

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 26th July, 2005

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

### QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

#### COMPENSATION FOR MR. PETER NGANDA

**Mr. C. Kilonzo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. Peter Mbuvi Nganda was attacked by a hippopotamus in Naivasha and sustained serious injuries including losing one leg?

(b) Is he further aware that Mr. Nganda had incurred a hospital bill amounting to Kshs118,670 at AIC Kijabe Hospital as at 11th March, 2005?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) above, are in the affirmative, what compensation will be paid to the victim?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Anyone here from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife? No one is here! Mr. C. Kilonzo, what should I do with your Question?

**Mr. C. Kilonzo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will leave that to your discretion. However, Ministers should take Questions seriously.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. C. Kilonzo, you are right! We have said that many times. The only option I have is to defer the Question and order that it be answered tomorrow morning.

I hope the Clerks-at-the-Table have taken note of that. I think the Minister for Agriculture can hold brief for his colleague.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

*(Question deferred)*

#### X-RAY EQUIPMENT FOR MANDERA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

**Mr. Shaaban:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the only X-ray equipment at Mandera District Hospital has broken down?

(b) Is she further aware that the nearest X-ray equipment is about 400 kilometres away in Wajir Town?

(c) What urgent measures is she taking to remedy the situation?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Anyone here from the Ministry of Health? What is happening today?

Mr. Shaaban, what should I do with your Question?

**Mr. Shaaban:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very urgent Question because it touches on the core business of Mandera District Hospital.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Shaaban, I know that this Question is urgent. That is why it is a Question by Private Notice.

**Mr. Shaaban:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question should be answered latest tomorrow morning.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I order that this Question appears on the Order Paper tomorrow morning! The Minister for Agriculture should inform his colleague that this Question should be answered tomorrow morning.

*(Question deferred)*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Question No.317*

### PAYMENT OF SHARES/DIVIDENDS TO UFUNDI SACCO MEMBERS

**Mr. Wamunyinyi** asked the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing:-

(a) whether he is aware that Felisters N. Katti and others who were members of the Ufundi Co-operative Savings and Credit Society Ltd. and were seconded to the Ministry of Roads and Public Works in August, 2000, have not been paid their share contributions plus dividends earned; and,

(b) what action he is taking to ensure that retirees are paid their entitlements immediately they are served with notices of termination.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Anyone here from the Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing? Mr. Kirwa, could you tell us what is going on?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am confident that my colleague is on the way because he is supposed to second my Motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** But he is coming to second your Motion and not to answer the Question!

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ministers know when the sitting is supposed to start. From what the Minister for Agriculture has said, Ministers do not take the business of this House seriously. It is time you used your powers to ensure that Ministers come to Parliament to answer Questions. I have fallen a victim before; when you dropped my Question because I was not in the House to ask it. Hon. Members are called names when they are not here to ask Questions! What will you do to the Ministers who are not here to answer Questions?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Wamunyinyi, do you want me to drop this Question?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when hon. Members are not present, you drop their Questions and---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Wamunyinyi! Could you sit down?

**Mr. M. Maitha:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister for Co-

operative Development and Marketing was with me in Kangundo. Therefore, the Minister for Agriculture is not lying when he says that the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing is coming to answer that Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. M. Maitha, if you were with the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing in Kangundo, how come you are here and he is not here? I defer the Question until tomorrow morning! These Questions must be answered tomorrow morning. Mr. Kirwa will hold brief for his colleagues.

*(Question deferred)*

**Mr. Ndambuki:** On a point of Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Some Questions do not appear on the Order Paper because of other Questions being deferred. The Questions which would have appeared in tomorrow's Order Paper will be pushed to next week. Could the Chair do something about this matter? This is a joke! Four Questions cannot be deferred because there are no Ministers to answer them, and yet the Chair does not take any action!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Ndambuki, why do you not wait and see how many Questions we will have not been answered at the end?

**Dr. Ali:** On a point of Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Dr. Ali!

Next Question!

*Question No.027*

ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY  
PLOTS IN MUHORONI DIVISION

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Member for Muhoroni has indicated that he will not be here. He has requested that his Question be deferred. I, accordingly, defer this Question to Thursday afternoon!

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.395*

ALTERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOUNDARIES IN MUMIAS DIVISION

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Member for Mumias has reported that he is unwell. He has requested that his Question be deferred. This Question is accordingly deferred until Thursday afternoon!

*(Question deferred)*

You can see that the problem does not only lie with the Ministers.

Next Question, Eng. Muriuki!

**Eng. Muriuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not received a written answer to my Question.

*Question No.525*DISMISSAL OF MR. JOHN WAHOME  
FROM DoD

**Eng. Muriuki** asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. John Waigwa Wahome (SPTE 65636) was discontinued from service at the Department of Defence (DoD) while stationed at 20th Parachute Battalion in June, 1995;

(b) whether he is further aware that Spte. Wahome was never issued with a dismissal letter or any letter to show why he was discontinued from service; and,

(c) when he will be reinstated to his job or be paid his dues.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we dispatched a copy of the written answer to the National Assembly this morning. It is unfortunate that the hon. Member has not received it.

However, I beg to reply.

(a) The above named serviceman was enlisted into the armed forces on 11th April, 1991, and after the basic military training at the Recruits Training School, he was posted to the 20th Parachute Battalion where he underwent the basic paratroopers course in 1992.

(b) The serviceman absented himself from duty on 23rd February, 1995, and was declared a deserter on 23rd August, 1995, in accordance with Section 31(d) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap.1999. Under this provision, he is to be apprehended and tried by a court martial. In addition, the Act does

not provide for dismissal or notification thereon in abstention.

(c) There are no plans to reinstate the serviceman into the Kenya Army. He has never cleared with the armed forces administratively as required in order for him to be paid his benefits for the years worked. His status as a deserter disentitles him of any clemency or reinstatement upon his imminent dismissal.

**Eng. Muriuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this gentleman who comes from Ol'Kalou Constituency was a soldier and an athlete. He left Gilgil Barracks, which was his station, and went to Langata Barracks with other athletes for training. He was declared a deserter while training at Langata Barracks. Since Mr. Wahome never received a dismissal letter, could the Assistant Minister lay it on the Table, if he has it?

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that the hon. Member paid attention to my earlier answer. I have said that if you are a deserter, you are supposed to appear before a court-martial. If we get Mr. Wahome today, we will court-martial him and after that we will serve him with a dismissal letter.

**Capt. Nakitare:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Wahome was a paratrooper, which requires high training in the military. Why did the military dismiss this man instead of rehabilitating him?

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this serviceman has not been dismissed. It is true that the State has spent a lot of resources training him as a paratrooper. However, the Armed Forces Act says that if you absent yourself from duty without offering any explanation, you are treated as a deserter. Therefore, you are supposed to appear before a court martial. So, Mr. Wahome has to appear before a court martial before he is dismissed from the armed forces.

**Mr. L. Maitha:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think Assistant Minister needs to understand

that the Government spends a substantial amount of money training these people. So, could he tell us whether it is wise to dismiss people who are still young and able simply because they have deserted duty?

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we value our servicemen and the amount of resources we have invested in their training. We also value their skills and talent, for example, in athletics. But an officer must uphold discipline. One area of discipline is to ensure that if they have to leave the barracks or their places of work, they have permission. In this case, there was no permission whatsoever.

**Eng. Muriuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point of contention is whether or not John Waigwa Wahome deserted. He was working at his base in Gilgil. Then, he joined other athletes of the armed forces in Langata. It was then that the Officer Commanding his base declared that he did not know his whereabouts. When he went back, he was told that he had been dismissed. This is my constituent and he is saying, if the Government has dismissed him, could he get a letter so that he is able to put his case together? When he went to Gilgil, he was told verbally that he had been dismissed.

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to put this matter to rest, I would appeal to the hon. Member to ask his constituent to come forward and report to the Kenya Army Headquarters. He will have a fair trial before the court martial. He can put his defence and say where he was.

**Mr. Too:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to say that this officer has been a deserter for the last ten years and yet, they have not arrested him all that time?

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the first [Mr. M. Kariuki] information we are receiving from an independent source that this person is available. That is why I am appealing to the hon. Member to let him come forward.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** But Mr. M. Kariuki, you have not addressed the point of order. You have said that this officer has been a deserter for the last ten years. Has the Government been unable to arrest him during these ten years? I think that is the point Mr. Too raised. Why has he been so elusive?

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think Eng. Muriuki should tell us where this man has been all this time. But, just as a matter of procedure, when a serviceman disappears for a particular time, then the official records are entered to show he has deserted. That is what we have on our records. As soon as he is apprehended, thereafter, then the court martial proceedings begin. So, for the last ten years, we have not been able to apprehend him. Now that we know we are likely to get useful information from the hon. Member, I am sure we will follow the next step.

*Question No.452*

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING  
POVERTY INDEX

**Mr. A.C. Mohamed** asked the Minister for Planning and National Development:-

- (a) what criteria is used in determining the poverty index for various constituencies;
- (b) the status of Lamu East Constituency; and,
- (c) when the team from the Ministry visited the constituency to determine the index.

**The Assistant Minister for Planning and National Development** (Mr. Lesrima): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) Since there is no single data source that can provide the poverty estimates at the

constituency level for all provinces, the Central Bureau of Statistics undertook to develop the indices using statistical modelling techniques that combine data from household surveys and (*inaudible*) population census. Poverty estimates, consequently are indirect and, as such, their quality depends on the choice of a suitable statistical model. The most recent source of small area income and poverty estimates in Kenya is the population and housing census of 1999 which was undertaken to provide data for socio-economic planning, while the most recent expenditure survey was conducted in 1997; the Welfare Monitoring Survey.

The Central Bureau of Statistics has obtained poverty estimates for districts and constituencies by combining the estimates from statistical regulation models that are based on the Welfare Monitoring Survey of 1997 with the direct population census data of 1999. The use of regulation model is necessary because of the small sample. In the regional or provincial regulation models, the survey's direct estimates of household consumption or income for reference year 1997 is an independent variable and the predictor variable---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Lesrima! That appears to be a statement now. It is not an answer to the Question. Could you please address yourself to the Question and be brief?

**The Assistant Minister for Planning and National Development** (Mr. Lesrima): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Question is technical and it required a detailed answer. But, basically, the information on poverty indices is based on the two exercises carried out in 1999 on population census and the one for 1997, welfare survey.

(b) The head-count poverty for Lamu is 42.2 per cent, which means that 42.2 per cent of the residents cannot manage to raise Kshs1,239 per person per month.

(c) This was done in 1997 and 1999 population census.

**Mr. A.C. Mohamed:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, neither the Central Bureau of Statistics nor the Welfare Monitoring Survey have ever visited my constituency. The regional figure he is giving at 42.2 per cent absolutely does not reflect the truth of the matter on the ground. Could the Assistant Minister, therefore, undertake to visit my constituency with the relevant authorities to determine the poverty index there?

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not sure whether the hon. Member is right to say that no visit was made in 1997. But when surveys are done, we do not cover the whole population, but we do a sample frame. But I agree with him that there is need to carry out a survey.

**Mr. Kembi-Gitura:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Question. The current system of Government is to take development to the constituencies as a focus. So, we have the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and bursaries at that level. The Chair knows that the sums of money sent to various constituencies for both CDF and bursaries are based on this so-called poverty index.

The Chair also knows that there is a perception that some areas are richer than others. The position is that since 1999 and 1997 when these figures were last taken, the perceived rich areas have also lost out. If they are relying on the 1997 and 1999 figures, how equitable are these figures and how sure can we be that these figures are fair and that we are getting an equitable distribution of wealth throughout the country?

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Telkom Kenya has moved into areas which are doing well. It is true that the statistics might be out of date, but we are currently carrying out a comprehensive integrated household survey to up date the figures. In terms of sharing resources, the equity issue is taken into account.

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty is real in this country and we are aware that the number of Kenyans living below the poverty line continues to go up. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he is doing to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line or

under Kshs50 per day? We are aware that many Kenyans are living below Kshs50 a day. Kenyans do not understand this modelling indexing business.

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have gone through this in various *Kamukunjis* with the hon. Members and we are not "cooking" the statistics. As I said, we are now carrying out a comprehensive survey which will go up to the second half of next year; to obtain the latest figures. With regard to what we are doing, I believe that the hon. Member is aware of the programmes in place under the Economic Recovery Strategy and the alignment of the current Budget to meet the challenges of poverty in the country.

**Mr. Sasura:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must appreciate the fact that development in this country is now constituency and district-based. The last time we, as hon. Members, met with the Chief Statistician from the Ministry of Planning and National Development, he conceded that the Ministry does not have any data from northern Kenya and that every other data from northern Kenya is based on the data from Ganze in Malindi. How then can this Ministry justify its planning when it does not have data from various parts of this country?

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that when you are doing modelling, you obviously use comparative statistics and proxies in many cases. It is true that a survey was not done in northern Kenya for various reasons, but the similarities that have been captured, to a large extent, reflect the situation that the statistics have brought out. I want to assure hon. Members that when we distribute the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF), for example, the Kshs7 billion, we accept that 75 per cent of the money is divided equally among all the constituencies and then the remaining 25 per cent is subjected to the poverty indexes to make sure that in case the statistics are not absolutely correct, no constituency suffers.

**Mr. Wanjala:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statistics the Ministry uses to determine poverty indexes surprise everybody. If you look at the CDF list, you will find that Nyanza Province has the highest level of poverty. Is this because the Minister for Planning and National Development comes from Nyanza Province?

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these figures were updated long before the Minister for Planning and National Development took his current portfolio. However, this is not correct. The reality on the ground is that poverty is much more endemic in Nyanza Province than in Central and Western Provinces.

