lot of thought, and that he was mindful of Kenyans and was giving us a people's Budget. But I discovered later that he was just telling us stories and the idea was not to give us a people's Budget. I am disappointed. This Government has the ball in its court now, and should be bold enough to tell us what we have in our kitty and what we will spend. It should remove aspects of this Budget which do not make sense at all. We are not seeing it do this. The Minister must make sure that next time, he truly gives us a pro-the-poor-Budget.

It does not make sense to me when this same Government, which promised to concentrate on the ASAL areas, does not do that. Its members accused the KANU Government of ignoring the pastoralist areas, and yet money has not even been allocated to these areas in the Budget. This Government also said that it would introduce efficiency. There is so much squandering of public resources. Most of these Ministers have 12 security guards around them and drive huge cars of 6000 CCs and above. They have them for personal use and also for work-related matters.

We cannot talk of efficiency when leaders are not efficient, and are not disciplined. This Government is supposed to reduce poverty. Kenya is one of the most poor countries in this world, and yet we have a great potential. There is no reason why Kenyans should be poor. We are so strategically placed. We can be a Singapore of Africa and do great things. The ball is in the court of this Government right now. We have had too much bickering going on. All that these people do is bicker. They are calling each other names. They do not know that they are actually in the Government. Maybe KANU should teach them how to govern. They had no idea that they would be in Government. Kenyans are crying out for national leaders and people to rescue them. They have stayed steadfast.

I do not want to agree with Mr. Koech about the Bomas Draft Constitution. That is a people-

driven constitution. It does not matter how long we take, we shall never have a document which will be accepted by 100 per cent of the people at any one time. Some people only want consensus when it suits them.

Mr. Speaker: What page is this?

Prof. Oniang'o: The reason why this has affected the Budget is that we are mishandling the real issues of the economy. We now want to delay the constitutional review process. As a result, people cannot even work because they are waiting for a new Constitution. I want to tell the President that he is the mantle-holder right now. The ball is in his court. He promised Kenyans that he would give them a new Constitution by 30th June. We are waiting. Otherwise, we shall consider ourselves completely fatherless. He has to come forward and give us this Constitution or make a pronouncement on it.

I am extremely disappointed that his own Ministers---

Mr. Mukiri: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to blame the President for the stalled constitutional review process when we know that it is the courts that ruled that Bomas could not continue?

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you. I think I had just given Prof. Oniang'o a hint that she was actually becoming irrelevant like her friend, Mr. Koech. Could you now come back to the Budget?

Prof. Oniang'o: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I did not blame the President for stalling the constitution-making process. I just said that the ball is in his court. I think those are two different things.

We continue to talk of donors and yet, this country is very rich. I did not hear the Minister talk of how we will create wealth locally and nationally. How can we continue to depend on donors who dictate and give us conditionalities when we know that the last time they only honoured a quarter of the pledge? We were told we have all the "brains" in the NARC Government. Why are we not using these brains to generate wealth locally? Why should we continue borrowing? We will leave debts for the future generations. Why can we not develop the agricultural sector? I did not hear the Minister concentrate on roads in Western Kenya, which is the grain basket of this country. I also did not hear him say anything about the sugar sector, despite the fact that sugar-cane farmers had appealed to him, even through the Press, about their problems. We cannot develop when more than 80 per cent of our people depend on agriculture and we say it is the mainstay of our economy, and yet, the Minister did not say anything about it. So, I am extremely disappointed by this Budget. I support it, but I can assure you that when we come to the Committee of Supply, as KANU, the Official Opposition, we shall sit here and make sure that what is passed here will benefit our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are certain things which are hidden in this Budget. This is a great disappointment. I would like the Minister to tell us whether he is honest, or whether his idea is actually to hoodwink Kenyans until things are pointed out to him. We hope that he will take it upon himself to make sure that he actually delivers a Budget and that he is being honest about delivery of this Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very disappointing that I find that, in fact, in the education sector, like my colleagues said, we keep singing about the free primary education programme. We know that the universities in this country are in a mess; they are not being properly managed. We have foreign universities with branches in this country that are taking away our students.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I reluctantly support.

Mr. Speaker: "Mr. Shitanda!"

Mr. Arungah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name is Mr. Arungah, not Mr. Shitanda.

Mr. Speaker: Then it is not you I called out! You must sit down! I called Mr. Shitanda. If Mr. Shitanda is not here, Mr. Muriungi!

Mr. Muriungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the longest Budget Speech in the history of independent Kenya. This Budget was as good as it was long.

I would like to commend the Minister for allocating more money to roads because this was much deserved. Every hon. Member was happy to hear that roads would be constructed in their respective constituencies. I would like to urge the Ministry concerned to give prominence and start with the road which is connecting us to Ethiopia and Sudan, especially in view of the new-found peace in Sudan. If this road is done quickly, we will open up trade with Sudan and Ethiopia. This will go a long way to boost the economy of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to commend the Minister with regard to the agricultural sector. He mainly dwelt on the traditional crops, that is coffee and tea, but he forgot that there are other crops which might not be traditional, but they earn a lot of money for this country. One of these crops that I have in mind is pyrethrum. This crop has not been exhaustively marketed to the world. If something is done to ensure that pyrethrum is marketed properly, it can become the top foreign exchanger earner for this country because there is no substitute for pyrethrum and natural products. The Japanese, especially, are very willing to develop this crop. I am sure, if we can team up with them, this country will earn a lot of foreign exchange and the pyrethrum which is going stale in our stores can be bought. It is just a matter of more promotion and it will come back on its feet.

There is also another crop which I always talk about, that earns this country a lot of money, but has not been recognised. This is *miraa*. I would urge the Ministry of Transport and Communications to ask our national carrier, Kenya Airways, to transport this crop which goes to Europe at the rate of not less than seven tonnes a day. If this is done, we shall earn a lot of foreign exchange from an indigenous crop which requires a lot of support and promotion.

On the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) loans, it is commendable that farmers are now getting credit facilities from this corporation. However, there is a problem with regard to the location of AFC offices. They serve very large areas and, therefore, service is only offered to farmers living around those offices. I would like to appeal to the Minister to open up an office in Maua, Meru North Constituency, to decentralize the operations of the AFC in that region, which is served by the AFC office in Meru Town. This way, farmers will benefit because some of them do not even know of the existence of the AFC.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Budget provides a lot of money for the refurbishment and renting of offices. I know the days when Ministers "custom-made" offices for themselves are long gone. So, I would like to appeal that this money be used to complete stalled projects, for example, the Nyayo projects and others throughout the country.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Today, I drove to Eastleigh, and next to Pumwani Maternity Hospital there are Nyayo wards which are lying neglected, and because they were associated with an individual who is not alive, nobody is doing anything about them. Since Nyayo wards are all over the country, I would appeal that this money which has been set aside for refurbishing and renting offices be well used to complete those projects.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the energy sector, it is high time that this country took the bold step of harnessing nuclear energy. If this is done, we will see an end to the

blackouts that are the order of the day in this country. All the developed countries which rely very heavily on electricity have harnessed nuclear and solar energy because those are sources which are inexhaustible. I would also urge the Ministry of energy to use our fast-running waters wherever they are, to generate electricity, instead of only relying on power from the main generation stations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to touch on the reduction of duty on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). This move might not help in preserving our forests very much. The forests can only be saved by the goodwill of this House and, probably, through the Bill that we threw out. What should have happened is that there should have been subsidy on kerosene. The ordinary Kenyan uses a lot of kerosene. The reduction on the cost of LPG is only helping people like us who have enough income, even to use electricity.

May I also thank the Minister for reducing tax on soft drinks from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. This will go a long way in promoting the consumption of soft drinks more than beer. However, there are certain companies in this industry which, instead of passing on this benefit to consumers, are enlarging their empires. It is only our local manufacturers who have reduced the price of soft drinks. The Minister should see to it that the other companies also pass on this benefit to the consumers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about tourism. Money has been set aside for the translocation of wild animals. While that is commendable, the Government should also improve the parks. Some parks which were viable in the 80s, when there was a lot of poaching that was condoned by the State, are mere shadows of what they used to be. The Meru National Park, for example, is not attracting many visitors because the hotels which used to serve visitors are in ruins. Mulika Lodge was burnt down! The park is attracting very few tourists. If such facilities were rebuilt, even local tourists could visit them and raise a lot of money. So, I call upon the Ministry of Tourism and Information to promote local tourism by reviving those hotels, and other facilities which make a visit to those parks worth it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on Information Technology (IT), a lot of money was set aside for computerisation of offices. That is commendable. Those who are against that belong to what we call "BC"; that is, "before computers". Let them come of age. We are in the era of "AC"; that is, "after computers"! They should encourage the Government to computerise all its operations, and also come up with a computer policy that will encourage the teaching of computer skills in our primary schools and all other institutions of learning. Anybody discouraging the allocation of funds to computerisation is living in the very dark past. We should have an IT policy because other countries are way ahead of us in that aspect.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I finish, I would like to touch on the issue of political goodwill. I would like to call upon the "johnny-come-lately"; those who did not participate in the first and second liberation, not to make any political capital out of a situation which is not there! Let us support the Budget because the only way to go forward is to work together.