**Mr. A. C. Mohamed:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not happy with the answer given by the Assistant Minister. The Minister, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, should have come here to answer this Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. A.C. Mohamed! If you look at your Standing Orders, you will see the definition of a Minister. The issue of the Minister should not arise. Could you respect the Assistant Minister who is answering your Question and direct whatever questions you have to him?

**Mr. A.C. Mohamed:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I respect the Assistant Minister, but he has not undertaken to visit my constituency. Could he take immediate action to rectify the figure of 42 per cent to 90 per cent poverty index for Lamu East Constituency?

**Mr. Lesrima:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend knows that I do not have the capacity to increase the poverty index. However, I undertake to discuss with the hon. Member the statistics about his constituency. As I said, there is a comprehensive Kenya integrated household survey being carried out currently. If Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o was here, he would have invited the hon. Member to raise his complaints with the Ministry. He is most welcome to raise the issues with us.

TELEPHONE/POSTAL SERVICES  
FOR WAJIR CONSTITUENCY

**Dr. Ali** asked the Minister for Information and Communications:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Wajir North Constituency, which is along the Kenyan-Ethiopian border, has no telephone facilities for communications;
- (b) whether he is aware that there is no line kiosk both at Bute and Buna; and,
- (c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, when he will provide proper telephone and postal services to Bute and Buna townships.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Communications** (Mr. Were): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I wish to confirm, contrary to what the hon. Member states, that there are telephone facilities in Wajir North Constituency. These services are available at Buna and Bute, provided as out-of-area numbers from the Moyale Exchange.

(b) I also wish to confirm that there is one telephone line bureau; each at Buna and Bute. Once utilisation grows, Telkom Kenya will consider increasing the number of lines at each of these sites.

(c) Further improvement of telecommunication services in Bute and Buna is expected when the divisional headquarters are automated using wireless technology, a project whose funding my Ministry is in the process of securing.

**Dr. Ali:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has called one telephone line "telephone services". When the sun fails to appear in a day, the telephone line does not exist. What does the Assistant Minister mean by "once utilisation grows"? What numbers does the Ministry require to increase the telephone lines from one to many more?

**Mr. Were:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Telkom Kenya requires to get income out of these lines. If the people using these lines are fewer than 100, it does not make sense to set up a whole exchange line in such an area.

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister instruct Telkom Kenya to start using wireless telephone in the rural areas? The telephone wires do not last long. When it rains and there is lightning, they are all destroyed.

**Mr. Were:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not need to instruct Telkom Kenya to use wireless telephones. It is a fact that, right now, technology has changed and we have moved from wires to wireless technology. It is only the issue of cost. Telkom Kenya is in the process of changing all the systems. However, the problem is that money is not available.

**Mr. Manoti:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the introduction of cell phones, Telkom Kenya seems not to be bothered about what is happening in the rural areas. It is very expensive for the wananchi in the rural areas to use cell phones. The booths in the market places are never serviced and they have been neglected. What is the Assistant Minister doing to make sure that the booths are serviced and more are constructed, to assist the rural people? For example, in Igare and Nyamache Markets in my constituency, there are no telephone booths at all.

**Mr. Were:** I have indicated it here very clearly that the intention of Telkom Kenya is to repair all telephone booths, and change to wireless communication. The problem that they have now is lack of funds. It is, indeed, a fact that at the moment, Telkom Kenya is experiencing financial problems. We are also in the process of seeing how we can restructure it, so that funds can be available and services can be improved.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Let us have Mr. Keter's question first and I will come to your point



of order!

**Mr. Keter:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that the two centres are being served by out-of-area numbers. Maintenance of out-of-area numbers is very expensive. Could he consider providing a switch, so that the people near the border can be served effectively.

**Mr. Were:** The hon. Member who has just asked this question is an expert in telecommunications, and was working with Telkom Kenya. I undertake to ask Telkom Kenya to provide a switch, if it will provide a cheaper means of communication.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is not only because of his experience, but he is also the shadow Minister for Information and Communications. So, he is the right person for you to consult. What was your point of order, Mr. Kombe?

**Mr. Kombe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Manoti had asked about areas that have no telephone booths, but the Assistant Minister is talking about repairing telephone booths. Is he in order to deviate from the question he was asked?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Assistant Minister, were you in order to do that?

**Mr. Were:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I indicated very clearly that Telkom Kenya has the interest, or intention, to repair telephone booths, but it has financial problems. That is what I have said.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Last question, Dr. Ali!

**Dr. Ali:** I do not know what to ask because the Assistant Minister has told us that they do not have funds to repair telephone booths. How will he manage to introduce wireless technology, which he said is very expensive? We know that Telkom Kenya is already broke. When is he going to do this job? Is it when he sells off Telkom Kenya?

**Mr. Were:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are consultants looking into the affairs of Telkom Kenya and their report is soon coming to my Ministry. It is only after we get this report that we will see how we can privatise Tlkom Kenya.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Next Question, Mr. David Sudi!

*Question No.514*

COMMENCEMENT OF ARBOR HYDRO-  
ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

**Mr. Sudi** asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) whether he is aware that the Government had commissioned a feasibility study on the multi-million shilling, 77-Megawatt Arbor Hydroelectric Power Project in Marakwet District through the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), and the project proved to be viable, but never took off;

(b) whether he is further aware that the project could also have benefited residents of Tunyo Division and the neighbouring Baringo District; and,

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, when the project will commence and what the cost of its implementation will be.

**The Assistant Minister for Energy** (Mr. Kiunjuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply

(a) Yes, I am aware that the Government, under the auspices of the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), commissioned a feasibility study on the integrated development of Arbor Basin, which included the multi-million 77-megawatt Arbor Hydro-electric Power Project, in Marakwet District through a grant provided by the Government of Italy. However, the project does not meet the least cost development criteria, since the cost of electricity generated from the

project will be more than Kshs17 per Kilowatt by the time of its delivery to a consumer's meter.

(b) No, because the project is not viable.

(c) Since the project is not viable, the chances of its implementation in the near future are nil, unless oil prices rise above US\$100 per barrel.

**Mr. Sudi:** I am surprised by the answer given by the Assistant Minister, that the project does not meet the least cost development criteria. This project is more viable than the Turkwell Gorge Hydro-Electric Power Project, which at one time was said to be a white elephant project, but which is supplying electricity to Kenyans now.

Could the Assistant Minister re-evaluate this project, because it is viable and will assist Kenyans access electricity?

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have two answers to give him. First of all, this study was completed in 1990 when the hon. Member was an Assistant Minister. He was in a position to influence a proper evaluation to be carried out. Secondly, if it is true that it is viable, I will request him to table his research results, so that I can compare them with what I have.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order!. Yes, Dr. Khalwale!

**Dr. Khalwale:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why the Government commissioned this project was to lower the cost of electricity in Kenya. Could the Assistant Minister tell us, now that Mumias Sugar Company is providing power to the national grid, what plans he has to review the cost of power to the consumer?

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount of power that Mumias Sugar Company is producing is small, but we agreed to connect it to our national grid. We are also negotiating with the company to see the best price we can give it. But its power cannot have any impact on the price of electricity in the whole country.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Last question, Mr. Sudi!

**Mr. Sudi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government is not willing to develop this power project, could the Assistant Minister issue a license to an independent private developer, who can develop this project and give Kenyans more electricity?

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are coming up with the Energy Bill; it is in its final stages and will allow a private investor to come in. I would like to advise the hon. Member that if he knows of someone who wants to generate power, he should advise him to start preparing himself.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Next Question, Mr. Ngozi!

*Question No.422*

#### REVIVAL OF RAMISI SUGAR FACTORY

**Mr. Nozi** asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he could inform the House whether the Government has any plans to revive Ramisi Sugar Factory; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether he could indicate when the revival will be undertaken.

**The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The Government is committed to the revival of Ramisi Sugar Factory through private

sector involvement. To this end, it will create a conducive environment for any willing investor.

(b) We have already received indications by some of the individuals, or companies, willing to invest in the factory construction in Ramisi, and we are willing to enter into concrete negotiations to this end immediately.

**Mr. Ngozi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question is in this House for the third time, and we have always received the same answer from the Ministry. Could the Minister now tell us the time frame within which the intended programme is going to start?

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are well aware, the best the Government can do is to create a conducive environment for any person who wants to invest in this particular area to come in. The indications that we have received are very positive. If the hon. Member has somebody who can fast-track some of the initiatives already stated by the Government, we are willing to engage with them.

**Mr. Maore:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister explain the status of the land *vis-a-vis* the loan by the Bank of Baroda, and whether this bank is about to allow other people to buy the factory?

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is exactly for that reason that I said we are willing to negotiate with any person who wants to take up the challenge. On the question of land, it is still tied to the loan that was taken from the Bank of Baroda. The Government is willing to discuss with any individual willing to invest in this particular area. But the issue of land being encumbered is not a problem.

**Mr. Khamisi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of revival of companies at the Coast Province is a matter of great concern to us. Could the Minister tell us, specifically, which companies the Government is trying to negotiate with, as a matter of public interest?

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some companies, some of Spanish origin--- Let me refer to my notes and get you the right answer!

*(Mr. Kirwa referred to his notes)*

The Coast Development Authority has been negotiating with some companies. The information available is that there is a company from Spain and another one from Pakistan which were identified. Negotiations were going on at the time this issue was brought to this House. Those are the two companies we are willing to discuss with and take concrete measures so as to revive Ramisi Sugar Factory.

**Mr. Ngozi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the Minister say that he is holding discussions with the investors. But in the event that private investors want to revive this factory, what plans does the Government have to revive it? We need to know whether the factory will be revived or not.

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said at the outset, we are thinking of moving interests from the on-going factories because, as a Government, we feel we have to concentrate on our core functions of managing the affairs of this country, but not its commercial ventures. It is not, therefore, prudent for me to say that we will move in to revive the project as a Government by investing our funds. We said that we will make conditions very conducive for any private investor who wants to invest in this sector.

*Question No.436*  
REHABILITATION OF CATTLE DIPS  
IN NYAMIRA DISTRICT

**Mr. Masanya** asked the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development what plans he has to rehabilitate cattle dips and revive artificial insemination services for dairy farmers in Nyamira District.

*(The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs was applauded as he walked into the Chamber)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Where is the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development? It seems like the Leader of Government Business has arrived at the right time. Please, help us out!

Mr. Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, you have just arrived at the right time! The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development is not here. Could you tell us what to do?

**The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs** (Mr. Awori): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development is out of the country. May I plead that the Question be deferred to Tuesday next week? I will ensure that it is answered.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well. We will defer the Question to Tuesday next week, according to the request of the Leader of Government Business.

*(Question deferred)*

That is the end of Question Time! Hon. Members, we will have two requests for Ministerial Statements or whatever other requests you have.

## POINTS OF ORDER

### LEGAL STATUS OF LEGAL NOTICE NO.65 ON TRAFFIC RULES

**Mr. Keter:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Transport, concerning the Legal Notice No.65, dated 2nd June, 2005. I would like the Minister to address the following: In light of the clear mandatory requirements of Section 4, Part I of the interpretation, and General Provisions Act Part II, I would like to know the legal status of the Legal Notice, No.65, which was gazetted on 2nd June, 2005 which purports to determine traffic rules. Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister why these regulations were not laid before this House.

**The Assistant Minister for Transport** (Mr. Ligale): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we shall issue a Ministerial Statement on Thursday afternoon.

### MISREPORTING BY *THE STANDARD*

**Mr. Bifwoli:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Recently, *The Standard* newspaper misreported me to have voted "no" when I should have voted "yes" on an issue in this House. On the material day, I was not here because I was not feeling well. I, therefore, had left early. The following day, I read in *The Standard* newspaper that I had voted "no." I called the newspaper office urging those concerned to correct the issue and to be reporting the truth. This newspaper should be reporting the right proceedings of this House! They might have wished that I vote "no"

but I did not!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I think those concerned have heard. I think you wanted to clarify your position and it is now clarified.

### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read  
being the Third Allotted Day)*

### MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO  
NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 24 - Ministry of Agriculture

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Deputy Speaker do now leave the Chair.

As you are well aware, the overall goal of my Ministry is attainment of food security, through enhanced food production and employment creation. This will be done through facilitation of increase in productivity, policies, and legal reviews monitoring---

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Those who are consulting should do so in low tones. We are moving a very important Vote, of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is prudent for every hon. Member to give the matter some attention.

**Mr. Sambu:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Before the Minister moves this Vote, the Chair ruled that the Printed Estimates should be provided in advance. I do not know what happened because up to now, I have not seen them. If the copy is being given to the Clerk-at-the-Table now, how are we supposed to follow?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Vote was supposed to have been moved last week. After the ruling of the Chair, we availed copies of the document to all hon. Members, through the Clerk's office.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Minister, I can help you in this. I think all hon. Members know that all documents are submitted to Room No.8, and that is where you are supposed to collect them. Those hon. Members who have not received the document on this Vote should collect copies from there. So, I can confirm that the document has been in circulation since last week.

Mr. Minister, you may proceed!

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in March 2004, my Ministry in collaboration with that of Cooperatives, Development and Marketing and that of Livestock and Fisheries Development, launched the Strategy for Revitalising Agriculture (SRA). This policy document is based on the aspirations of the Government as spelt out in its manifesto for the year 2002 Election, and the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation.

The objective of the strategy is to transform Kenya's agriculture into profitable, commercially-oriented and internationally competitive economic activities that can provide employment and food to Kenyans. Some of the constraints that have bedeviled the sector include, but are not limited to, the following; poor governance of all institutions, and particularly the

cooperatives sub-sector, lack of comprehensive legal and policy reforms to create conducive environment for development. Thirdly, it is as a result of institutional failure due to lack of capacity by the private sector to take over functions previously performed by the state owing to liberalised market economy.

Fourth, lack of credit coupled with high cost of farm inputs such as seed and fertilisers.

Fifth, the level of public funding and inefficient use of available public resources is one of the many factors.

Sixth, inadequate funding for research and extension is a problem that has bedeviled this particular sector, not to mention high prevalence of HIV/AIDS affecting agriculture productivity in many parts of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cognizant of these challenges, we have fast-tracked the following policies, which we believe will impact significantly on the immediate needs for poverty reduction, food security and accelerated sectors development:-

(i) Reviewing and harmonising of the legal and regulatory framework for purposes of capacity building for various institutions within the Ministry and the entire sector.

(ii) Improving delivery of research and extension advisory support by effective interface between the farmers and the researchers for purposes of passing the message.

(iii) We have restructured many of our parastatals to ensure that the non-core functions of the said parastatals and those of the Ministry are effectively carried out by the private sector in due course.

(iv) We have tried to increase access to quality farm inputs and financial services through institutions such as the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) just to mention a few.

(v) We are in the process of formulating food and nutritional policy programmes within the Ministry, taking into account the issues raised by hon. Members and the other two sister Ministries, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Health.

(f) We have tried to see as much as possible that we improve access to markets by our farmers.

(g) We will also reduce taxes for purposes of increasing profit to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have already put in place the necessary institutional framework that will ensure effective implementation of the said strategy. We believe, if provided with the necessary financial and moral support, implementation of this strategy will yield the much awaited revival of the agriculture sector.

In order to ensure the aspirations of the strategy are made, this year, we hosted a national conference on the revitalisation of the agriculture sector which was attended by, among others, a cross-section of hon. Members. The outcome of the conference will assist the Ministry in planning its own strategy and preparing a Sessional Paper for purposes of discussing it at the Cabinet level and finally bringing it to the House to be discussed and adopted.

In addition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have commenced restructuring of the Ministry with the aim of overcoming the institutional and operational weaknesses that impeded the Ministry's operations in the past. The result has been the complete overhaul of the existing structures and introduction of new departments within the Ministry. Consequently, we have now a post of an Agriculture Secretary, which has been created. We have already advertised and recruitment has been done. In addition, we have four additional directorates which have been created to take care of four specific areas in terms of the running of the affairs of the Ministry.

We will have the Director for Policy and Agriculture Development Co-ordination, Director for Land and Crop Development, Director for Extension, Research, Liaison and Technical Training,

and the Director for Agri-Business, Marketing Development and Agriculture Information Services, among other posts within the Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a step towards performance-based management contracts, my Ministry has signed performance contracts with 19 of its parastatals. This will ensure that the organisations deliver the targets we have negotiated with them. The Ministry, therefore, monitors very closely the performance of these corporations.

Hunger is a major problem not only within Kenya, but also among many countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. This has been recognised at the international level, and the Millennium Declaration, to which we are a signatory as a nation, designates, under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Goal No.1 as elimination of extreme poverty and hunger. Indeed, our aspirations to make Kenya a working nation will not be realised if 50 per cent of its population goes without food. You will recall that during the national conference that I have just stated on revitalisation of agriculture, His Excellency, the President noted:-

"The Government places high priority on hunger reduction as levels of poverty and hunger are unacceptable if durable economic recovery is to be achieved".

It is with this regard that the Ministry, in collaboration with other sector Ministries, designed a programme for elimination of hunger and extreme poverty, dubbed "*Njaa Marafuku Kenya*", a call for action to eliminate hunger and poverty in our country.

My Ministry has over the last one year intensified policy and legal reforms for various commodities. Some of these policies include:-

- (i) Formulation of a national food and nutrition policy on inter-Ministerial built multi-disciplinary task force. This has been formed to develop this policy. This will ensure that the policy meets all the food and nutritional needs of the Kenyan population.
- (ii) My Ministry has already produced the draft policy on pyrethrum and the necessary amendments to the Pyrethrum Bill, so as to allow for separation of regulatory and commercial roles of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya.
- (iii) The amendment of the Coffee Act, 2001, to harmonise the Act with the policy in order to improve the coffee industry. Parts of the amendments have already been factored in the Finance Bill 2005 to hasten the opening of the second window for coffee marketing, which will be discussed by the House.
- (iv) The Cotton Policy Bill has been approved by the Cabinet and also discussed by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. As you know, an hon. Member has already put before the House a Private Member's Bill, alongside the discussions held by ourselves.
- (v) The Sessional Paper on sugar, together with the necessary amendments to the Sugar Act, that seeks for further restructuring of the sugar industry to make it more competitive, will soon be tabled in Parliament.
- (vi) The first drafts of policies for development of oil crops and nuts have already been finalised.

All these are initiatives geared towards improvement of the agriculture sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I now turn to the performance of the agriculture sector, which registered 1.4 per cent growth in the year 2004. This growth particularly came from the following areas:-

- (i) Production of wheat increased by 16.8 per cent from 75,600 tonnes to 88,000 metric tonnes in 2004. This increase is both attributed to adequate rainfall experienced in wheat growing areas during the year, and the stability of prices above the threshold of Kshs1,500 per 90-kilogram bag.

(ii) The production of tea registered 10.5 per cent increase, rising from 294,000 metric tonnes in 2003, to 325,000 metric tonnes in 2004, which consequently earned this country Kshs43.3 billion, of which Kshs24 billion went to small-scale holders. This performance was mainly attributed to well distributed rainfall in tea growing regions, coupled with improved extension services and leaf collection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other crop that did well is sugar-cane, whose production increased by 11 per cent to 4.7 million tonnes in the year 2004, from 4.2 million tonnes the previous year. Sugar production went up by 15 per cent to stand at 516,000 metric tonnes in the year 2004, compared to the previous season of 448,000 tonnes in the year 2003.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the horticulture sub-sector recorded impressive performance, where export earnings increased by 13 per cent from Kshs28 billion to Kshs32.6 billion in the year 2004.

Rice production, on the other hand, increased by 21 per cent from 40,000 metric tonnes in the year 2003, to 49,000 metric tonnes in the year 2004. This was mainly as a result of good prices and commencement of production at the West Kano Scheme (WKS) that was not in operation for many years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as maize production is concerned, it witnessed improved markets and price stability, thus availing farmers better profit margins. It is projected that this year, occasioned by that, maize farmers will be able to produce 28 million bags for the long rains, and five million bags for the short rains. This makes a total of 33 million bags of maize.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we witnessed an increase in cotton production, though marginal, from 17,000 metric tonnes to 18,000 metric tonnes in the year 2004.

Despite this enormous success story in the agriculture sector, we are determined to attain the target of 3.1 per cent growth envisaged both in ERF and SRA. In order to achieve this target, stringent measures will be taken to ensure efficiency in service delivery and effective management of public resources. This includes implementation of strategic plans both for the Ministry and various State Corporations that come under the Ministry. In particular, the Ministry, will during the Financial Year 2005/2006, focus on implementation of the following specific activities:

Over the years, the District Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) have remained focal points of rural public extension service delivery. However, due to the diverse nature of districts, some of the challenges have continued to affect public sector extension service delivery. Some of the issues include:

(i) Inadequate resources, especially lack of reliable means of transport such as motor vehicles and other means of communication.

(ii) Inadequate office accommodation for the officers.

(iii) Lack of equipment such as computers.

(iv) Declining number of public sector extension workforce occasioned by natural attrition process and the embargo placed on us by the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other factor is weak linkages with Research and Technology Resources and, of course, inadequate monitoring and evaluation as a result of the factors already stated above.

To ensure these challenges are addressed while keeping to the main goal of improving public sector extension delivery, my Ministry has decided to do the following:

(a) Direct the bulk of funds to the districts to improve the operation of extension service delivery to farmers. In this regard, the Ministry has increased funding for operations and maintenance to districts from Kshs72 million in the Financial Year 2004/2005, to Kshs210 million this financial year. This is an increase of 250 per cent.



(b) We have decided to provide additional funds for training of farmer groups to develop guidelines for the private sector to start participating in extension service provision, side by side with the public sector extension agents. In trying to achieve this, we have made sure that the standards of extension message providers and the quality of the said extensionists must be kept at par with the value they deserve in passing that particular message.

In addition, the Ministry will complete the ongoing review of its national agriculture extension policy to come up with a sector-based policy known as National Agriculture Sector Extension Policy (NASEP). This policy will focus on pluralism in extension service delivery and regulation of extension service providers, among others.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are already aware, the Ministry staff has been decreasing due to Government embargo on recruitment in the Civil Service, coupled with natural attrition processes. Consequently, the current staff-farmer ratio is one staff member to 1,000 farmers, which cannot result in effective extension message delivery to the farmers.

In order to address this problem, the Ministry will employ an additional 340 degree-holders during the Financial Year 2005/2006 and will carry a major staff rationalisation. In addition, effective this year, all extension staff will be provided with uniform for ease of identification by farmers and other stakeholders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cognisant of the fact that the extensionists are not able to provide all the message supposed to be delivered to the farmers, the 27 Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) which are critical in information delivery to farmers will be revitalised. During the year, a total of 247 courses will be conducted in FTCs, bringing together close to 7,000 farmers and staff. In addition, we held workshops to the tune of 176 meetings, which brought above 6,000 participants. To ensure that these FTCs remain relevant to farmers, extension workers and other users, we undertake to rehabilitate all of them, including refurbishing the structures to improve on their utilisation and capacities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry has nine rural technology development centres, and 10 rural technology development units that are mandated to identify mechanisation technologies that meet farmers' needs. However, these centres do not have adequate capacity to perform their roles as we would wish. We would like to equip all the centres, in phases, with a basic production workshop that will facilitate the production of prototypes for purposes of doing their jobs. In addition, we will keep all the stations with training equipment, especially for conservation of agriculture and value addition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, AMF mechanisation stations used to play a very vital role for the purpose of improving various sectors of our economy. In the Ministry, we have 23 AMF stations, distributed in various parts of the country. These stations are expected to play a major role in development of ASAL areas because, currently, the only working plants for the construction of water dams and pumps are in the said places. We have mobilised resources to assist improvement of these AMF stations as indicated in the Budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as policy and legal reforms are concerned, the agriculture sector has more than 100 pieces of legislation governing itself. Most of these have been rendered obsolete following certain policy changes, one of which is liberalised market economies. The review of each individual statute is time consuming and even if this was done at the rate of three per year, we would still need 30 years to complete all of them. In order to address this particular constraint, my Ministry, in collaboration with other policy institutions, the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources and hon. Members of Parliament, is exploring possibilities of consolidating harmonisation of various pieces of legislation, which will address common issues with the aim of reducing the numbers, at the same time avoiding duplication or

ambiguity.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on food security, Kenya is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration made in the year 2002 by Heads of States and Governments, which addresses the need for us to reduce the population suffering from hunger and extreme poverty by half, by the year 2015. In line with that commitment, my Ministry is implementing various programmes with the support of development partners. Some of those programmes include, but not limited to, National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP), Kenya Agriculture Productivity Programme (KAPP), promotion of private sector development in agriculture, Eastern Horticulture and Traditional Food Crops, just to name a few.

The aim of those programmes is to increase agricultural productivity, conservation of resources, improved agricultural extension, strengthening of research and extension linkages and, finally, to increase private sector participation in the sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, this country has had a problem of cotton production. The Government has, this year, demonstrated its commitment by allocating Kshs250 million towards the revival of the cotton sector. That money will go towards the establishment of a restructured cotton board and finance the following activities:-

- (i) Production and bulking of multiplication of certified cotton planting material.
- (ii) Farmer-training and better cotton production technologies and demonstrations.
- (iii) Empowerment of co-operative societies.
- (iv) Facilitating market access.
- (v) Monitoring and use of agro-chemicals and pesticides.
- (vi) General management of the sub-sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as value addition is concerned, in the past, the Ministry has concentrated on service delivery focused, on primary production. We are moving towards improvement of farming to our people by ensuring that there is value addition, so that the incomes of our people are better distributed.

On monetary and evaluation, the institutional changes envisaged in SRA include improvement of governance and management of public resources, transparency and accountability. That is the hallmark of the agricultural sector and we are clearly focused on ensuring that we attain the changes that are desirable.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having provided the highlights on the priority areas for intervention, and in order for my Ministry to realise the planned improvement in various sub-sectors, I now beg to move the Ministry's Vote for the Financial Year 2005/2006 as follows:-

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on Recurrent, Vote R10, I beg to move that a sum of Kshs5,115,004,560 be allocated this Financial Year to finance the following activities:-

- (i) General administration and planning services
- (ii) Policy, legal reviews and regulation of agricultural inputs.
- (iii) Monitoring and management of food security.
- (iv) Facilitation and supply of agricultural extension services.
- (v) Information management, agricultural sector.
- (vi) Protection of natural resources best for agriculture.

On Development Vote, a sum of Kshs3,217,460,997 be allocated this year to finance the following activities:-

- (i) General administration and planning services.
- (ii) Policy monitoring and management of food security.
- (iii) Facilitation of supply, protection of natural resources and information management.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would like to request the House to approve an amount of Kshs8,333,465,334 to meet both the Recurrent and the Development Expenditure of my Ministry for the year ending 30th June, 2006.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Who is seconding?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, Mr. Ndwiga will second the Motion.

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, under SRA, the agriculture sector is poised to make major changes in the industry. Top on their agenda is governance, and the main culprit is the co-operative sector.

I wish, at the outset, to thank this House for having passed the Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill, which will assist in the governance issues in the co-operative sector. The main challenge for farmers has been affordable inputs and farm implements. On that, I would, again, like to thank this House for approving a bank guarantee of Kshs2 billion for the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA). I wish to inform the House that progress has been made and very soon, KFA will be importing inputs and implements.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the year, the dairy sector has improved tremendously and the producer price for milk has increased from Kshs9 to Kshs19. Currently, the main challenge is the quality of the national herd. I can hear one farmer saying "*imeteremka*", but it will go up again. Whatever goes up, comes down. That is the law of nature. The main challenge in the dairy sector is the improvement of the quality of cows. The quality was affected by lack of market for dairy products. But now that Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) has been fully revived, it is now operating undercapacity. It is not receiving enough milk. So, the challenge is for farmers to produce enough milk. At this juncture, I wish to inform the House that the Government has completed the buy-back plan and, as of yesterday---

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

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have very few minutes and this man is---

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

**Mr. Sirma:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to challenge the Secunder of the Motion. Is he moving the Vote for his Ministry? He is talking about co-operative societies, and yet we are talking about agriculture! Could he be relevant?