With those few remarks, I support the Budget.

Mr. Arunga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to support the Motion. Before I start, I would like to commend the able Shadow Minister for Education, Science and Technology for the way she has articulated her views. But all that she highlighted is what the Government has failed to do, but forgot to say what should be done. However, she raised one issue, which I would like to highlight.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I sympathise with the Minister for Finance. But, whereas I sympathise with him, he has to take most of the blame. As Prof. Oniang'o mentioned, he had all the opportunity to change the style in which the Budget is presented to this House. We voted for change, and I hoped that the manner in which the Budget would be brought to this House would

be different. For example, I do not see why the Minister for Finance does not give hon. Members, the civil society and all other stakeholders a chance to have an input in the Budget, before it is actually presented to this House, so that he pre-empts all the bashing that he receives when the Estimates are brought to this House. He has every opportunity to change the manner in which he presents his Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would like to commend the Minister because he has, at least, set the pace. He has said that he will give 2.5 per cent of his revenue to Members of Parliament. As you know, that has been a cry for a very long time. He has given in, and we do not care how it will happen. But, at least, he has given in and soon, we are going to have 2.5 per cent of Government revenue to spend in our respective constituencies.

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Arunga! What is it, Mr. Ngoyoni?

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the hon. Member on the Floor say that 2.5 per cent of Government revenue has been allocated to Members of Parliament. Could he correct the impression, because the money has been set aside for the constituencies? Hon. Members are different from the constituencies.

Mr. Arunga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do sincerely apologise. I should have said that the money has been allocated to various constituencies, which was difficult for a long time. Having said that, there are so many good things in the Budget. Those things have already been mentioned and I do not want to repeat.

I want to start by registering my disappointment! I did not see any specific measures in this Budget that would alleviate the problems of the poor, who are the majority. For example, we know that 50 per cent of the earnings of average Kenyans goes towards purchasing food. But as you know, in the last one year, if the statistics we have been given are correct, food prices have gone up by as much as 15 per cent. I did not see any measures in the Budget to address that issue. If we talk about attractive percentages in growth without addressing the plight of the poor, then we are going nowhere. We have a very good example of India, where it recorded an excellent national growth rate, but the masses were asking: "Where is this growth rate?" We should be aware because that could be coming right here in this country. Even in urban centres, when the Minister for Transport and Communications took certain measures to put some sanity in the *matatu* industry, the common poor commuters were abandoned by the Government. The *matatu* operators have increased and literally doubled the prices! The poor are forced to spend as much as 20 per cent of their earnings on transport alone. The Government has the opportunity to help those people without any financial implications on their part.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would now like to come to specific allocations. I had the Estimates in my car and gave a lift to one of my constituents from Khwisero. He looked at them and raised a very pertinent question. I noticed that the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing was, for example, allocated Kshs17 billion to work on 780 kilometres of roads. There is nothing to show from the part of the world that we come from. None of those roads are in Western Province or Butere-Mumias District, where I come from. In the same allocation, there was Kshs4 million allocated for water in the whole district of Butere-Mumias. We also noticed that Kshs595 million was allocated to the President's district. When I was asked why, I did not know on what basis that allocation was done! That is because Kshs595 million compared to Kshs4 million to the whole district of Butere-Mumias is not fair in any language.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of priorities. For example, I expected the Shadow Minister for Education, Science and Technology to say that, whereas there is over

Kshs4 million allocated for an IT project under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology-- Mr. Muriungi said that we should live in the "AC" age; that is, "after computer". But you will find that 85 per cent of the population or households in this country do not have electricity. If you do not have power, a computer becomes useless. We are going to have a situation where the Kshs4 billion that has been allocated will benefit areas that have already got the infrastructure. That is encouraging the inequalities that currently exist.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did also notice that the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife has been allocated a whole Kshs224 million to relocate elephants. I am not aware of the danger these elephants are under, and yet at the same time, we have allocated Kshs98 million for maternity health care. Something is wrong there.

Talking about priorities, I noticed in the Estimates that a whole Kshs8 billion has been set aside to offset loans, for example, those of Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) alone. We know who was running AFC in the last ten years. We know that those people are living in palaces. They are here. We know the beneficiaries of those loans that we are being asked to finance. What effort has been made to follow up these people, and we are going for the easy option, getting the poor Wanjiku and Ayuma to pay for these guys who are sitting square on this money and we know where they are?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the same line, I am aware there is a whole Kshs408 million that has been set aside to compensate a great son of this country in the name of Manu Chandaria. I do not want to question what Mr. Manu Chandaria is being compensated for. But knowing the man for who he is, if we went and talked to him nicely, because he has earned a lot of money in this country, he would be prepared to forgo that money, and it can be allocated to other areas to provide water and so forth.

There was another allocation of Kshs1 billion that was mentioned and another Kshs50 million on top. The Government is spending Kshs50 million to build a house for a Vice-President. I know that we have a house which was meant for the Vice-President and the person who has been allocated that house does not need it. I am appealing to the Government to approach the allottee of this house and persuade him to surrender it so that we can save the Kshs50 million that can go towards development. This is because the person who has been given this house does not require it.

(Appause)

Talking about the Kshs1 billion, we are told it is supposed to go to complete stalled projects, meaning buildings.

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

Mr. Arunga: With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Onyancha: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to take this opportunity to state from the very onset that I want to support this Motion.

We all know that somebody in this country won elections and there is a Government in place, but we have spent a lot of time doing a lot of politicking that is not useful to the economy of this country. The people of Bomachoge Constituency whom I represent know nothing about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

(Applause)

Each party that comes to power does so on a particular platform. It has a manifesto and we would rather be hearing more about the manifesto than the MOU.

(Applause)

Let us concentrate on issues in this country and forget politicking, because that has an impact on the way our economy is run. Why this Government will not succeed, even when it comes up with a policy paper that discusses about programmes on the improvement of the economy, is because we have chosen to do the business of Government in a manner that Kenyans are not happy with. When, for example, Kenyans who were used to order and discipline in Government suddenly discover that an Assistant Minister can take on his boss in public to reprimand him; or even Ministers challenging the Head of State who is the appointing authority; they tell him, "you can sack me," that is not how discipline is put in Government. You cannot run Government in that kind of manner. So, I think there is need for this Government to focus on issues of governance, so that when we discuss about our programmes on the economy, then Kenyans can take us very seriously.

I want to differ with my colleague, hon. Muriungi, when he supported the Kshs4.3 billion that has been allocated for computers in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I have been a school principal for many years, and I have my priorities right in terms of what should be done in education, especially this time round. The people in my constituency, the secondary and primary schools, need teachers.

(Applause)

That is a priority. I have no problem with computerising. I have no problem with moving towards the Information Technology (IT) world. But I think if we have to prioritise in terms of what we want in education--- It is a plus for this Government to have come up with this aspect of free primary education. But we must also look at what we need immediately, and I want to say that we need more teachers and more facilities in terms of classrooms so that the others can come later.

This Government has its priorities wrong on almost everything. For example, there is nothing wrong in allocating funds for doing repairs of Government offices. There is completely nothing wrong with that. But, surely, must we allocate these funds for all the Ministries at once, while people are dying of hunger in parts of this country?

(Applause)

This is where we get our priorities wrong. I want to agree that, perhaps, the other plus for this Government, and this I think we should commend the Members of Parliament for having come up with it, is the Constituency Development Fund. This will ensure that there is equity in terms of developing our constituencies all round. But may I say that this Constituency Development Fund should not be misconstrued to mean that the Government should ignore its own budgetary allocations for programmes in the whole country. It is disheartening when you find in my constituency, one water project that has stalled since 1979, and when you raise a question that you want Government support for that project, you are told to wait for the Constituency Development Fund so that you get some little money from there and fund that project.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is something wrong with this Government, because when I look at the Budget now, there are many water projects that have been put on the programme for Mt. Kenya East. So many millions have been allocated there while in my constituency, I am only asking for one water project that has stalled since 1979, and I am told to get money from the Constituency Development Fund. That is wrong, because that means the Minister

thinks we should substitute normal budgetary allocations for the Constituency Development Fund and, therefore, leave the Ministry lying idle and doing other things elsewhere. If we are to develop this country, we have to look for and establish prudent financial management in all spheres of the economy. We also have to establish service delivery standards. For example, I have to know why one kilometre of a road in a particular district costs more in another district. The Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing scores very highly in terms of project inspection, and it is high time it started constructing roads. I was deeply embarrassed when the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing, whom I accompanied on a tour to my constituency, turned round and said that he had not promised to put forward Kshs50 million for the construction of the Kisii-Kilgoris Road. He physically toured that road and promised that. We do not want to see a situation where the Government cannot be trusted by its own population. It is high time, therefore, that the Ministry started constructing roads rather than simply scoring high marks by visiting projects which never take off at all.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Finance would have done Kenyans proud if he had brought the sugar and maize flour prices down. This is because the poor can only understand one language in the Budget; that they have food on their tables to eat. This was not done and citizens are disappointed about this statement that was given here by the Minister. We need to move ahead and be able to at least improve the cost of living in this country. We need to avoid situations where prices of commodities go up, especially where food and transport are concerned.

*(Mr. Chepkitony stood up
in his place)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Onyancha! What is it Mr. Chepkitony?

QUORUM

Mr. Chepkitony: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are discussing a very important matter, yet we appear not to be having quorum.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Yes, we do not have quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

Actually, Mr. Chepkitony, you have already spoken, have you not?

Hon. Members: He has!

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, hon. Members! We now have quorum!

Proceed, Mr. Onyancha!

Mr. Onyancha: Finally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that this Government can attract donor funding and donor commitment only if it can have prudent financial management. Let us devise means and ways of keeping this Government in check, especially on the way it handles corruption in the Government and other high places.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Kibunguchy: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to start off by saying that whenever you move around this country, two things hit you very strongly.

One of those is the poverty level in this country, while the second one is the lack of employment for our boys and girls. What I expected out of this Budget was how we are going to address these two great issues that are affecting us now; the issue of poverty and job creation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I expected the Minister to dwell at length on agriculture. Agriculture in this country is an industry. I am sure that if we gave it enough priority, it is an industry that can go a long way in poverty alleviation, and creation of jobs. I am convinced that the 500,000 jobs are realisable if we can revamp our agricultural industry. Agriculture in this country relies mainly on rain. In most other countries, people are moving towards irrigation and that is the direction we need to go. In most parts of the world, farmers or the countries are not selling whatever is produced in the farms in its raw form. It is being processed to some extent. That is the direction I would like this country to take.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you hear so much about subsidies. There are so many countries that subsidize their farmers. That is something as a country we have to start considering very strongly. This is because right now, it is not profitable to do farming in this country. It is more of charity work when you are involved in farming. I know that the Government right now is looking at ways and means of how to help coffee and tea farmers. There is some money which is going to be written off in terms of the loans they got. However, the question I ask is: "Why coffee and not maize, dairy farming or wheat?" I think those are some of questions we need to ask ourselves.

I am glad that the Budget addressed the very important issue about roads in this country. Our road network is in a very sorry state. I would like us to be realistic because roads in this country, especially rural roads, are in a bad state. I think choosing one or two roads to be constructed is not the answer. To me, the answer should be in the form of the Private Member's Motion that we passed in this House last year, where we compelled the Government to buy construction and maintenance equipment for every constituency. I am convinced that if every constituency can have the basic minimum road maintenance equipment and money from the District Roads Committees, most of our rural roads can be maintained. In addition, we can move a step ahead because the issue of roads touches everybody. I am sure every hon. Member in this House has a similar complaint. In the short-run, the construction of roads can be a way of job creation. We would involve our young men and women in the construction of roads in the rural areas, and move them away from loitering in market places and refraining drinking alcohol very early in the morning. Nowadays, whenever we visit our constituencies, even as early as 8.00 a.m., we see them drunk.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other aspect I wanted this Budget to emphasise on is the co-operative movement. I know we have passed the Bill on the co-operative movement, but this Bill needs to be operationalised as soon as possible because, again, I am convinced that for us to be able to fight poverty in this country, especially in the rural areas, our co-operative movement needs to be strengthened.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other aspect about this Budget that I do not agree with is the fact that the *Jua Kali* sector was not given as much emphasis as it should have been. We know the *Jua Kali*, probably, is the only sector that is creating employment in this country currently. Therefore, if we want to move forward, we need to recognise and strengthen the *Jua Kali* sector. We need to give the *Jua Kali* artisans space in our urban centres where they would work from. In addition, we need to give them access to credit. We also need to look at the marketing of whatever they produce. It is unfortunate that this has not been given a lot of emphasis by the NARC Government in this Budget.

The other issue I would like to talk about is electricity and power generally. In Lugari Constituency, for example, only 0.2 per cent of the households have electricity, yet, the Government

says it wants people to set up micro-enterprises in the rural areas. How will this be possible without electricity? I would like the issue of rural electrification to be given the emphasis it deserves. I would like us to move towards renewable sources of energy in this country. If I may be allowed to boast a little, in my rural home, I pump my water using power from the windmill. I cook using a modified *jiko* that uses less energy. I also use solar panels and another form of windmill power for lighting and on radio and television. Therefore, I know it is something that can be done so long as the Government takes it seriously. That is the direction we would like to move towards. This is because we are meant to understand that connecting electricity to everybody in the rural areas is not effective.

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

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget. It is a well-done Budget. However, looking at the Budget rather closely, it is definitely not a poorman's Budget. It is a middle-class/upper-class Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if this was a Budget for the poor people of this country, it would have brought down the prices of sugar, milk, flour, bread, water, bus and *matatu* fares, secondary school fees or even house rents. Since Independence, all our budgets have supported the rich. In fact, they have been meant to make the rich, richer, and the poor, poorer. I think it is up to the NARC Government to demonstrate that this is a different Government from the previous one, by making sure that, while, it failed this year to make a Budget for the poor, maybe, next year, it will craft one for the poor.

Even the price of cooking gas that was cited as an illustration that this is a poor-man's Budget, it is not used by the poor people. As it was going down, kerosene, which is the fuel that is used by the poor people, was actually going up. So, if you listened to the poor people talking and calling in to the radio stations to express their views about the Budget, they were very convincing when they said that, this cannot be the poorman's Budget if the kerosene that they use went up, while the gas that is used by most hon. Members in this House went down. This was a Budget for us and not one for the people out there.

I would like to propose that, in fact, the Minister considers most seriously the restoration of price controls in this country. This is because I do believe that price controls protected the poor people against these ever-rising prices of consumer goods. Without the price controls, the poor people are at the mercy of sharks. We cannot talk about reduction of poverty on one hand, and on the other hand, close our eyes to the necessity for price control. If we really want to help the poor people of this country, we have no choice but to look at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in the face and tell them, if they are the ones which recommended for the removal of price control, there is no way we will get rid of poverty in this country. There is no way we will protect our poor people without restoring the price control again.

I was a bit disappointed that no money was set aside for the resettlement of the tribal clashes victims one-and-half-years since this Government came to power, and nine months after the Government accepted a Motion which I moved in this House to the effect that it should resettle the tribal clashes victims. I am disappointed to see the Government willing to lose Kshs240 million to the Anglo Leasing and Finance Company when it claims that it does not have even a single cent to resettle the tribal clashes victims. I would like to propose to the Minister for Finance that since he will not pay the Kshs240 million to Anglo Leasing and Finance Company, the same money is used to resettle the tribal clashes victims now. It is a shame that you can have poor Kenyans seeking shelter in the church just a few hundred metres from here, and yet a lot of money is being lost to a fake foreign company in the name of business. The Minister should take my proposal seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also have liked to see in the Budget, a

statement regarding the Kshs200 billion that the Government is trying to bring back from abroad. For purposes of resuscitating our economy, it is important that, that amount of money is brought back as quickly as possible. But while we talk about bringing back this money to the country, I would like the Minister and the Government to scrutinise carefully, the company it has employed to trace that money and bring it back. I hear this company is called "Kroll Associates (UK), and some people have whispered that it could very well be a company with a funny history, just like the other company we have been dealing with. I think it will be a damn shame if five years down the line, we will ask this company, which we may not know much about, to bring that money back. I have heard that the Government has already spent a lot of money on it. It will be a shame if that company does not deliver. I think we have a big problem in this country in that, we tremble whenever we see Europeans, white people or foreign companies. We do not even take time to find out what those companies are before we start doing business with them. This is something which has been going on year after year. It is high time we asked the Government to look seriously into whatever company is owned by white people, Europeans or Americans, when they advertise themselves to do business with us.