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you appreciate we have problems in this House. It takes a long time for some people to understand certain things. What is agriculture? I started by saying that we have a programme called SRA, which encompasses all the three Ministries. That is where the Mover of the Motion started.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, under SRA, this is what we want to do. Dairy farming falls under agriculture. I want to inform the House that the Government completed the buy-back programme of Kshs547 million yesterday. The hon. Member would be happy to know that, by next week, we shall pay his farmers, together with other small investors who had invested Kshs57 million into KCC-2000.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, I wish to add my voice in congratulating the Minister for Agriculture for the able manner in which he has run the Ministry. I do not wish to repeat what he said, but we have seen a lot of improvements. Horticultural exports have increased tremendously in the last one year. Under the SRA, we have a lot of focus in that sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House will be happy to also know that in the past one year, the producer price of macadamia nuts has increased from Kshs15 per kilo, to Kshs100 per kilo. This is a feat which has not been achieved in this country, but the NARC Government is on course. We want to move the agricultural sector from being sole exporters of raw materials. The reason why we are having these changes is because we have gone into value addition. Value addition is the concentration we want to embark on very vigorously. We want to move into the other crops like cashewnuts, groundnuts and cotton.

**An hon. Member:** And *miraa*!

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, *miraa* should be banned. Some hon. Member is saying that we should add value [**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing**] to *miraa*, and yet I do not know what he will get out of that. I declare that *miraa* is a drug and it should be banned.

**Mr. Maore:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Seconder of the Motion in order to be reckless and irresponsible by calling for the banning of a cash crop of my people, which is not bound by any law in this country? Secondly, what authority is he citing?

(Laughter)

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in some places, even marijuana is a cash crop and even the hon. Member knows that he cannot go near a *miraa* plant.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Minister, where is marijuana a cash crop if the Chair may be advised?

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Colombia. Where do you think it comes from? It is grown and sold by somebody.

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the major challenge for the agricultural sector is in agri-business. We need to move away from being producers and exporters of raw materials, to being processors. This will not only create jobs in rural Kenya, but it will also increase the incomes of the farmer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I was interrupted, I was saying that focus should now be on value addition for cashewnuts, groundnuts and aloe vera. When we will discuss the Cotton Bill when it comes to this House, I think we need to borrow heavily from what happens in India. We should have cottage industries where we produce cotton.

We are not taking full advantage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We are producing cotton and the farmers wait for the middlemen to rip them off their profits. I propose that we should now focus on moving beyond ginning and into manufacturing and developing the textile industry so that we export finished goods. The problem we have is that most of these hon. Members do not know what is contained in the SRA. I propose that they go and read about SRA

and ERS, and through that, they would know what I am talking about.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the coffee sector has seen a lot of changes in the last one year. The Ministry of Agriculture, jointly with the Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing, set up a task force to look into the Coffee Act. Before I say what amendments we have proposed in the Coffee Act, I wish to say that---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Your time is up!

**The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing** (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Sambu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have been on this Floor long enough. I also want to say a few things about the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. This Ministry's Vote went into the guillotine stage last year, and yet it is a major contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in our nation, major contributor of food to our people, and also creator of employment opportunities. This year, it should not go to the guillotine stage, but it should be discussed in detail.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, when the Minister responds, I would like him to clarify something. When I look into this book, the total Recurrent Vote is Kshs4.5 billion, and yet he has said earlier that the Recurrent Vote is Kshs5 billion. He should clarify this issue so that we know where he got the total of Kshs8 billion because, apparently, the Printed Estimates do not agree with the smaller books which were given out later.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what SRA means. What would that small-scale farmer know about SRA? We have failed because of such policies. We vote in a lot of money and hold conferences in big hotels, but the coffee farmer does not benefit. I am saddened in saying that I was a District Co-operative Officer in Murang'a and the coffee was green, but nowadays it is yellow and yet a plant which is photosynthesising is supposed to be green. It is only during the rainy season when its seeds are ripening that its leaves start turning colour. It is because of policies like these which we preach about in Nairobi, but they do not reach the ground, that the farmers do not know what goes on. I want to say that we have to change our approach. Our approach is not right and top-heavy. We do not see the agricultural officers on the ground.

Therefore, I would like to talk on the major areas. As I have said, if we have to improve the agricultural sector of this country, then we have to get to the farmer. As I said earlier, this Ministry provides food, besides other things. Farmers in Mosop or Nandi in general do not even know what this SRA is. So, if we are saying that *njaa* is *marufuku*, I am giving a warning that *njaa* will be *rafiki* because we are not doing enough to eliminate it.

If we do not do enough to eliminate it, then it means that it is becoming symbiotic; I was taught in biology that symbiosis is something which you can co-exist with. So, it means that we have to co-exist with *njaa* and then we shall be feeding people in other regions with food when they join the queues. Even colonialists did not do that; they did not give free food! That was so rare and even in the pastoralist areas when the drought was very severe, they would make sure that livestock is protected, given proper marketing to the Kenya Meat Commission and the people would buy their own food.

So, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have to change our approach. I want to make my comments on sector by sector, and I want to start with cotton. I am happy to hear them saying that they will put in several hundred million shillings to revive the cotton industry, but I want to

warn about some experiences. If we are going to use the Cotton Board of Kenya, then we are doomed to fail because these boards are composed of people who do not do the actual cultivation. But, at least, the directors of the Kenya Sugar Board are better because they are elected. The reason which killed the previous cotton board was that, the people who headed it then were not cotton farmers.

Therefore, let us revive the cotton industry because of several reasons; namely, one, cotton is a major employer because it is a labour-intensive crop and there are many areas in Kenya where it can grow very well under natural conditions without irrigation. When the cotton industry was active, for example, in areas like Malaba Malakisi and Luanda of Western Kenya, they were big employers of the people around those towns. But today, go to Malaba Malakisi; it is a ghost town! It is a dead town! My friend is telling me that it is in his constituency, but it is sad because they got the support from the Co-operative Bank but the money was---

I am against a board composed of people who do not have direct interest in cotton. If we must, let us have the cotton board composed of people who are elected by cotton farmers. The Public Investments Committee should ban those political appointments of grey-haired old men who go and sit in big hotels, claim their allowances and go home, because they are a total waste of farmers' money.

We want to revive the cotton industry because there is a market for cotton in the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) initiative and elsewhere. Therefore, let us support the farmers by direct extension services. The money which the Minister has said is available should go to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), and I would like the Minister to hear this; although it is the Assistant Minister who is present here, the Minister should let that money go to the AFC and be lent to the cotton farmers directly. Let the people in the cotton-growing areas put up their own ginneries; let the Government finance the construction or the re-construction of the ginneries which were sold, because other ginneries were privatized. Let farmers form co-operative societies now and encourage large-scale farmers to build their own ginneries.

Let us not ignore cotton from the irrigation areas. For example, Egypt is one of the largest producers of cotton using water from our lake, while our people are being told that they have to protect the water catchment areas; protect them for what? For the Egyptians to gain? What do we gain from it? What do I gain in protecting the forests for the Egyptians to cultivate there, simply because of an agreement which they are threatening us with? I am saying this without fear or---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Sambu! Please, address the Chair; will you?

**Mr. Sambu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You know, we get emotional over this issue because I have nothing to do with Egyptians---

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs** (Mr. Wetangula): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Sambu! What is it, Mr. Wetangula?

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the hon. Shadow Minister for Agriculture to speak derogatorily about protection of the environment by saying that it protects the Egyptians, when he knows very well that the protection of the environment in this country is for the benefit of Kenyans?

**Mr. Sambu:** That is not a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir! I know what a point of order is, if he does not know. We are saying that we want to protect the environment for the benefit of our people and not because we have an agreement hanging over our necks, and which was signed in 1922 by the British colonial Government and some Egyptians!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to revive the cotton industry because cotton has many uses, as I have said earlier. Once you do the ginning, you get lint and other by-products. For example, when you press the seeds, you can get oil, which has many purposes; for use in making detergents and soaps, and it is even edible if need be!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we used to have some edible oil made from cotton seeds, and the cotton cake, which is a good livestock feed. So, let us revive the cotton industry by dealing directly with cotton farmers, by providing direct extension services, direct financing through the AFC, and through the empowerment of black Kenyans, not red Kenyans to build ginneries. We have seen the industries which have been built by those people. Are they still there? I know of about three of them which have closed down in Eldoret and they have run away with money. Another factory in that town is in the process of going down the line; I have read about that in the newspapers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) is getting a big chunk of the Ministry's allocation, but what research are they doing? We do not get any new results; we do not see any new varieties of crops and we do not see them getting to the farmers. Why can they not get a programme in the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) and, if need be, also talk to those other stations like *Inooro* and *Kiss FM*? Let them talk to the farmers in their language and tell them about the new variety of maize.

I would like to comment about the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA). Horticulture and floriculture is a big employer and, in fact, when this Government says that it has employed 500,000 people, it is very difficult to believe them because they are living in a dream world. Horticulture and floriculture has employed about 100,000 people, and you can see them in farms in Naivasha and other areas. But where are the 500,000 jobs? We should work hard on horticulture; we should get the HCDA to move into new areas and open new branches, for example in Western Kenya, the North Rift, Coast, and in the dry areas which other horticultural crops can be produced under irrigation. But the HCDA has just decided to remain dormant and go only to the good areas which they are used to, and the areas near Nairobi. It is also more sad because they have even put up buildings on the Nairobi-Nakuru Road, near Limuru, where they have put up a big factory which is lying idle now for three years! Those are public funds, like the ones you are going to vote for today.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want the HCDA to open a branch in Bungoma and tell the people there to plant chillies for export; I want them to open a branch in Kakamega and tell the people there, who have very small farms, to grow something for export! I want them to open an office in Eldoret so that the farmers from the North Rift can produce horticulture for export. I want them to open a branch in Coast Province. Why are they just sticking around Nairobi? Some of the people around Nairobi are large-scale farmers---

If all Kenyans produced some horticultural products, and there is a big demand for those products all over the world, why do we not produce more of those products and employ more people? That farming would employ many farmers and their families. Although the Government does not allow child labour, some of us worked when we were young and we did not die. Even now, children have to weed in farms. We even see children helping their mothers in Kariobangi Estate. So, I would like the HCDA to provide facilities outside Nairobi.

Under Head 229, the Agricultural Technology Development and Testing Stations, a sum of Kshs44 million has been allocated. What do these officers do? We have seen farmers being sold fake seeds. Some fellows in Eldoret came up with a machine for mixing seeds with some colouring, purporting it to be an insecticide. They sold those seeds to innocent farmers. Again, when people in Ukambani died because they were sold food which was contaminated with aflatoxin, where were

these officers? Aflatoxin is an infestation. It is not a contamination. Aflatoxin grows in the endosperm of maize and comes out. Its powder is poisonous. It is a mould. So, where were these officers who have now been allocated Kshs44 million, when people in Ukambani died after consuming food contaminated with aflatoxin?

We have to justify every shilling now. The current Government blames the previous KANU regime for various ills bedeviling this country, and it promised to correct them. So, why can they not correct this? We want to be told where these officers were when people died in Ukambani. Why did they not test the food and say: "No, this food is contaminated with aflatoxin and, therefore, it is not good for human consumption."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister says he will revive the Farmers Training Centres (FTCs). This is very sad because these centres are still there. When you visit Kaimosi FTC, for example, you will find the manager looking after cattle and plucking tea. What is happening to the money? How many field days do they hold? When the KANU Government was in power, there were field days. I remember seeing Bungoma FTC bus ferrying farmers to the FTC. It is a pity that most of them collapsed as far as dissemination of information to the farmers is concerned. The Ministry has to crack the whip. The officers have to sign performance contracts. They have to show how many farmers they visit in a year. In addition, they should tell us whether, when they visited, for example, farmers in Bungoma, Kaimosi or any other place, there was a change in their farming styles. Did they improve? If they did not, then what is the principal of, for example, Bungoma FTC doing in the office? He should be sacked.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was young, we would visit the Baraton FTC to be shown how to make supplementary livestock feeds. We were taught what to feed to a cow when it was lactating and what to feed to a calf. But these days, farmers do not even know what to mix with maize stocks to feed to the livestock. Instead of using molasses to make livestock feeds, we are using them to make *chang'aa* which kills our people. This is one of the things that we must be looking at. So, FTCs must be revived, but officers sign performance contracts. Otherwise, they will not perform. They will just be there knowing that neither the Minister nor the Permanent Secretary will ever visit them to find out how they are performing. In fact, the Permanent Secretary is the person who is supposed to oversee them and ensure that they are performing. I am saying this from experience. I have never seen farmers in my area visited by officers from FTC.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Provincial Agricultural Extension Services (PAES) has been allocated Kshs97.6 million. This is sad because, first of all, the District Extension Officers are not even seen in the fields. So, why should we allocate them Kshs97.6 million? In fact, I would urge the Government to let the PAES go home. We want all officers posted to the district and locational levels, so that they visit farmers and provide them with the necessary services. Of what use is a PAES in Nakuru Town to a farmer in Nandi District? Of what use is a PAES in Kakamega to a farmer in Teso District? Let us be practical. Let us have more officers near farmers. Let us have them at the district officers' offices, so that farmers can monitor their movements. Let them also be on performance contracts. Let them carry a book whenever they visit farmers and indicate in the book the progress made by farmers.