I would also like to say I was disappointed that no money was set aside for the settlement of non-residential cultivators who were recently kicked out Government forests because they were accused of being responsible for deforestation. I know there is a lot of concern in this country about the people who voted against The Forests Bill. I would like to state here that some of us had a very good reason not to support that Bill, precisely because it was against the *shamba* system which created all the forests we had in this country before they were cut down. The *shamba* system is the only solution to the revival of our forests. To chase people out of our forests and then give the monopoly of managing them to foreign companies is a betrayal. In any case, the Government should set aside some money and create employment opportunities to non-residential forest cultivators, so that they can earn a living before it kicks them out of those forests. The Government should not just kick people out of those forests where they eke a living from and expect them to survive on air.

I am also disappointed by the Budget because it did not set aside some money for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs has been promising this country that he will establish this Commission which we very much need, especially those of us who went through the Nyayo House Torture Chambers. We want to be told why we were jailed for fighting for freedom. We also want to be told why we were tortured, detained without trial and killed. This is not something that this Government can hope will disappear by burying its head in the sand. People want to know the truth. It does not matter what we do. The truth will be sought either by us or by others. But this Government has specifically promised to set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and it should have set aside some money for its establishment. If people in South Africa had enough courage to establish such a commission, here in Kenya, we should also be courageous enough to do so.

About corruption, I would like to state here that the major problem in this country is that the KANU Government left behind networks of corruption in the Central Government, the local government and everywhere. Unless those networks are uprooted and the people responsible for running them kicked out of the Government, corruption will never end in this country. We have hydras in the Government. The hydras with KANU heads have been cut off but, unfortunately, they are growing NARC heads. We will have to contend with the problem of corruption as long as the hydras are alive.

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

Mr. Biwott: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this

opportunity to contribute to this Motion. The theme of the Budget was in the right direction, as it attempted to create a good atmosphere for investment and economic growth. However, because the NARC Government is still obsessed with KANU---The hon. Member who has just finished making his contribution has talked about uprooting civil servants inherited from the KANU Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the NARC Government won the elections legitimately and there is no need to remind Kenyans that it won.

(Applause)

I am saying this because it means that the NARC Government is not sure of itself, and does not even know that it has a bigger responsibility to do better than KANU, if it can. As things stand now, it is still trailing KANU and that is why it is getting a bit jittery.

However well the Budget was presented, there is still the element of routine. There is no clearly defined criterion which can give this country an element of predictability, where you know that whatever has come from the districts will be respected at the national level. In fact, when one looks at the allocation of resources carefully, it lacks a coherent criteria. For example, instead of following the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which we introduced recently in place of the District Focus for Rural Development Strategy, it has been done using a formula that is not coherent, and that cannot be clearly discerned. Therefore, you will find a situation where some areas of the country have been left out completely. In fact, I would like to thank the Ministry for Water Resource Management and Development. It has allocated Kshs5 million to nearly all the districts. That is not found in any other Ministry. For example, in the case of roads, some districts have been left out altogether. In my own district, there is hardly anything that appears in the Budget. Again, you will also find out that roads that were spoilt by the *El Nino* rains, and which need to be maintained, have been completely omitted. We have a road at a place called Kapchorwa in Kerio Valley, which was devastated by the *El Nino* rains in the year 2002. It is still unattended to. There are no bridges and roads.

The same thing goes for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). Some ASALs have been removed completely from the Budget. That does not auger well. It shows that there is no consistency in the allocation of funds. The Government is not doing what needs to be done, so that *wananchi* can be sure that it is attending to their needs. Again, donor resources have been concentrated on a few areas. So many other areas have been left out altogether. That, again, does not give a fair distribution of resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Ministry of Health, there is a lot to be desired. There are some health centres which have pleaded for support and consideration, but they have persistently been removed from the Budget. For example, we have an health centre called Kapchorwa. Despite several promises by the Minister and the Ministry, nothing has been done so far. I think that shows lack of consideration. We also have a stalled health centre project at a place called Chimotwo, which has not been attended to. We have many others! There is need for Ministries to look at the country as a whole, without bias and concentration on areas perceived to have given them votes. Once you become the Government, you take care of all the people in the same way. But if you are going to introduce an element of rewarding those who voted for you, and penalising those who did not, then I think there is a danger that the country might not develop in a way that promotes general goodwill among all Kenyans, peace and equal prosperity.

On the question of food, I think there is lack of quality control. For example, the contaminated maize should actually have been detected by the people in charge of quality control. We have the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), which should be able to determine suitability.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) should also be involved. There are some basic standards which are known and, if they were applied, none of those aflatoxins could have come in. I think that for food security, *mwananchi* needs to be assured that whatever he is offered is good for health and can be eaten with certainty to alleviate hunger, rather than the feeling that what he is offered is dangerous and destroys the body.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think micro-credit is very important. It should also be distributed throughout the country. That would ensure that *mwananchi* at the grassroots will be facilitated to plant crops to sustain himself or herself. They can indulge in cash crop farming and repay the loans, so that they can benefit other people. The recently enacted Co-operative Societies Amendment Bill should actually facilitate more of that. The institutions that the Minister has targeted could also support *mwananchi* in that aspect.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also the question of writing off debts and loans that overburden the ordinary *mwananchi*. I think it has been done very well in the case of coffee. I have also been hearing that the sugar sector is also being targeted. But there is hardly any talk about the debt burden on wheat, maize and other farmers who produce other crops. I think there ought to be one standard for all farmers, so that when you write off debts for particular farmers, you cover the entire farming community. That will enable all Kenyans to feel the same relief.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Forests Bill has been talked about. I would like to add to what hon. Members said about the *shamba* system. I would like to urge the Minister to take into account the feelings and contributions of the local communities. It is no longer viable for the headquarters to instruct forest officers to manage forests, away from the local communities. I think the local communities should be allowed to participate in any decisions that affect their forests. I think that was clearly defined in the draft Constitution, which is yet to come to this House. For the Minister to succeed in this Bill, he has to incorporate the participation of local communities as legitimate stakeholders, so that whatever is done with the forests should also be good for the local communities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in any event, there is need to concentrate more on rural access roads---

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Akaranga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to add my support to the Minister's Budget Speech.

The Minister touched on quite a number of things. On agriculture, it is good to note that the Ministry is seeking to review alternative modalities for service delivery in that industry. The removal of the field extension officers has, indeed, affected the production of agricultural crops in the rural areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also see that the Ministry seeks to bring down production costs in the agricultural sector. Here, I want to say that we are members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and if you compare the prices of agricultural goods in this country with those of other COMESA member countries, you will find that our prices are very high. Take for instance the price of maize. Globally, the price of maize is Kshs600 per bag but in Kenya, the price is triple and, therefore, there is no way a Kenyan farmer will compete globally. Therefore, I was expecting to see the Minister coming in very strongly and giving a policy on the agricultural sector in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to sugar, you will notice that the other day, when the Budget was about to be read, the prices of sugar in this country went up.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, hon. Members! We can hardly hear hon. Akaranga! Let us consult quietly, so that we can hear what he is saying.

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that in my own district, Vihiga, the price of sugar tripled and you know, as well as I know, that in that area, if people do not take a cup of tea they become sick. Therefore, a number of them were really sick. The Minister should see how he can solve that problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me also comment about roads. Indeed, the Minister rightly pointed out that: "Roads are the arteries of a nation and clogged arteries lead to stress, hypertension and eventual death." Such particular sentiments encouraged me but when I went through the Budget, I found that there are no provisions for roads in Sabatia Constituency. I want to assure you that roads in Sabatia Constituency are badly clogged and a "heart attack" is imminent in that area. I am disappointed to note that he did not consider any road in my constituency. For example, this very important road called C39, Standi Kisa-Khumusalaba Road, resembles the surface of the moon. You cannot drive even a big vehicle along that road. The previous Government had provided some funds to tarmack the road but they were embezzled by the same regime. We do not know where all the Kshs250 million went to. There are other roads also. Something has to be done about roads like Magocha-Makanga-Mululu-Wangulu; Muthulu-Demesi-Viyalo, Mudete-Nabwani-Wengondo-Lunyerere-Kigama. If you look at the state of all these roads are in now, perhaps as the Member of Parliament, I might have that "heart attack" rather than the roads having it, if I echo the Minister's sentiments.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was happy when the Minister touched on the financial institutions. Indeed, the Minister said that he is about to make the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) autonomous, so that it can supervise the commercial banks. Most of the commercial banks in this country collapsed due to lack of effective supervision from the CBK and now, in his Budget Speech, he has made the CBK autonomous. When he brings such a Bill to this House, we shall give him the support he needs so that CBK can supervise those banks. There are very many banks which have collapsed; like Trust Bank, Reliance Bank and Rural Urban Credit Finance Limited. They had very attractive names but if you look at how trustworthy they are, you will find that they are not. Therefore, I think the Minister should protect the depositors in this country. The Minister should insert a clause whereby directors of any collapsed bank should be followed individually and punished, so that people should know that when they are directors of banks, they should really run those banks properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the former directors of the collapsed banks in this country, you will find that they are very rich people. Some of them own big buildings, farms and oil firms. It is unfair for somebody to start a bank, collect funds from the poor depositors of this country, disappear with the money and then go scot-free. It is high time that this country became serious and called a spade a spade. When you are a director of a bank, you should be a responsible director. There are credit cards in the banking sector like the Visa Cards and Master Cards. Look at the interest rates. Interest rates on visa cards come to 5 per cent per month. When you analyse that, it comes to 60 per cent per annum. Indeed, Kenyans are suffering. Paying interest rates at 60 per cent per annum is not fair. So, the Minister should look into the credit card business. We want that business to grow in this country as it has grown in other parts of the world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on lending, I saw that the Minister brought in the Donde Bill. It is good that he wants to protect the borrowers who have defaulted but if he wants the banking sector to grow faster, there is one element in which the Minister for Lands and Settlement should assist. When you want to borrow funds from a bank, you charge your property. You pay