**The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources** (Mr. Kamama): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Sambu:** I do not want the information because--- Okay! Okay!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Which is which, Mr. Sambu? Do you want it or not?

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree.

**The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources** (Mr. Kamama): Mr.



Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to inform the hon. Member that these days we do not have PAES. We have Provincial Directors of Agriculture and Livestock Extension (PDALEs).

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that even makes it worse! This is because that amounts to dragging a dead donkey that is already idle. You are adding more responsibilities, monies and vehicles to them!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Use the information by the hon. Assistant Minister because you asked for it!

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am using it. It is very good, but the Government should know that it is just adding titles to them so that they may go on bragging and doing nothing. It amounts to only increasing their pay. So, let us decentralise these offices to both district and divisional levels. When there is an outbreak of a disease like foot and mouth, these days, the veterinary officers are for hire. If you report a case to him, he says: "Wait a little bit. I will come and take care of it." He knows very well that foot and mouth disease has no cure. He will even charge a farmer for treating his animal. When you go and complain to the District Officer, he does not know what foot and mouth disease is all about. He only knows how to go and arrest *chang'aa* brewers. So, let us decentralise these services.

Since we may not have a chance to discuss the Vote on the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, let us have Government Livestock Officers stationed at the district and divisional levels. Leaving all of them for hire, our livestock farmers are getting conned. They even inject our animals with water. They claim it is East Coast Fever (ECF) that they are treating. We all know that ECF has no cure, but still, the officer will charge the farmer Kshs300 for that injection. The officer knows very well that the prevention should have been proper tick control.

Tick control is failing because the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development is insisting on controlling what type of acaricide is to be used. In Nandi District, nowadays they insist that you have to use Almatix and yet the ticks have already developed resistance to it. Under what law are the farmers buying the acaricides with their own money? If this is because of the Cattle Cleansing Act, then by all means, you should bring it to the House so that we can repeal it. Some of our laws are totally outdated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Provincial Vote should be reduced. On Head 639 for the districts, let us keep the performance contracts to agricultural officers in the district and in the division. There is Head 254 on Information Management for Agricultural Sector and the Head on Agri-business Market Development Agricultural Information Services. I am sure even the Chair is perplexed, because where will they get Kshs45.6 million? What is it for?

If we want "*Njaa marufuku*" instead of "*Njaa Marafiki*" situation, we should strive to improve the living standards of our farmers. Up to now, farmers in the North Rift who delivered their maize in January, February and March have not been paid for their maize. Despite that, farmers in South Africa have been paid by this Government, through maize imports from South Africa. In South Africa the market is flooded with maize. The price of a 90 kilogramme bag of maize in South Africa costs Kshs600. We are importing maize and yet we are not even paying our own farmers in the maize producing areas.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am rising on a point of order to correct a very erroneous statement made by my colleague. This year, this Government has not imported any single grain of maize from any part of the world. In fact, we have paid farmers Kshs4.8 billion. I do admit that we are yet to pay them Kshs1.2 billion which we will pay during this week. The information given by the hon. Member is erroneous. Nobody has imported maize this year!

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me thank the Minister for admitting

that Kshs1.2 billion has not been paid to the farmers. This is a disaster to farmers from Uasin Gishu and Nandi districts. I know many people who have not planted maize this season. My own neighbour has not planted wheat. Whenever I am in town he follows me and says: Please take me to the---. I usually tell him that I do not know where to take them since this is NARC Government and not the KANU Government. He should ask for the Kshs1.2 billion from the NARC Government. The Kshs1.2 billion is not little money. The Minister for Special Programmes said that they were going to get the maize from Mombasa Port. So, if the maize was imported last year, then our experts should have foreseen how many bags we will get this year. Let us pay our farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the Government to liberalise coffee marketing. Farmers should be allowed to mill their own coffee, get buyers and pay duty to the Government. I know of a licensed coffee farmer from Nandi District who is a licensed farmer with his own pulping. This farmer's coffee was bulked together with coffee from Taita Taveta District, whereas coffee is sold on the basis of taste. Coffee from the highlands cannot have the same taste as that from Taita Taveta District. Coffee from Murang'a does not taste the same as that from Mt. Elgon.

We want farmers to be able to mill their coffee and sell it. Why should we force farmers to kneel before the KPCU to have their coffee milled? This law is discriminatory. It may have been put in place by the other Government, but please, correct it. Why is the Government allowing SOCFINAF or Thika Coffee Mills to mill coffee? Are they greater than the Kenyan farmer?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that there are amendments and a Sessional Paper on the sugarcane industry which are coming to this House. We shall look at them when they come. I would like to plead with the Minister that these laws which are inhibiting the freedom of the farmers be repealed. Let us repeal outdated laws because we cannot farm under regulations. We should farm under freedom.

**The Assistant Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. J. Nyagah):** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to start by thanking the Minister for a job well done. I would like to thank him because the Shadow Minister for Agriculture has a long way to catch up with the substantive Minister who has presented the budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the most important sector of our economy at the moment. I know people in other industries would like to think that theirs are the most important, but for the time being, agriculture is the number one sector. It is very important that when a budget is presented, we address it seriously and assist the Minister in running the Ministry so that the Government and the people of Kenya can reap maximum benefits.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the saddest things that I see is the percentage of the national Budget that goes to the agricultural sector is very small. In the old days, agriculture used to form close to 15 per cent of the national Budget. Today, it is very low. I know that institutions such as NEPAD have encouraged Ministers of Finance to raise the percentages to high levels so that our people can benefit from a bigger budget. I hope that the Minister for Finance will be encouraged next year to allocate more funds to the Ministry of Agriculture so that it can continue to do a better job.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is also critical, not only because it is a major employer, but from a food security point of view. A nation that cannot feed its people cannot call itself a nation. We have been very proud as a nation that we have been able to feed our people. I would encourage the Ministry to continue ensuring that we feed our people. That is the only dignity that our people have. When you are fed by outsiders, your dignity collapses. I encourage the Minister to continue guaranteeing our food security, so that our people can walk tall because they feed themselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the field of research, I see substantial amounts of money going to KARI. I know it is an important institution, but I think there is still a gap between research and the farmer. I know efforts are being made to reduce that gap, but it is important for us to continuously ensure that the gap between the research outcome and the farmer is reduced. That is the only way our farmers will continue to benefit from the good work that our scientists of international reputation are undertaking at institutions like the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI).

When I had the honour of being an Assistant Minister for Agriculture, I visited Teso District in Western Province where palm oil was being grown. This is a crop that has made countries like Malaysia become very wealthy. We also have the potential to exploit the market in new crops like palm oil and groundnuts. I am happy to note that the Ministry is now looking at items that were in the past ignored. For too long, we have concentrated on maize, coffee and tea. I am happy to see that there is now emphasis outside the original basic agricultural products. That will encourage more farmers to grow the various crops. I am happy to see the value-addition that has been put in our produce. We must compliment the Government for it. The value-addition initiative that has been undertaken is important, as we join other international trade organisations. It is important for us to compete not only at the local level, but at the value-added level, so that our farmers and this country can earn more foreign exchange.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a semi-arid area. When I was a young man, cotton was the main cash crop in that area. We knew no other cash crop apart from cotton. I am happy to see that, for the first time in a very long time, some money has been set aside for the development of cotton. I only wish that the amount set aside for that purpose was increased to Kshs1 billion instead of the Kshs250 million. The potential for cotton growing in this country is so high because the bulk of this country's land is semi-arid and can produce cotton. May I encourage the Ministry to negotiate with the Treasury, so that next year, Kshs1 billion can be provided for this purpose. The outcome of Kshs1 billion will be very enormous to farmers who come from places whose climate is similar to where I come from.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have all been told, and we have seen, that horticultural products have become even more important than they were in the past. I would like to encourage the Ministry to continue with the expansion that is taking place in this sector. I would like to thank the Ministry for having prepared Kenyans very well. I know that a few years ago, there was the danger that the European market would be closed to us. I am happy to see that our horticultural products are being accepted in the European market and that they will continue to be accepted. So, I would like to thank the Ministry for having prepared our farmers. We are now able to see our products enter the European market without any problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what happened to traditional foodstuffs. As I grew up, basic foodstuffs consisted of millet, sorghum, *et cetera*. These are commodities whose production we must continue to encourage. We face famine partly because our eating habits have changed substantially. It is not realistic for us to expect the entire nation to be fed on maize, when in this country, it is grown in a very small section. We must continue to encourage our farmers to grow millet, sorghum and other traditional foods which we knew when we were growing up. It should not be difficult for us to produce these commodities. A bag of sorghum is sold at Kshs3,000, while that of maize is sold for Kshs1,600. All we need to do is encourage farmers to grow sorghum. I do not know how we are going to do this, but maybe the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) could have a department to specifically deal with such agricultural produce so that our farmers can produce them. This could encourage us to change our eating habits.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the mechanised section in the Ministry of

Agriculture which has tractors and other machinery in the field. That section needs to be given more resources. In my constituency, we have such a section. However, most of the tractors are grounded most of the time. There is a DC-8 tractor which has been grounded for the last seven months. I tried to revive it using the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) when I wanted to give them a contract to construct 25 dams, but they were unable to take up the job because they are not well-equipped, and therefore, unable to perform. This is an important area, which we should provide with more resources from the CDF. I would, therefore, encourage the Minister to find a way of funding this section.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unlike in the past, sufficient financial resources are now being channelled to the constituency level. These resources can be used by this department to benefit our constituents and the Ministry. The money and the department are in place, but the only problem is that the Ministry does not have enough equipment. I would like to urge the Ministry to buy more equipment. I know that there has been an attempt by the Ministry to buy a few more equipment, but we should invest much more money in that area. That is the only solution to this problem. As I said, we now have more resources at the constituency level, which we can use.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that irrigation is not under this Ministry but the two are related. I appreciate what is happening in the irrigation sector. I would like the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to take to Bura Irrigation Scheme and elsewhere, the initiative that is being undertaken in the Kano plains. That way, we can produce more crops through irrigation and compete with Sudan, Egypt and other countries. That is the only way we can make progress, because much of this country's land is semi-arid and requires water for irrigation. The Ministries should work closely in order to help us.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Rotino:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

I would like to thank the Minister for moving the Motion very well and giving us his Ministry's foresight. I would like to congratulate him for what he is doing, having come a long way. Having listened to him move debate on this budget, it gave me hope that, at least, the Ministry this time round, with a Minister who comes from an agricultural area, is concerned with farmers' interests.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will speak on a few areas, one of which is the credit schemes. As you know, we speak of agriculture as the backbone of our economy and, indeed, it is. However, I do not think we are giving enough attention to the poor farmers. As hon. Members of Parliament, we are, in one way or the other, farmers. We grow crops and keep livestock, but we are not really concerned about the credit system that was previously in place. We used to have guarantee schemes. Due to recurrent drought, the performance of the agricultural sector in this country is unpredictable because of the ever changing rain pattern. So, we should be able to take care of our farmers.

Imagine that you are a farmer with about 100 acres of land, and you have put all your investment in that land. In case of crop failure, how would such a farmer survive if there is no security for him? The Ministry should come up with proper policies. As the Minister said, we have a lot of *ad hoc* legislations. In conjunction with the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, he should be able to speedily consolidate these piecemeal legislations. We have been talking about this, year in, year out. We should now move fast enough to take care of our farmers' interests. The Ministry should come up with proper guidelines on how to assist our farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have all along been speaking about agricultural inputs. Every hon. Member who stands up to contribute on any debate with regard to the

agricultural sector talks about inputs. We know very well that our farmers are really suffering as far as the pricing of agricultural inputs is concerned. For instance, last year, maize was being bought at Kshs1,500 per bag. There is talk doing the rounds, even within the NCPB, that the price of maize might fall. Maize farmers are suffering. We know the costs of the inputs that the farmers incur. In all developed countries, when a farmer plants any crop, he is sure of the market price of that commodity.

Could the Minister move a step further to assure farmers that if they grow maize, they will sell it at a certain price? Maize farmers are now at the mercy of big traders and the NCPB. I would, therefore, encourage the Ministry to stabilise the prices of maize and related inputs through the NCPB. This year, the NCPB was able to buy a certain amount of fertiliser. But they did not have enough money to buy enough fertiliser to stabilise the prices. Our farmers are now subjected to traders who are hungry for money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Shadow Minister for Agriculture spoke about the plight of our farmers. The Minister has rightly said that he is going to pay farmers this year. Let it be this week!

*(Applause)*

Please, kindly, Mr. Minister, let it be this week! Imagine from February this year, farmers have not been paid. They depend on that money to pay schools fees and top-dress their crops. Right now, many farmers--- It is very dry! Trans Nzoia District is very dry and the Minister comes from there. Some of the crops are not very good, despite the good rains in the area. They were not top-dressed. Top-dressing was not done at the right time. You know that farmers are supposed to do timely top-dressing, apply the right fertilisers and use the right seeds. Please, let them be paid this week.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, even pyrethrum farmers have not been paid for the crop they delivered in the year 2002/2003. We grow pyrethrum in West Pokot. The Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK) paid for deliveries made in 2004 and left out the other years. Why was that done? Let the farmers be encouraged to grow crops by paying them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the extension services, it is a well known fact that the infrastructure within the divisions--- in my division in Sigor Constituency, buildings which were put up for extension services are not there. During the Madaraka Day celebrations, the divisional heads of departments were not even there. They ask: "How can I stay here without infrastructure or office?"

I have seen money allocated for extension services. They have allocated Kshs3.4 million to West Pokot. That amount is very little. There is a lot of work which has not been done for many years. We need a lot of money to put up the facility. We should start in one division and move gradually to other divisions. Mr. Minister, do you know how extension officers looked like at Independence? They had good uniforms and moved from farm to farm advising farmers. Today, they are not there. You may help by giving us those facilities. It is one thing to post them to stations, and another to give them facilities to do their work. Give them facilities and ensure they sign performance contracts. That way, you will monitor them and know whether they are working.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about the Board of Directors. My constituency, West Pokot, produces the best pyrethrum with the highest pyrethrin content and yet, since time immemorial, we have never had a member of the board. We grow the crop and farmers from that earn about Kshs128 million per year. But no Pokot has ever been a member of the board. No Pokot is in the board of Kerio Valley Development Authority and it falls under our jurisdiction.

**An hon. Members:** Mtapewa zote!

**Mr. Rotino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why not? We are Kenyans! We have qualified people.

**An hon. Member:** Kama wewe!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Rotino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking with a lot of sympathy! Do not laugh about it! We are Kenyans and I am very bitter. We produce maize to the tune of 600,000 bags per year and yet, we are not in the decision-making Board of National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). We are not even represented in any of the horticultural boards. In my constituency, we have one of the most successful irrigation schemes and yet, we are not represented in the National Irrigation Board. Why not? We are Kenyans. Mr. Minister, you are our neighbours! Please, give us those things now.

*(Laughter)*

The Minister is my neighbour! He should be able to give me that position.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked about *Njaa Marufuku*. But the amount that has been allocated for that initiative is very little. You have given us Kshs8 million. But you have also given money to districts which do not fall in the category of *Njaa Marufuku*. Those districts have been given more money than some of our districts which are perennially in problems. You should be able to look at that and rectify it.

I would like to talk about cotton. It is good that there is cotton development now. We have spoken and agreed that cotton has been there and it has helped us. That is an area where we can put our extension services to test. I do not think sufficient money has been allocated for cotton farming. I would like to encourage the Minister to improve on that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to end my contribution by saying that Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) has to do more. KARI has a branch in West Pokot and the Minister knows about it. The procedure of recruiting coordinators for KARI schemes was faulty. We were not represented and yet, we are qualified. We have gone to school now. This is not the time that people thought we do not go school. We have gone to school and, if anything, we should be given the first priority. You have not recruited a Pokot in those KARI schemes. You should recruit a Pokot, even if he or she is a driver!

With those few remarks, I want to support the Motion and congratulate the Minister.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula):** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Vote. I support the Vote and have a few things to say about it.

Just before I forget, I would like the Minister, when he comes to reply, to tell us what, in Head 237, Sub-head 098 - an item called Domestic Loans to Individuals and H/Holds (Co-operative Bank - Kshs35.7 million. That seems to be under a description of Eastern Province Horticulture and Traditional Food Crops Headquarters. What is that payment for? If it is a payment of domestic loans to individuals and households, why is it not spread all over the country? Why does it appear in only one area in the whole country? That is an inequity that I would urge the Minister to address.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to start by a word of caution to the Minister, the Ministry and, particularly, KARI. There seems to an excitement about Genetically Modified (GM) foods. All over the world, there is worry and concern about GM foods. I have been hearing some disturbing statements from KARI, about the introduction of GM foods in Kenya. I know that Capt.

Nakitare, who is very emotional about GM foods, has brought a Motion before this House. But I want to say that the effects and side-effects of GM foods are still under debate all over the world. I would like to urge this Parliament to resist any attempt to sneak GM foods into this country.

*(Applause)*

Our horticultural products are marketed primarily in the European Union (EU) market. The EU market does not, under any circumstances, accept GM crops. In fact, the EU is at logger-heads with the USA over GM foods because of exactly what I have said. I would want the Minister to move with extreme caution as we excitedly speak about GM foods. They may produce quantity, but we must look at the side effects. The Government should emphasise traditional crops like sorghum, millet, cassava; crops that are hardy and can withstand any rough weather conditions. These are crops that we have all grown through and have withstood the test of time and the vagaries of weather.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, looking at the Vote and the speech of the Minister, there is a very good concept called Strategy for Revitalisation of Agriculture. The details given therein are very impressive. I just hope that in implementing this strategy, we are going to spread the benefits evenly and equitably across the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a constituency that grows cotton. Indeed, as the Shadow Minister for Agriculture was talking about Malaba-Malakisi, one of the oldest ginneries in this Republic is in my constituency. It is long dead. The growth of cotton in my area is long dead. I want to salute the Government because for the first time in 20 years, they have allocated money to the cotton industry to the tune of Kshs250 million. But looking at the details, they have picked out districts starting with Busia, Makueni, Rachuonyo and others, and completely left out Bungoma as one of the districts to be considered. In fact, Kshs4 million is nothing.

There is a pilot programme that he has listed where he has excluded Bungoma District, yet this is the district that was pioneer in the growth of cotton. We do not want a lot. We want quality seeds, affordable input, proper marketing structures and so on. I want to urge the Minister to see whether before we approve his Budget, he can juggle figures and throw something weighty to my district.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is something that has also been talked about here; the issue of affordability of inputs. Our agriculture is dependent on imported fertilisers. We all know that on the international market, fertilisers are not terribly expensive. I spoke on the Vote of this Ministry last year and I urged the Minister to transform Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) into a farmers bank, and be given the responsibility of giving credit cushion to organisations like Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) and indigenous business people who are not driven by the desire to earn obscene profits, like the many business people we know, so that they could be able to import fertilisers and other inputs and market them to the farmers at affordable prices.

Indeed, you will recall that recently, we passed a Paper here where we wrote off an outstanding debt of KFA to the tune of Kshs4 billion. The Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, together with the Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing should now use KFA as we revitalise it, to be the major tool for getting outreach to farmers in terms of supplies of inputs, particularly fertilisers. Until and unless the inputs are affordable, the farmers will not afford farming.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, half of my constituency and, indeed, Bungoma District, Kakamega and other areas of Western Province, grow sugar-cane. There is no crop in this country that is as taxed as sugar-cane. When farmers growing sugar-cane eventually get the reward

of their sweat, 64 per cent of the income is creamed off by various taxes. Some go to moribund organisations called outgrowers organisations, others go to Sugar Development Levy, VAT, and so on. Sugar-cane is the only crop that is charged VAT. When you compare the taxes levied on sugar and sugar-cane with the taxes levied on tea or coffee, you wonder whether there has been a deliberate attempt to undermine the sugar-cane farmer. I know the Minister does not decide the issue of taxes. But I want to urge him to liaise with his colleague at the Treasury to remove this heavy load of taxes on the sugar-cane farmers so that they can also realise the profits of their works. Indeed, most industrial crops are not taxed, and sugar-cane is an industrial crop. Why should it be singled out for taxation?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the issue of value addition. Most of the farmers do not earn good income from their crops because there is no value addition. I think the Ministry should take the lead in providing an enabling framework, legal and financial, for the farmers either individually or through co-operatives, to do value addition to their crops so that they can earn better income.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, out there in the field, there is hardly any extension officer in any sector that you can talk about. If you go to Bungoma, the extension officer in agriculture is busy keeping cattle. The extension officer in crops is busy leasing land and growing maize.

The extension officer in every field is exploiting the locals using their superior knowledge. The Minister should take stock of what his extension officers do. If they are unable to do the work they were employed to do, we would rather pass back the responsibility to the constituencies so that we recruit extension officers who can give service to our people.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Maore:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about this Vote.

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

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]*

At the outset, while I support the Vote, I want to draw an alarm bell to the Minister that tomorrow, he is going to have a problem in explaining why the headquarters needs big money for activities that are supposed to be for the districts and provinces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a good example is the one for Eastern Province; horticulture and traditional food crops. The entire money has been voted to the headquarters. Now, you wonder which headquarters in Eastern Province or Kilimo House needs the Kshs224 million. A quick reflection tells me that this is the kind of money that is usually diverted to other secret places or programmes, because they do not want to specify where they are going to use that money. If you also look at cotton, you will see that Kshs120 million is being allocated to the headquarters. You wonder how many farms are around Kilimo House that would absorb that money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to raise the issue of agriculture being the mainstay of our economy, and the fact that we are faced with the issue that hon. Wetangula has raised; the story of GM foods. We are threatened with extinction like the dinosaurs. You refuse to adopt and you just go into extinction. The traditional foods and their value were able to match the population growth rate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of the world 1,000 years ago, which was growing traditionally, could be fed on organic foods. I am ashamed to see hungry people or emaciated



children in Niger, Kenya or Ethiopia. We should go for the appropriate technology that can be adopted to ascertain their source of information and safety, so that we can have enough food to feed a population that is no longer growing traditionally. You know very well that in old days there were no antibiotics or vaccination. For example, my grandmother had seven children, but only one survived. Many people during that era used to die just like that. When we talk of the genetically modified foods, let us keep emotions aside and put the facts on the table. My only concern is that the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI) has just been releasing small doses on the genetically modified foods, instead of putting the facts on the table and feeding the people. I do not know where you can get foods that are not genetically modified. If you go to supermarkets, you will find imported maize and canned meat, which are all genetically modified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about food insecurity. We need to use the early warning systems appropriately. You do not take the early warning systems the same way a goat would respond to the vibrations of a guitar when you play the guitar. It has no use for it. That is how this Government is behaving. Whenever there is a food shortage, usually nine or six months earlier, we get information that we are going to have a shortfall of, for example, three million bags of maize. After the disaster has already struck, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Treasury and the Ministry of Special Programmes engage in some kind of a dance. You wonder whether all these Ministries have anything to do with food. In the process, we have a national disaster although nine months earlier on we knew that there would be a food shortfall. To import a ship of maize, for example, from South Africa, it takes a month. Why can we not behave like those countries in the Middle East or our neighbours in Sudan and Egypt, who never get enough rainfall, but, at least, they budget for food. They are able to know what they will need and so, they organise how to import staple foods, for example, rice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Kenya, we are worried about who is in control; whether it is the Treasury, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), the Ministry of Agriculture or the Office of the President. Out of that confusion, we are exposed to a lot of shame because our people die of hunger when they should not be dying if we were able to import food on time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue that we need to handle is the land policy that is said to be in the pipeline. This pipeline may never reach where we are because we have been hearing that story since 1994 when we had another land policy that was shelved after it had almost matured. The issue of destroying the agricultural land to create room for human settlements in the name of sub-divisions is a policy that we need to address. If you go to some parts of this country, you will find that the most productive areas, especially in the valleys, are the ones that people want to sub-divide among their sons and then their grand sons. In the process, the entire land that is supposed to take care of a community is destroyed by sub-divisions. We need not to worry about the message coming from the Minister for Lands and Housing that he will not allow sub-divisions of small plots of land. Let us close our eyes to the messenger because I know that he is not very popular either here or outside. We should be worried about the contents of what he says. We need to preserve agricultural land for agriculture and make sure that it is protected from reckless sub-divisions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am one of the people who have been doubting about the veracity of the statistics that were given by the Ministry of Planning and National Development that the economy had grown at 4.3 per cent. We know that the agricultural sector has been doing very badly. You cannot blame our people because we are still in the era where we look at the sun and the clouds and hope that the rain makers will make rain. Instead of using scientific methods, we are still living in the dark ages. With regard to policies and good programmes, we are still saying that they are in the pipeline. Although we hear about the strategy for revitalising agriculture, these policies may not be put into use immediately. We want these policies to be articulated as quickly as possible. This

involves making quick decisions so that we do not go hungry when the weather misbehaves. We should make sure that we do not look unto the rain makers to know whether there will be adequate rainfall or not. I have heard very many Kenyans insisting that when you hear the Meteorological Department warning that there will be a shortfall, that is the time you should plant more because the department is not able to predict properly. They are not better than the villagers whom they are supposed to help with the right information. Through the Ministry of Agriculture, we should be able to measure the success or failure of this Government.

One of the strongest points that the Minister used to eloquently articulate when he was a Back-bencher is on how the prices of fertilizers were destroying the farmers. There are dynamics that he needs to explain further, maybe, when he is replying. He should tell us what has happened. What does he intend to do to bring the cost of fertilizers below the cost that was level when he took office? That way, we will know that there is a difference between talking about a political slogan and a reality.

The Ministry of Agriculture should emphasise on results and the performance contract that is being talked about, especially as far as the agricultural extension services are concerned. The facts have been enumerated by the previous speaker. We cannot witness or give evidence that extension officers are working on the ground. Instead of doing their work, they are stealing from the public. They cook up reports in their note books and say that they have been visiting the farmers. They visit nobody! They do their own businesses.

With those few remarks, I support.

**Ms. Mbarire:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote. I support the Motion. From the outset, I wish to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture and his team for the work they are doing. However, I wish to make some few remarks on what I think needs to be done.

Just like my colleagues have said, a lot of work still needs to be done in the area of research and technology. KARI is not doing enough. The resources that have been allocated to KARI are not adequate to enable the institution to do its work. I do not know how KARI passes on the new technology that it comes up with to the farmers. I would like to link this with the extension support services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have loved farming since I was a little girl. But I have never seen an extension worker coming to visit our farm to give us information that would be useful in improving crops in our farm. Right now, I have my small farm and the situation is worse because I have not seen anyone coming to advise me on how to embrace new farming technology or give me advice on what plants to grow. One would ask where the extension officers are. What support are they given by the Government to ensure that they reach out to as many farmers as possible? I want to support a colleague who said that these officers should have a book where farmers sign after meeting them, so that we can know what work they are doing.

An important issue is that when extension officers meet farmers in *barazas*, they tend to reach out to the male farmers, yet we know that 80 per cent of the agricultural work is done by women. So, if we want to make an impact in terms of crop development and farming methodologies on the ground, we need to reach out to women and improve their skills so that they can do better. I am concerned about this issue because in my home area in Embu, women are the ones who pick coffee, tea, grow food crops and take care of the dairy animals, yet at the end of the month, the person who gets the pay-cheque is the man. I am wondering what the Ministry can do to plough back the returns to the woman. Now that we are about to get a new Constitution, we hope that women will be given an opportunity to get returns for their products at an equal level with their male partners, since they will have a chance to own and co-own marital property.