exorbitant stamp duty at the Ministry of Lands and Settlement but if you want to change your bank, for example from Kenya Commercial Bank to Barclays Bank, there is a discharge on your property and then you have to make a new charge and pay another stamp duty. Why can the Minister not look into that problem and say that when a customer is moving from one bank to another bank, the stamp duty should be waived because it is the same property which the customer is depositing as security?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also saw that the Minister proposes to spend Kshs2 billion on the voluntary early retirement scheme in this financial year. In last year's Budget, he had allocated Kshs380 million for it. Indeed, in his Speech, he insisted that the retirement would be voluntary but I have seen that there is no voluntary retirement in this country. If you ask somebody to retire voluntarily, he will never retire. The Minister should tell us what he has put in place to motivate the civil servants to retire because if he has set aside Kshs2 billion for voluntary early retirement and there are no incentives put in place, I do not think it will succeed. We do not want this case to be like the one of the 57 police officers who were actually dismissed under the pretence that it was voluntary early retirement. There is also an element on civil servants' salaries adjustments for which the Minister has given a provision of Kshs3.4 billion. He said this will adjust salaries of civil servants across all Ministries and Government departments. I support that one. Indeed, we want people to be given improved salaries. We want civil servants' salaries to be increased but there should be a system which must be put in place.

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

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support.

Dr. Shaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to make a few remarks regarding the Budget Speech which I must say was well delivered by the Minister for Finance. However, there are quite a number of issues which were addressed and I would like to comment on them.

First, the status of health of our people is increasingly becoming a worrying factor. We live in Kenya and we must accept that most Kenyans are very sick. This year's Budget ought to have gone ahead to address the woes facing the common man who is ailing out there and needs to be taken care of. In this Budget, billions of shillings were allocated towards prevention and awareness of HIV/AIDS yet only Kshs40 million was allocated---

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Members! I think it would be very interesting to hear what the gracious lady is saying. Please, let us pay attention!

Dr. Shaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, whereas billions of shillings were allocated for the prevention and awareness campaigns against the HIV/AIDS, only Kshs40 million was allocated for curative purposes such as the buying of Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs). It beats all purposes because we have talked about awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS for too long. It has actually been the song. Even when you approach a small kid who is in primary school, he will be able to diagnose people as they pass by because they know the cause and symptoms of the disease. People are so sick that, if we do not go ahead and allocate funds towards the ARVs, then we shall have our people dying day in, day out. Deaths have become the order of the day and yet the Government has refused to address this particular issue.

In the last financial year, the issue of maternity was addressed in the Budget. This year, the Budget was silent on the matter. In all rural places, you will find that women experiencing labour pains are forced to walk for as long as 50 kilometres or risk being carried on *boda bodas* to get to the nearest health centres where they get assistance in delivery. Nobody looked at that issue. It

appears like it is okay for women to just suffer in such a manner because after all nobody cares. I am worried that there are a few health centres which were allocated over Kshs21.8 million last year, have again been allocated Kshs54 million this year. I am specifically talking about four health centres which have constructions supposedly going on, for example, the Ngano Health Centre, Kibunga Health Centre, Ngong Health Centre and Kianyaga Health Centre. I do not see why a health centre should take up millions of shillings when the money can be distributed and used to build maternity homes in other existing health facilities in the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, concerning education, whereas we have free primary education as an undertaking that was allocated so much funds, the Budget was silent on the issue of recruitment of new teachers. The Minister talked about promotion of existing teachers, but fell short of addressing the issue of recruiting new teachers. Last year, we saw a big drop in the performance of Standard Eight pupils in Government schools. This was because of the heavy work load laid on the existing teachers. The subordinate workers in the primary schools are suffering so much because the free primary education did not address their plight. Some of them used to be on the Government's payroll while others used to be paid by the Parents, Teachers, Associations (PTAs). There was a circular from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology stating that the salaries of the subordinate should be reduced to Kshs3,000. So, people who were earning over Kshs7,000 are now earning a meagre Kshs3,000 per month. When you talk to the Ministry officials they keep on saying that the subordinate staff used to be paid by the parents. I think it is very wrong for us to assume the responsibility of deciding how much those workers should be paid yet we are not the ones who pay them their salaries. Right now, I think, the Government should address the problems facing the subordinate staff. There is no way you can run a boarding school without cooks, matrons and other people who help in the school.

The Budget allocated some funds for purposes of computerisation. I agree that, that is important. However, the importance is down-played by the fact that electricity has not been given a priority. What is the sense of having computers which cannot be utilised? Electricity should have been given priority before we talk about computers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the pension scheme, it is important for us to accept that a contributory pension scheme would be a good thing. However, the salaries of our civil servants are very low. When you talk of them contributing about less than 5 per cent, it is already bad enough because they have to reckon with high cost of transportation to their places of work. After the restructuring of the public transport sector, they found themselves paying over four times what they used to pay and nothing yet has been done about their transport allowance.

With regard to roads, the Voi-Taveta Road, which is a class "A" road, has been neglected over the years. In this Budget, the road was classified as "other roads". How can a class "A" road be classified as "other roads"? I am quite surprised. The money allocated for the road is only Kshs10 million. That is not enough money for us. On top of that, the Emali-Loitokitok Road which was allocated funds for construction end at Loitokitok when it is supposed to go all the way to Taveta. I keep on wondering whether Taveta people do belong to this country. We are forgotten always in terms of the provision of roads and health facilities. This road ought to have been constructed up to Taveta so that the Taveta people can benefit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Value Added Tax (VAT) for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) went down. However, such a move is rendered useless when the prices of cylinders and gas cookers are not reduced. Even the working class people cannot buy themselves the gas if they are not able to buy the gas cookers and the gas cylinders. Taveta people, who do not know anything about LPG, are living a nightmare and if and when the Forests Bill goes through, I do not know what our people will use as fuel. That is the story in every rural place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the translocation of elephants was prioritised. However, in Taveta where elephants come to our homes to wreak havoc by destroying our crops and killing

people, nobody talked about confining the elephants in their surroundings. No funds were allocated for that exercise.

It is my view that the Budget, as it stands, did not really serve the common man. It is meant to serve a clique of certain people. Part of Taveta is submerged in water. The Budget did not address the issue of floods in my home despite the fact that we had Ministry officials visiting the area to see what was happening. Perhaps, there will be need to re-look at the Budget especially when we are told that there was a typographical error. If so, we shall assume that re-allocations will be done.

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

Mr. Mwenje: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me time to contribute to this year's Budget. Although it was read in my absence, when I was in Washington, I had the opportunity to read the Budget Speech via the internet. My view is that it was a good Budget. Even those who read it in the USA believe it was a good Budget. In fact, the same day I was meeting officials from the World Bank in Washington and we impressed upon them the need to release the money they have promised. Part of that money was actually supposed to come from the donor community and the World Bank. They promised me that they will send the money as quickly as possible. In fact, the final meeting was held today in Washington, and we hope that they finalized on the remittance of these funds.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one other area that I would like to address is the collection of taxes. I have been concerned about what is happening at Times Towers. I would want anybody, including the Ministry of Finance, to visit the Ground Floor and First Floor of Times Towers and see for themselves what is happening. It is a congested place, and somebody who wants to pay money cannot make the payment. One is forced to stay there for a whole day in order to pay for the registration of vehicles and driving licences. You need a whole day to pay for these services! It is too congested, cumbersome and confusing. I have visited that place twice and I could not even pay for my driving licence. That place is terrible! I wish the officers from the Ministry of Finance could move in tomorrow to see for themselves that mess and also rectify the situation.

A lot of money goes back home because people cannot pay taxes due to the cumbersomeness and the long queues which extend all the way outside the building to the road. Those people must be treated like customers! They must not be bothered or be given headaches when they want to pay money to the Government. The Government must accept that taxpayers are their customers. Therefore they must collect--- Hon. Katuku, that must be done!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Mwenje!

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am reminding him because he is in the Ministry of Finance, and he has got to do that!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Mwenje! You know the rules of this House. You are a very senior Member. So, you should adhere to the rules of this House. You should address the Chair!

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am reminding him through the Chair, even if he does not---

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Mwenje, do you want Mr. Katuku's information?

Mr. Mwenje: Yes, if he has any.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Mwenje has been out of the country for almost three weeks, and he came back just the other day. I want to inform him that we have streamlined the place and it is now clean. We are now issuing those driving licences at Forodha House, and it only takes an hour to get a driving license.

Mr. Mwenje: I hope it is so, but, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can hear that they knew that it was dirty. Now they are saying it is clean. I will make a visit there tomorrow to see for myself.

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I arrived back from Washington, I found a commotion in my constituency where the police were fighting with the public over a particular plot where the public normally meets. I want to appeal to the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of national security to order the police to leave that plot immediately to the public and get another place for them. There are many places in Dandora where they can put up the police. I want to appeal to the Minister to rectify this problem immediately. I also want him to deal with those people who are killing others decisively, whoever they may be; be they *Mungiki* or whoever they are, because we are not going to condone any killing of any nature. The police were given many vehicles in the last Budget; they were given 459 vehicles. So, they must now be able to move in and quell this kind of a situation and, if necessary, talk to those people and find out what their problems are. I am also going to do that because we must quell any kind of clashes over that field.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one problem which has been bothering me since the Ministry of Transport and Communications came in to solve the problems facing the *Matatu* industry. They should also have looked for--- I hope that they have allocated some money in the Budget to solve some of these problems. For example, the train that has been commuting to Dandora operates on and off. Sometimes it operates and sometimes it does not. If there is no money for this train to operate, I think we need to be told, and it should be done very quickly. But our people from Dandora and Kayole are coming to town on foot. If that is how the problem was solved, then I think that solution created another problem, which the Minister for Transport and Communications must solve very quickly. If he needs money, then I think he would have requested for an allocation in the Budget. But this is now a "walking nation" because the vehicles to ferry people are not enough. Otherwise, they should lend money to people so that they can buy *matatus*.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have realized that the Minister has now enacted a law stipulating that banks cannot charge their customers interest which is double the interest which was supposed to be charged originally. I hope the banks will now adhere to this law, because even when the Minister gave this directive last time, the banks did not implement it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one area which I am very happy about. Coffee marketers have now been allowed to continue marketing their coffee. Yesterday, some people went to Sagana and started telling others that it is only the Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU) which should be allowed to sell coffee. We must liberalize the coffee sector. Everybody should be allowed to sell coffee! Even when I was in the United States of America early this week, I talked to some people and they told me that they are spending US\$14 million to buy coffee. We asked them to buy more coffee, but they said that coffee marketers do not even go there to market our coffee. We need to get coffee marketers to go outside there! We cannot depend on Thika Coffee Mills, Socfinaf and the KPCU only. We must add more marketers. We have now added three more coffee marketers, but we should add about 20 more marketers who can even go to the non-quota areas to sell our coffee. But we cannot continue relying on the KPCU which is not marketing coffee anywhere else outside that quota areas. This is not right! We need to market our coffee. So, I want

to thank the Ministry for licensing more coffee marketers. I have been saying that the Coffee Act must be fully implemented, but some people have been against it, including the Minister. But I am happy now that they are now supporting me.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a politician, I am bit worried and concerned about what is happening to the Budget and even Parliament itself. It appears that we are not cohesive and we are not working together. I dare say that if this Government is going to sustain itself, then it is time we advised the President. Even if he has to do what Mr. Moi did by appointing 35 Ministers and 65 Assistant Ministers, he would rather do that tomorrow. This is because if he does not do it, then I can foresee a very big problem being created in this House very soon. I dare advise the President that if this does not happen, then I am not seeing us going very far. I am a politician and I am free to advise the President and the Ministers who are here. Unless we do this now, it is time we either survived or perished. That is the true position on the ground.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just wanted to draw your attention to the contribution of the hon. Member, which is irrelevant. This is because we are talking about the Budget and not Cabinet formation.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget is prepared by Parliament. It is not done by people from his constituency! I am advising hon. Members on how they can survive, and if hon. Katuku thinks that it is done in Mwala, it is not! It is done here in Parliament!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Mwenje! Could you be a bit honest?

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also advised the Government of the United States of America that their travel advisories are hurting this country, and that they must revise these travel advisories because they have continued hurting our tourist industry. They have agreed that they are going to revise the travel advisories, and I hope they will do this as a priority. We told them that if they can be our friends and still tell tourists not to come to Kenya, that is not right, and they have agreed. I talked to Gen. Powell himself, who agreed that they were going to look into that issue. I am glad that I even had the opportunity to greet President Bush himself. I think this was a good thing because I also whispered to him that the travel advisories should be removed so that tourists from all over the world can visit this country.

Regarding the question of roads, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we continue allocating money for roads. But this money is always late in going to the District Roads Committees (DRCs) and, therefore, we are not able to do the job. Also, while in the United States of America, the World Bank told us that one of their priorities was actually the bypasses which we have been talking about. They are going to give us money for that purpose. But if you look at what is happening today, no road is being constructed. We make provisions for roads in the Budget and yet we do not see the roads being constructed, and our people continue complaining about the roads. I hope that after this Budget, we will see roads being constructed, because a country without infrastructure cannot do any business. The economy will always continue to dwindle because farmers will not be able to transport their farm produce to the towns or even to transport it to the airport in Embakasi for export. This needs to be done immediately.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mahamud: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Let me join my colleagues in thanking the Minister for giving us a good Budget. All over the world, budgets have their own strengths and weaknesses. With all the challenges that we are experiencing in this country, the Minister has tried his best.

Having said that, I would like to say something about the management of emergencies, calamities and disasters in this country. This country always experiences calamities such as famine,

which is currently taking place in nearly two-thirds of this country. Drought and floods are also being experienced. Just two months ago, there were a lot of floods in this country, particularly in Nairobi and western Kenya. This destroyed people, their properties and livestock. This country does not have a mechanism to deal with disasters and calamities. We do not have measures and strategies to deal even with drowning. The other day, I read in the newspapers that a young school girl drowned in a swimming pool in a hotel and nobody could save that girl. That was unfortunate. Many people perished in the Likoni Ferry disaster. We had the 1998 Bomb Blast in Nairobi and the bombing of the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa.

I would urge the Government to set up a body that will deal specifically with emergencies and disasters. Let us borrow a leaf from a country like Israel, where nearly everybody is trained to respond to disasters. If there is a small bomb blast, everybody responds immediately. They have the basic first aid skills. In road accidents, 80 per cent of the people who die, just die because the fellow commuters do not have even the basic first aid skills. You will just see people crying instead of giving first aid to the victims. That body should be properly funded and its members should be properly trained. It should be autonomous. These people should respond quickly to emergencies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications predicts drought, famine and floods. The department gave us a warning early this year that there would be floods in certain parts of the country. They said that there would be famine in specific parts of this country. We were given a three-month warning. It is unfortunate that this warning was not taken seriously. As you are aware, the Meteorological Department gives advice to farmers, livestock owners and even to the Government, and yet nobody has addressed the issues raised by the department. Let me now talk about the current drought and famine, which this country is experiencing. It is very unfortunate that a country that has been Independent for 40 years, and has qualified agriculturalists and economists, cannot feed its people. This is very shameful. We are just relying on a small portion of this country to feed the whole population of this country. We are relying on the arable land which is about 20 per cent of this country. The rest of the land is arid and semi-arid. In other words, there is serious food insecurity in this country. You hear of a bumper harvest in one month and, just after two to three months, the food is not there. Sometimes, the farmers sell it at a throw-away price. We start importing food and feeding our people with contaminated maize like what is happening now in Ukambani. I hear the contaminated maize has spread up to Embu and tomorrow, I do not know whether it will be in Tharaka or another place. This is a very serious issue.