I further want to contribute on the issue of horticultural farming. This is becoming the alternative cash crop in many parts of this country. We know that there is the issue of Europe gap which has come up, where the European Union (EU) is giving certain conditionalities on the levels of health in terms of the food we produce and export to its market. Some of these conditions are stringent in terms of the chemicals and health facilities we use and operate in when we package the food we export to the Union. This is really a challenge to Kenya. I would like to know how much training is going to the farmer to ensure that we meet these conditionalities. If these conditionalities are extremely stringent, is the Ministry trying to look for alternative markets which do not have strict conditions as has been the case with the EU? As much as the EU is putting such conditions, we know that certain chemicals used by farmers in this country are extremely harmful in the long run to the person who consumes the food. I would like to know whether the same way that the Ministry looks at the quality of the export food being sent to the EU is the same way it ensures that the contaminated food does not go to our local market. You will find that what the EU has rejected is probably finding its way into the local market and, therefore, harming our people. The Ministry needs to take extreme care on this issue because we know that certain chemicals are extremely dangerous to our people.

I am also concerned about the role of the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA). Right now, the HCDA is no longer doing production, but purely regulatory work, yet we know that it has been protecting farmers from exploitation. Could the Ministry consider allowing HCDA to start exporting crops on behalf of farmers because they are exploited by middlemen who export to the EU market? That is making farmers not get their full benefits.

I want to add my voice to the issue of prices of farm inputs. As long as farm input prices are high and seedlings are still costly, it will be very difficult for a farmer to break even. I know that this issue was talked about in the last Vote; that we need to subsidise our farmers. This can be done through subsidising farm inputs, and in many other ways so that we can compete with the global market. Why should eggs coming from South Africa cost less than those produced in the country? I think the Ministry needs to take measures on the issue of farm inputs.

Allow me also to add my voice to the issue of credit facilities which the Ministry offers to farmers. Giving an example of Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) in my district, I want to say that there is still much to be done. There is always a long queue of farmers who want credit facilities from AFC but they are told to wait since the money is not enough. I think the Ministry needs to invest more money in AFC so that it can offer credit facilities to farmers. The Ministry should also make the conditions of getting these loans more favourable, so as to allow farmers to access credit facilities.

Let me also talk about cash crops. We have seen many farmers suffer, especially in the tea and coffee growing zones because coffee is no longer giving the money it used to in the 1970s and 1980s. I think the Minister, through the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) should start offering an alternative crop that can be grown in these areas so that farmers do not live in abject poverty. For instance, what is the Ministry doing as far as the issue of vanilla production is concerned? I visited a village in Uganda which grows vanilla. The farmers there are doing very well and getting a lot of money. The climatic conditions of that area are similar to those in areas where we grow coffee, bananas and tea in this country. What is the Ministry doing to ensure that such crops provide an alternative source of income to farmers so that we can have money all year round?

I also want to add my voice on the issue of traditional crops which have been forgotten, yet we know they provide good nutrition and are very important, especially in the use of anti-retro-viral therapy. People are being advised to go back to using traditional vegetables and crops in order to get more nutrients. I think the Ministry needs to take the matter seriously so that more traditional crops

are introduced to our farmers.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members on my left, I am persuaded to have another speaker from my right side. I will, therefore, allow Mr. ole Ntimama to speak.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Ntimama): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture.

I support this Vote but I have a few points to make. It is true and understood by the technicians, economists, agriculturists and everybody that our economy is totally dependent on the development of agriculture. After all, we are an agricultural country. Our economic development depends entirely on how our agricultural industry is developed. The growth of our economy will complement the growth of agriculture and *vice versa*. Therefore, if there is a decline in the development of agriculture, definitely, there will be a decline in the economy of this country. This is very important and it depends entirely on the agro-industries. People have been talking about industrialization - It is not feasible to speak about it if agriculture and the agro-industries have not been developed fully. We will be chasing a mirage. Although all of us would like to see that this country is industrialized, the beginning will depend on whether agriculture will develop or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that the Minister is listening because if he is not, I would rather sit down.

I want to talk about the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) farms. They were so important to this country. They have been grabbed and our breeding stock has been destroyed as well. Where do we get our breeding stock for our animals including cattle, goats, sheep and pigs when all the farms have been grabbed? We do not have any farm with breeding stock. These ADC farms were set up to provide breeding stock to farmers. There are only a few good farmers who have some livestock to sell to other farmers at exorbitant prices, which ordinary farmers cannot afford. It is only the rich people who can buy these breeds. There was a good piggery in Njoro and I went to see it myself. However, there is nothing! The only thing you see there is some peasant farming.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) has not been spared. We have grabbed all KARI land and given it to other people. This culture of greed and grabbing must stop! These are very important areas. It is not right to grab KARI land where we develop the seed for maize, wheat and many other crops. At the moment, there is an outcry because some people have grabbed the potato research station land and we cannot grow the potatoes. What do we do? What kind of agriculture are we talking about? What kind of development are we talking about here? We have to be careful. It might be a little bit expensive, but I would like the Government to try and start organising some farms where we can continue with the breeding stock. Unless we do that, we will not be doing any agriculture at all. We also need to save the KARI land from grabbers so that we can grow the seed that is going to give us high yields and help reduce hunger and poverty in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will talk a little bit about wheat. We used to have wheat experimental stations in the country. One of the most important such station was in Njoro, but it was given away to other people. I really do not know where we get wheat seed these days. We hear that they are mixed up. The small-scale farmers are getting a lot of money because they are selling low quality wheat seed which does not give the farmers high yields. This is the effect of destroying wheat experimental stations. Could we do something about recovering all these places even at the expense of paying a lot of money to buy this land from amongst some of these people although it was grabbed from us? We cannot go on like this! Unless agriculture has a basis like these farms, we

cannot go on. We have to take action to recover all these grabbed land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, Narok District is the leading in wheat growing. We have overtaken Eldoret and all the other areas. However, we cannot market our wheat because we are marooned. That is a fact! We cannot market our wheat in Nakuru because there are no roads. We cannot also bring our wheat to Nairobi because the wheat that is supposed to come from the Mau, Melili and other areas cannot reach the tarmac. The roads are just not there! There were some cattle tracks. Why I wanted the Minister to listen to me is, because I know very well - I have been in the wheat industry for many years - there was money specifically in the Ministry of Agriculture for roads leading to wheat growing areas. What has happened to the money? I seek the assistance of the Minister for an area from Siyabei, Olchoro to Tipis Centre, which is a lifeline of taking wheat either to Nairobi or Nakuru. That is also the lifeline of bringing in the inputs. However, we cannot do that at all. We cannot access the market yet there is a lot of play about the District Roads Committee (DRC). That money is not enough to do anything. Moreover, it has been messed around by the District Roads Engineers (DREs) and a few of their friends. Some of us do not even know what is happening with that money. We also do not know anything about the minutes. The Minister should look for funds to open up Siyabei, Olchoro and Tipis Centre to get the wheat out and the inputs in because we cannot do that ourselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day I went to Olchoro, where I was born and where we grow a lot of wheat on the fringes of the Mau Forest. The farmers had just demonstrated at the District Commissioner's (DCs) Office because of the wheat price fluctuations. However, the DC did not know what to do. When I went there, I was almost held hostage. The Ministry of Roads and Public Works together with the Ministry of Agriculture should find out what we can do about the road between Olchoro and the wheat prices. There is a rumour going on that there is a lot of wheat in the high seas which is just coming in. This is why the price of our wheat has dropped to give way and market to the wheat on the high seas. Sometimes I cannot understand why we cannot grow enough wheat. There is always this excuse that we do not have enough wheat, so we are importing. It is a fallacy. A nation like this one must start thinking properly. Why do we have to import wheat when we have land? The resources are trickling in from the AFC, and people are getting some money. I hope that they will not be harassed, if the crop fails. There is no need at all to import wheat. I do not know whether we are always on the periphery. This is why we have to speak for our people because we always think that they are marginalised. They are not in the forefront. They are in the periphery even on issues of our economy.

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

**Mr. Kipchumba:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make my comments on this very important Vote. From the outset, I would like to say that, in fact, the Budget does not reflect the policy of Government. Whereas the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper (ERSP) for wealth creation stipulates that we must use agriculture to create wealth and employment, only Kshs8 billion has been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture. This is very little money compared to the Kshs508 billion that we will use this year. Therefore, it is time that the Government synchronized its policy and the Budget. Policy is a mere ambition and without a proper Budget, we cannot realise it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would have expected, and that was promised by the Minister for Planning and National Development, that, indeed, the Vote on the Ministry of Agriculture be in the tune of 12 per cent to 13 per cent of the entire Budget. I do not know what happened. There was anticipation that the Budget was to be in the tune of Kshs400 billion. Now that it went to Kshs508 billion, I would have expected this Ministry to get an allocation of between Kshs15 billion to Kshs20 billion. When we say that agriculture is the core of our economy, are we really serious when we allocate this kind of money? At times, I wonder because sometimes we seem to do things in

reverse.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what this money will be used for. This has not been clearly indicated in the Vote. It is not clear how the farmer in the rural areas will benefit from the Ministry's estimates. I do not think we are here to pay salaries to extension workers who are never there, in the first place, at the expense of the farmer. That is why I would like to give some information to the Minister, for his own benefit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cost of inputs should be drastically reduced. To do so, the cost of diesel must be looked into. At the moment, diesel is very expensive. There is about Kshs5.80 per litre, which is deducted as Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF). That money is for maintenance of roads. Our tractors never operate on any main roads. They are always in the *shambas* ploughing and yet, farmers are required to pay Kshs5.80 as RML per litre of diesel for a tractor that does not use the main roads. Why can farmers not be reimbursed this money on a very simple calculation, that if he plants one acre, for example, we know he would have used "x" litres of diesel? That is basic.

The other benefit that the farmer must get is on seeds. I am happy that, at least, Kenya Seed Company (KSC) is owned by Government. I think it is time that the cost of seeds is known in advance. Why can we not be told that the cost of certain seeds, for example, will be Kshs1,000 per container? The price should be standard, so that the Central Government can easily subsidize it. I do not know why the Minister for Finance cannot subsidize the cost of seeds. The problem is if seeds are expensive, farmers will plant what they have in their stores. When they do so, the net result is that the yields will reduce drastically by more than a half. So, why can we not give that benefit directly to the farmers? Our farmers just need a reduction in the cost of inputs. These are the very basic things that our farmers look for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our farmers ought to be paid at the right time. Recently, the Minister said there is enough money to pay farmers. We know there is no money to pay farmers, for example, through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). That money is held by the Ministry of Finance. I do not understand why that money is not channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture. We all know that when farmers are not paid, we do blame the Ministry of Agriculture and not the Ministry of Finance. Why can that money not be given directly to the Ministry of Agriculture so that it is well managed? I am surprised that the Minister for Agriculture just keeps quiet when we ask him such questions. I know there is collective responsibility, but we must be told where this money is. If farmers do not get their money, they should be paid with interest. This is done all over the world. If you do not pay, for example, a bank on time, you must pay some interest. Therefore, I do not understand why farmers cannot be paid interest after they have used their inputs. They should be given some little incentive, so that they are happy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an issue which has been raised about the carrying capacity of land. This must be enforced. We cannot have farmers planting maize or wheat on a quarter of an acre. That is not viable. The current carrying capacity as stipulated in the Agriculture Act should be enforced. This brings me to the question: What do agricultural officers do if they cannot enforce simple regulations which are in the law? All they need to do is tell the Ministry of Lands and Housing that they cannot sub-divide land below a certain acreage in certain areas. This is very simple. The carrying capacity of our farms has been drastically reduced. Therefore, I do not think we are doing justice to this country by encouraging people to sub-divide their farms to small farming units. How can we expect this country to be self-sufficient in food production.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, citizens in this country will always live in what I call the vicious cycle of poverty. This is because we always produce raw materials and expect to sell the same and be better tomorrow. That can never happen. We must encourage our farmers to add value to

these products. It is a pity that 40 years after Independence, we still export raw tea. If you visit some of these hotels, like the one we visited recently in Mombasa, we were given English tea. It is a shame that we consume English tea in our own country. We grow tea right here, yet we had to take English tea because it was processed in Britain. We cannot process basic commodities that we grow in this country and yet, we want to be industrialised by the year 2015. That is a big shame! It is a big ambition, but it can never be achieved unless we change what we are doing in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry must synchronize its activities with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. We cannot separate irrigation from agriculture. I do not understand why issues of irrigation are under the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. There is no country that manages issues to do with irrigation under, for example, the Ministry of Water. That can never happen! Irrigation must always be managed by the Ministry of Agriculture. This is because all the experts in irrigation are in the Ministry of Agriculture. I am yet to be challenged as to whether we have expertise in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agricultural machinery services have totally collapsed. I have seen that the Minister has tried to allocate some little money. However, what is Kshs2 million in a station like Eldoret? I wish the Minister looked at these stations in isolation. We cannot generalise all the stations in this country, even stations that are located in ASAL areas, and give them Kshs2 million. How do we expect farmers to benefit from the same? That is unexpected. You explained that you have allocated a budget of Kshs200,000 for that station to buy new equipment. That amount cannot even buy a plough and yet, you expect the officers there to function well? Many farmers cannot access machinery in those areas. When they go to lease them, the equipment is usually given to the rich, instead of the poor, for whom they were bought. The officers give the machinery to the rich, who do not pay. In fact, if you look at the list of defaulters of agricultural machinery services, most of them are the rich folk of this country. They must be made to pay, so that the money could be used to pay for the poor people.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources** (Prof. Maathai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. I want to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture for emphasising what we need to do in agriculture. I would like to remind him that, a year or so ago, he and I were concerned about the massive soil loss in this country. I know that the Minister formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising of Ministries that are concerned with that issue. I want to say that, in that area, we have the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, especially with respect to fisheries, and the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. Those are six Ministries. That committee was formed to emphasise the importance of protecting our soil. The issue of soil touches on those many Ministries. I want to request the Minister to revisit the discussions that we had, revitalise that committee and make it a standing committee. It is in many ways amazing that we fight in this country over land and yet, our land is disappearing in thousands of acres every year, when the rains come. When the rains come in this country, there is not a single river that is not red with silt. Much of that silt ends up in our hydro-electric dams. That means that the Ministry of Energy will never be able to utilise those dams in terms of capacity and time of operation because of siltation. So, we cannot produce adequate electricity at a time when our people are looking for it. When the water is silted, obviously, millions of our people do not have clean drinking water. That is because most of our people still depend on water from rivers. With such silt, you destroy the capacity of those rivers to hold fish, because they do not thrive in silted water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the Coast, a lot of that silt ends up in the Indian Ocean through