Mr. Kagwima: It is already there!

Mr. Mahamud: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am getting confirmation from the hon. Member for Tharaka that the contaminated maize is already there. Perhaps, it has spread up to the North Eastern Province where almost 90 per cent of our people feed on famine relief food.

Let us not be beggars. We have the capacity to produce enough food in this country. We should have the dignity of saying that we are Independent; we are suffering and we can produce enough food. This country can feed its people if we have the necessary policies and programmes to promote agriculture. Currently, people are starving all over the country, for example, in North Eastern, Coast, part of the Rift Valley, Eastern and even some parts of Western and Nyanza provinces. When there are floods or drought, definitely, there will be famine. So, we will always have disasters.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, about 10 million people are experiencing drought and famine in the country. The amount of money that was allocated for this is just peanuts. It is about Kshs600 million, which cannot feed 10 million people. The amount of money allocated for grain reserves, of about Kshs1 billion, is also not enough. Let us improve our agricultural production. We should provide capacity building to our farmers, so that they can use modern methods of farming. We should destock livestock in the ASAL areas, whereby the Kenya Meat Commission or any other organisation can buy the animals before they die.

There are drought-resistant crops which do very well in the ASAL areas, like millet. Let us have policies in place to have these crops planted there. The Budget did not address the issue of extension officers and researchers in the Ministry of Agriculture. Nothing was mentioned about research on crops and livestock. We need to provide adequate funds for research and the extension officers. These are some of the weaknesses that were noted in the Budget Speech.

Finally, let me say that livestock farming has been forgotten in the past. The NARC Government seems to be addressing its problems now. We now have a Ministry and a Minister to take care of it. However, we are not certain that the Ministry will be given adequate funding to supplement agricultural production in this country. The livestock sector has a lot of potential and can also provide many jobs to people in this country.

With those few remarks, I wish to support.

Mr. O.K. Mwangi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this year's Budget Speech. Let me start by thanking my God for this opportunity and for bringing us this far as a country. We are seeing development and progress taking place in peace. I want to thank the NARC Government for sustaining the country, although we have a lot of problems that need to be addressed.

I want to thank the Minister for Finance for delivering the longest Budget Speech ever in this country. I believe that this detailed Budget is meant to turn the economy of this country round. However, even though it was the longest, it left a lot to be desired, particularly in relation to the poor people of this country. I believe that the Budget Speech addressed the economic concerns of multinationals and manufacturers. It, however, left out very many things that concern poor Kenyans. I remember that, during the State Opening, the President described ours as a working nation. Truly, Kenyans are willing to work so as to turn round the economy of this country. Unfortunately, a hungry nation cannot be a working nation. If the nation is hungry, there is no way it can be hardworking. Most of our people will not work when they are hungry. I noticed that the Budget Speech did not concern itself with basic foods and other necessities that concern the common man. We have also noticed that the country has turned into a "walking nation" as my colleague, hon. Mwenje, said. In the morning we see very many pedestrians walking to their places of work. This is because there is a problem in the transport industry that was not addressed.

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

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

Allow me to also talk about the food situation in this country. I am disappointed that the

Budget did not concern itself with the food situation in this country. We have areas that depend only on farming. I thought that the Government would come in and address the problem of high prices of foodstuffs. I am concerned that the price of flour, which we heavily rely on as a basic foodstuff, has gone up, and is still going up. The price of sugar is also very high.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember that when you were contributing to this Motion, you talked about sugar. It is true that the problem of high prices of sugar was not addressed. That is reducing this nation to a hungry nation. One cannot have a hungry nation, which is also a working nation.

I feel disappointed whenever I go back to my constituency whose mainstay is agriculture. The Budget provisions for agriculture show that we were given a raw deal. There is nothing provided for the improvement of coffee farming, a cash crop which has been a historical foreign exchange earner in this country. Looking at the proposed Budget, you will notice that it is only a coffee research institute that was allocated some money; Kshs20 million. This can only be compared to peanuts. Farmers were not given anything and there is no motivation for them to go back to coffee farming. Coffee production has come down from 135,000 tonnes in the 1990s to only 35,000 tonnes today, which is pathetic. We keep on talking about coffee and how we can market it. The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing brought a Bill here last week to amend the Co-operative Societies Act. He was talking about marketing of coffee. However, he did not address the question of coffee production. What are we supposed to market if we do not produce the coffee? I also noticed that the proposed Budget does not address the problem of coffee production. Instead, it only address sugar production problems. I want to remind the Minister for Agriculture that this country is sustained by agriculture. We cannot talk about only sugar and forget about other crops.

When it comes to marketing of coffee, I would like to thank the Minister for licensing other marketing agents. But licensing marketing agents without addressing production problems is like climbing a tree from the top instead of climbing it from the bottom. It is good that we have marketing agents who can compete in the marketing of coffee. However, what are they going to market, even though they got licences to market some product? I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture, and that of Co-operative Development and Marketing, to address the problems in coffee production.

A few years ago, we talked of introducing a coffee bank. More than Kshs200 million of farmers' money was collected for its formation. That money is still lying somewhere. Farmers are still suffering because they do not have money to revive production of coffee. I would like to urge the Ministry of Finance to start a farmers' bank because there is money for its establishment. We need money to revive the economy and the coffee industry, so that marketing agents, who have been licensed, can have something to market.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know whether the hon. Member knows that the coffee bank money has now been refunded, contrary to what was supposed to be done. It has been refunded illegally to people who call themselves "directors."

Mr. O.K. Mwangi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of that. That is an illegality and I would urge the Ministry of Finance to look into it because that money belongs to the farmer. It should not just be refunded to a few people who call themselves directors. Directors of what? We are talking about money that was deducted from payments due to the farmers of this country. That money has been lying in a bank somewhere. I am not aware that it has been refunded. I will bring a Question to this House so that the Minister can tell us what happened to that money.

I was talking about food security. This country needs to address the question of food

security relentlessly; the reason being that we are an agricultural country. We have been blessed with fertile soil, rains, good climate and our people are hardworking. There is no policy on food security. When I look at the allocations in the Budget I notice that Kshs350 million has been allocated to the National Cereals and Produce Board to buy food, but we are not talking about where that food will come from. We are not addressing the issue of encouraging the farmer so that he can produce more for the Board to buy. We should also address the question of storage.

Today, Eastern Province and parts of Central Province, are in a crisis. People are dying because of eating contaminated food. This is happening in a country that is agricultural, has got very good soil and is hardworking. You wonder what is happening. We can produce enough food for our people in this country. We have no policy. Therefore, you will find that when the rains come a lot of water runs down into the Indian Ocean and is lost because we do not have a plan for harvesting it. We have got a lot of land that can be irrigated. When I look at the Budget I find there is no provision for irrigation. This means there is no interest in the production of food.

You will find that, at the end of the year, we shall be borrowing food from outside the country and will remain beggars. Will we remain a begging nation! It is a matter that needs to be addressed.

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

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Thank you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Let me begin by congratulating the Minister for Finance for giving us a very good Budget, which took care of all the interests in this country.

However, I think the Finance Minister is being let down by a few people. Some of the people who are letting down the Minister are the sugar barons. The Minister never increased any duty or tax on sugar and yet the price of sugar has gone up, and there is sugar in the stores of all the sugar-milling companies. This is something that nobody seems to understand. The price of sugar was not increased. There is a lot of sugar in the stores of all the milling companies. We have even been told that there is even more sugar on the high seas. This does not make sense, and to me it looks like sabotage.

The Minister also never increased the tax on petrol, and yet oil companies have increased the price of petrol. I do not know why they have done this because no tax on petrol was increased. I think this is sabotage. If there was no increase in tax, then why should there be an increase in the price of petrol? Petrol is an essential commodity. If the price of petrol goes up, this affects everybody and all sectors. The same thing applies to sugar. If the price of sugar goes up, then everybody is affected; from the rich to poor person because we all use sugar.

I would support calls for introduction of price controls. If we had price controls then these barons would not have taken advantage of their position and increased the price of sugar and petrol.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): What is it, Mr. Mwenje?

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could Mr. Githae name these sugar barons he is talking about?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Mr. Mwenje, you are out of order! He never implied anybody. He just made a general statement.

Proceed, Mr. Githae!

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is my opinion. If Mr. Mwenje knows them, probably he could tell us.

The Minister also allocated some money to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). In

fact, the AFC is the farmers' bank. It is good that the Minister has allocated quite a substantial amount of money to them because AFC lends at very low interest rates. I, therefore, call upon farmers to borrow money from the AFC so that they can develop their farms.

The Minister also allocated some money to the Kenya Industrial Estates (KIE). This is the parastatal that is entrusted with the responsibility of giving loans to Kenyans so that they can set up industries. I call upon all entrepreneurs in this country to go to KIE and borrow money so that they can develop industries. We do not have to rely on foreign investors.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also happy that the Minister allocated a substantial amount of money to pay the salary arrears for teachers. As we all know, teachers were promised these salary increases in 1997. It is only now, with the new Government, that those arrears are being paid. So, we need to congratulate him for this. Even our police officers have not been left out in this Budget. There is a substantial amount of money allocated to pay them the recent salary increments. What is now left for them is to protect us and our property.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also good that the Minister also allocated some money to pay off debts incurred by sugar companies. If this is done, it will revive most of the ailing sugar companies. I think the same thing should be done to the coffee sector, although he did not say anything about it. The co-operative societies dealing with coffee need to have their debts also waived so that they can start operating.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister did not increase the price of maize. However, the price of maize flour has gone up. I would say there are certain maize barons who are sabotaging the Government. I do not understand why prices are going up and yet, there are no changes in taxes.

The Minister also did not forget the National Bank of Kenya (NBK). The NBK gave a number of guarantees on behalf of the Government. It is only fair that the Government meets its obligation so that a bank like the NBK can be privatised and then sold. I do not think it is the business of the Government to be lending money. That is best left to private companies

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must also congratulate the Minister for allocating the Constituency Development Fund Committees (CDFC) Kshs20 million for each constituency. This is a wonderful thing and it needs to be encouraged. In fact, we need to go further and make our Budget constituency-based. For example, instead of money being given to the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development or the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing, it should be allocated to constituencies. Each Ministry could allocate each constituency, say, Kshs5 million or Kshs10 million, or whatever amount is available for development. If this is done, it will assist a lot because it is the people on the ground who know what they want. That is something that needs to be encouraged.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister did not forget the Constituency Aids Control Committee (CACCs). It is good that some little money has been allocated to them. But whatever efforts we are making to combat HIV/AIDS during the day, they are reduced by our television stations at night. As early as 9.00 p.m. or 9.30 p.m. television stations show women dancing in very aggravating body motions. That is affecting our young men and women. So, whatever efforts we are putting during the day, are being laid to waste by television stations. They need to be told that, if they have to show those kinds of pictures, they must do so after 11.00 p.m., and not during the day.

It is also good that the Minister for Finance has also reduced prices on sanitary towels. That has been a sour point as far as our womenfolk are concerned. That again, affects all the women, whether you are rich or poor. That is the good thing and it will encourage women in rural areas to be using sanitary towels and not cotton wool or things like that.

The Minister has also allocated a substantial amount of money to start small claims courts. Many people cannot access justice because it is very expensive. With small claims courts, you do not need an advocate. You present your case and, by the end of the day, you are given a decision. That will make a large proportion of Kenyans access justice which, at the moment, they cannot do.

The Minister for Finance, in his concluding remarks, said that all the good things he has put in the Budget will not be achieved, unless we reduce our politicking. People have forgotten that we had elections in the year 2002. It is like this country is on an election campaign mode. We are spending so much time on politics and not development. I do not know how hon. Members could be told that we have just come out of an election. We need to reduce political temperatures. We need to sit down and talk to each other and with each other. We need to take decisions that are in the best interests of the country, and not an individual. We need to concentrate on development matters and not politics. We have had enough of politics and Kenyans are now fed up. Even donors are getting concerned about the politics.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, every time you meet Kenyans, they just want to talk about politics. We need to stop politics and concentrate on development.

With those few remarks I support the Budget.

Mr. Mukiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this time. I wish to support the Budget. At the very outset, let me say that the Minister's Speech, which took more than three hours, encompassed most of what the NARC Government has been promising. The Budget was very good and showed a great change between the former regime and the NARC administration.

However, there seems to be a problem in this country. People keep on complaining about everything. I have been listening to most hon. Members in this Parliament. I have heard people complaining about our Ministers. I know that we have political problems within NARC. However, that should not be taken advantage of by any person. However, that should not be taken advantage of by anyone. This country belongs to all of us. It belongs to those who are sitting on the Government side and it also belongs to those who sit in the Opposition. It is very wrong when people take advantage of something like a constitution.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard Members, especially from the Opposition, blame the President and those who are in power at this time for the stalemate in the constitutional review. We know that there is a constitutional impasse because of the judgements that were made by the courts. It is not possible for the President or even this Parliament to proceed unless people sit together. It is Parliament that has been given powers by the Constitution to amend the Constitution. Unless we sit down, we have a great problem. Even if we blame State House or one another, that will not do. I wish to ask hon. Members to take our mandate and come up together as citizens.

The Constitution that we have now is not proper and that is why very many people took their time to fight for change. But it will not help us if we keep on bickering and blaming one another instead of sitting together to reason. I believe Parliament can wake up, as leaders, and show the country that we can deliver a new constitution if we took up our mandate.

There are very many issues that were touched on by the Minister, especially on the allocation of funds. I wish first to register my complaint about the way money is normally distributed to districts. Districts are not equal. You will find that in this country, there are some districts which are very big---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Mukiri! You might just like to know that we started debate at 3.35 p.m. So, we shall be closing the debate at 6.35. So, you still have about six or seven minutes.

Mr. Mukiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought we were

adjourning at 6.30 p.m.

I was saying that there are some districts, like Nakuru District, which is a very big district with a population of about 1.5 million. There are other districts that have less than 100,000 people and that is when you take into account the census of 1999. Last year, when money for rural electrification was allocated, the Government divided that money equally according to districts. That is very unfair. Nakuru District has about six constituencies. There are some districts like Teso, Ijara and others which have only one constituency. It becomes very difficult for us to share this money. Even though the Government is trying to bring economic order in this country---

Mr. Kagwima: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is calling for discrimination against some districts yet the law does not allow it!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Kagwima! What is it that is not in order that he is talking about?

Mr. Mukiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I am not discriminating---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): If he is stating facts, I do not think he is out of order. All he is saying is that there are some districts with one constituency and other districts with five constituencies. It is a fact. So, he is not out of order.

Mr. Mukiri: In fact, I am not saying they should not receive their share. I am saying we should have equitable distribution of resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if this Government is trying very hard, I think we are losing the war on corruption. I remember last year when we came here, there was talk about "cowboy" contractors; the likes of Krishan Behal, Hayat Bishan Singh and so many other contractors. If you go to my constituency, there is a road that goes from pipeline towards my constituency which was given about six contracts and it was allocated to one contractor. The money has been "eaten" and the road has not been tarmacked.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): How do you "eat" money?

(Laughter)

Mr. Mukiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the contractors "ate" with their stomachs, because there is no road; there is no tarmac and we promised our people that we were going to fight these people. But now, we are one year and six months old in Government and these people have not been taken to court. They have not been jailed and we are just concentrating on Goldenberg. What about these "cowboy" contractors?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day, the Minister for Energy brought us the Nyanja Report here and he told us we would see heads rolling, and people being arrested. What has happened? It is now six months later. That is why we are seeing corruption coming back now because those people who were involved in corrupt deals in the old regime have realised that there is nothing that can be done to them. They have learnt that corruption can pay and that is why they have got into the NARC Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go now to the Civil Service, there is a lot of corruption that goes on there. For example, I was trying to register a title at the Ministry of Lands and Settlement the other day. You cannot register documents at the lands office. If you go there, they say they do not have enough valuers, they do not have this or that and they tell you openly that "if you give us Kshs4,000, we do not have to go and see your property. We can value it from here". This corruption is coming back and I think something needs to be done. We need to arrest these people who were involved in corruption in the old regime and they should be taken to court. We should see people being jailed so that they know that corruption does not pay.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, There is a problem of priority in this Budget. You have heard Members say that Kshs224 million is being allocated to translocate animals. Just about ten days ago, I asked from the Minister what plans they have to resettle people in my constituency and I was told the Government does not have money to resettle tribal clashes victims. They have money to translocate elephants but they do not have money to resettle human beings. We are even fighting against God. We are putting animals before human beings. I think it is very important, if we are going to continue supporting this Government as we are doing, that the Government should also be sensitive. They should not be using money to renovate buildings and in areas that are not very vital to the existence of human beings and ignoring other aspects. For example, we do not have teachers. I remember the other day visiting a school in my constituency. It is a primary school with classes up to Standard Seven and they only have three teachers. This cannot happen and yet, we are taking money to translocate elephants.

With those remarks Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to support.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the House business. The House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd June, 2004 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.35 p.m.