River Tana. As we all know, we hold one of the most precious coral reefs and marine life at our Coast. It is partly because of those beautiful coral reefs that tourists come into our country. But that is now threatened by the enormous silt that ends up in the Indian Ocean because of soil erosion. Therefore, I strongly recommend to the Ministry to re-introduce practices that were there, especially during the colonial times, when farmers were not allowed to cultivate along very steep slopes. If it is necessary to cultivate, is it not possible to have a policy that you can only plant certain types of crops on very steep slopes? For example, you could say that when a gradient is at a certain level, you can only plant trees, nappier grass or grass. You can only graze livestock and not plant beans and maize. That is because the long-term damage to the land is so enormous that, it is not worth the little beans and maize that farmers get from those lands.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the same reason, I want to say that the rivers and soils are, of course, natural resources. So, in many ways, I am talking about the natural resources that belong to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. But it is also true that rivers are very close to the Ministry of Agriculture. So, I believe that rivers should be given to the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to ensure that reserves along the rivers are protected. At the moment, people are cultivating very close to the rivers; in fact, literally in the rivers. Some of the crops are growing literally in the rivers. That should not be allowed. There is a law that allows a river to have a reserve, but nobody is implementing it. That is one thing that the chiefs could do. It used to be one of the activities of the chiefs and sub-chiefs. I think that is one of the services that the Ministry of Agriculture could get from the Office of the President, so that people are not allowed to cultivate literally in the rivers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when farmers do that, they destroy water sheds. Water sheds are very important for the flow of the river. They are extremely important because there are places where rivers come and flow slowly, so that they can pick speed later. But when you remove those water sheds--- Again, nobody controls those water sheds. Nobody makes sure that they are not interfered with. During the dry seasons, people clear the grasses and plant maize, beans and whatever else. So, when the rains come, water rushes downstream. There is no time for the river to stop and so, you have floods and massive soil erosions. I appeal to the Minister to look into that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to encourage the Minister to extend his debate to the conservation of water shed areas. I know that, that is outside the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. But we will not have agriculture in future, if we destroy our water catchment areas. That is my favourite subject; abandoning the utilisation of natural forests for plantations. That, eventually, will interfere with the rainfall patterns and the flow of rivers. It will indirectly interfere with our agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quickly mention about Genetically Modified (GM) foods. Several speakers have mentioned about them. Quite often, when we mention them, many people think that we are against science. Nobody would be against GM foods as a science. But my concern has always been that we must have scientists who are morally upright and committed to protect the people who might easily suffer from long-term impact of GM foods, or the crossing of pollen from one breed of plants to the other. As long as we have people who do not have the moral uprightness to protect ordinary people from experimentation, there is always the danger that we could find ourselves in a danger zone with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). I want to record my disappointment with the fact that we introduced research in the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) before we came into this House to make laws and regulations that would control experimentation and even implementation of GMO research in this country. Many people do not know what is happening in KARI. There is a lot of secrecy and I fear that with that kind of secrecy, we could easily have research materials released into the field only for us to regret later on.



Therefore, I can only appeal to the Ministry and our scientists not to allow themselves to be persuaded to be agents of multi-national corporations who want to patent our seeds just because they come with a very big package of money. Money can be very attractive but for the long-term impact, we could eventually end up being people who have no access to seeds unless we pay. If we are as poor as we are today, we can easily die and yet seeds are in the shops. However, because they are patented we cannot buy them. This is a very serious issue and I hope that the Minister will be up and ahead of it.

With those few remarks, I support.

**The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology** (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to support this Motion and to say that given the importance we all assign to agriculture in this country, there is no doubt that we should all support its development because a lot of our people in this country depend on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will make very few points. One relates to extension which is a point which has been made. I want to reiterate what hon. Members have said before that extension workers are rarely visible in most parts of this country. This is unfortunate because there is still a lot to be disseminated. A great deal has been said about KARI, but what has been said is negative about their technology and so on. However, we forget that there are many other innovations that have come out of KARI which relate to chicken or food varieties. Likewise, there are many other innovations that have come out of International Centre for Insect Physiology and Epidemiology (ICIPE), our universities and research stations. Much of that information is lying in those institutions. Unless you are lucky to be connected to researchers from those institutions, a lot of that information has not really gone out to the common farmer. Therefore, by extension, apart from just talking about that individual extension worker you would expect to go out to the farmers, I think we need to ask questions about what else we can do with our extension workers in terms of going to schools and coming out in the media. We should not just focus on the farmers that traditionally we used to call progressive farmers, but also to go to those other farmers that are not too able to attract them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, on the issue of large-scale farmers and private farmers, we need to be careful when dealing with companies like Del Monte, Homegrown and others. To ensure that our people are not exploited, which has been the case for many years, I think it is important to be very careful about what kind of arrangements we enter into with those kind of companies. I think the Government should take the lead in terms of ensuring that discussions are pretty clear about land ownership rights, how much of it these companies can own, how they relate with neighbouring smaller farmers, labour relations; that is how they treat their workers and in terms of what they give back in terms of education, health and other services. I am not so sure that is clear. It needs to be clarified. For the time being, it is as if we have left our small-scale farmers and those who work in those organisations at the mercy of these big organisations without it being very clear what it is that we are benefitting as a country, in addition to employment opportunities that are not always that clear in terms of benefitting those that take advantage of them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point about food security has also been made and I think it is unfortunate that we keep on talking about famine from time to time. Is it not possible that we can plan in advance? Is it possible that this is not foreseen? Is it possible that we cannot take advantage of other traditional food varieties that shielded traditional African farmers from famine? Those kind of varieties had longer lasting periods. Why is it that we are not considering possibilities of other food varieties? In West Africa, it has been said that one of the reasons that famine is not talked about very much is because they have introduced food varieties that are resistant to drought and preservation is much easier than is currently the case with the kinds of food varieties that we have in

this country. Such foods are cassava, yams and plantain. They are a variety of foodstuffs that are drought resistant and that can help the farmer much better than the kinds of varieties that you will find in most parts of East Africa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in terms of also supporting traditional food preservation systems including the granary--- I come from Meru and I think the granary was a form of storing food. What happened to that kind of technology? Why is it that we are not thinking in terms of how we can advance that technology for the majority of the farmers who can only do their preservation in that form? In terms of traditional food drying technology, again little is being advanced from the point of view of research, but also from the point of view of supporting farmers to realise that they can take advantage of these kinds of alternatives. In terms of traditional irrigation systems, in the Kerio Valley for hundreds of years, they have a fallow system of irrigation whereby you borrow water from the main river and irrigate smaller farms in the valley. Now, that kind of technology has not been advanced and yet it is easily available and farmers have practised it for hundreds of years.

So, basically these kinds of traditional knowledge systems including traditional weather focusing systems, are areas that require much more support in addition to investing in change of attitude. I am talking about change of attitude and I think this also relates to the point that has been made very strongly by those who are advocating against GMOs. I am an advocate of GMOs because I believe that one of the solution to the famine crisis in this country and one of the ways of ensuring that poor people who cannot afford a lot of what is available now, is for us to be able to shift alternatives and GMOs provide that alternative. However, we need to be careful about how we introduce them. We need to be careful about how we do research. We need to be careful about how we disseminate information coming from the research stations that are involved in this technology. In itself, I think there is nothing wrong and for me I would rather eat GMO food. If I am a poor person in some place in Mathare and I have no food, I would better eat that food than have no food to eat. However, what is important is that as long as we cannot give people an alternative, I think it is hypocritical for us to insist that there are cheap possibilities that are available and we should not explore and research to see how we can expand on that possibility.

In terms of research allocation, I think questions have been asked about how money is going to be distributed to the districts looking at those Votes. What is the criteria? Is that criteria fair? We are told that Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) loans to the tune of Kshs250 million will be given out by the Treasury to the Ministry of Agriculture. How is this money distributed? Is there a fair criteria of ensuring that proportionate amounts of money go to various districts or even constituencies? In Meru town, the farmers that benefit from this AFC facility tend to be concentrated in certain districts and I think it is important to decide at this point how these resources are going to be allocated to ensure fairness, like we are doing with the bursary system. Fairness will also be required where assigned development authorities are allocated. The criteria for deciding how all the authorities, which are scattered across the country, are distributed should be clear and transparent. The same applies to research stations which are in certain parts of the country, where you find that some districts have more stations than others; the way you also distribute individual loans that we have been told about and also in terms of management opportunities in those authorities as well as in other parastatals that are run by Ministries.

Regarding the point about incentives for farmers, loans and credit facilities and making it possible for them to access appropriate technology in terms of cheap ploughs and tractors from India and China; in terms of giving them marketing information and, maybe, having local stock in markets, whereby farmers or traders could easily get information on what products cost in neighbouring markets, out in the city or in the coastal towns through telephone systems and, also, maybe through resource centres, that should be set up to empower traders in local markets. That

kind of information is not possible and in addition to enlightening farmers through education, it is very important for us to create opportunities for them to have information through telephone systems and other resource centres.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about issues related to cost saving measures. Points have been raised about why we should give so much money in provinces and at the headquarters when it is not quite clear how that money is allocated. Why should we have too many research stations all over the country instead of consolidating them, especially when there is a great deal of duplication in terms of what those research stations are focusing on? Why should we keep on creating development authorities because we must create employment, irrespective of the fact that sometimes, many of those development authorities are, again, duplicating what has already been done by others and in terms of how much we vote for resources for both research and personnel in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, as well as in the provinces?

In conclusion, I would like to say that, given that this is a very critical Ministry, I hope that in the next Budget, we are going to push much harder for this Ministry, given that it is really the backbone of this country, to have a much larger allocation than we have seen being allocated to it in the last two years.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All right, proceed, Mr. Angwenyi, then we come to---

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this Motion. Right from the outset---

*(Mr. Angwenyi stood to contribute  
from the Opposition side)*

**Mr. Sambu:** He does not belong to this side!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Sambu! It really does not matter to me where one speaks from!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** I want to assure my colleagues that I am polygamous; the Opposition side is my first house, and the Government side is my second house.

*(Loud consultations)*

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

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Do not waste my time, Mr. Sambu; you are my friend!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Angwenyi! What is it, Mr. Sambu?

**Mr. Sambu:** Is Mr. Angwenyi in order to say that he is married to two houses; that, he is first married to the Opposition side and that he has a concubine in the Government side?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I do not know, Mr. Sambu! All I know is that, this is one House and there are no two houses here!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a polygamous home; so I understand the theory very well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right from the outset, I would like to say that if this Parliament was truly a Parliament of the people of Kenya, we should throw out this Budget; a Budget that allocates only Kshs8 billion to our people out of Kshs504 billion! This House should rise up today and throw out this Budget!

**Mr. Kipchumba:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order that an hon. Member from the Government side should cross over to come and take over positions meant for the

Opposition?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Let me say this: I gave Mr. Angwenyi a chance to contribute, and I knew where he was sitting, because he had caught my eye earlier. So, I do not care where you are sitting and it does not matter. As you all know, this Chair has ruled in the past that, hon. Members can sit wherever they want to sit. I am only concerned about the Front Benches on my right and left hand sides.

**Mr. Muturi:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just want to raise this issue because it is a matter of principle. If, in the circumstances then, the Opposition is denied the chance to criticize the policies that are reflected in the Budget which we are debating here, yet we are the ones who have the mandate to choose which Ministries are going to be debated, then I think we may need to revisit this ruling.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You know I had ruled that I was going to give two chances. So, I gave first chance to Dr. Mwiria and the second one to Mr. Angwenyi.

**Mr. Kipchumba:** On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, now! Mr. Kipchumba, will you, please, sit down? You are taking a lot of time!

**Mr. Kipchumba:** But the two hon. Members are---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Even three can speak.

Proceed, Mr. Angwenyi!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I said if this Opposition is truly an Opposition, let them bring a Motion to---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mr. Angwenyi, we are debating the Vote on the Ministry of Agriculture!

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Kipchumba, please, sit down?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we should have allocated more funds to the agricultural sector because it is the mainstay of our economy. It provides most of the employment opportunities in this country. It also guarantees us food security and earns foreign exchange for this country. That is the money that we use to budget for other services and goods in other Ministries. So, at least, 10 per cent of our Budget should have been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture. This Parliament, in my view, will prove to be a real Parliament the day it will influence a Budget and transfer funds from one Ministry to another where it believes that, that Ministry contributes enormously towards the economy and welfare of our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have traditional crops which should be encouraged, for example, millet. This is what we eat in Kisii. It is a very good crop. It is resistant to weevils and other conditions. The only problem with it is that it enables a family to give birth to more boys than girls. That is why we have got more men in Kisii than women. But it is a good crop. As we all know, we produce tea, coffee, sugar-cane, flowers, wheat and many other cash crops. But what has this country put in place to support the production of those crops? Is it extension services? No! I have got a coffee and tea shamba, but I have never seen one extension officer coming to advise me on how to produce better. Therefore, the Government must focus on investing more in extension services as well as other resources in agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must look for market for our crops. We must tackle the World Trade Organisation (WTO) conditionalities. Recently I was in Geneva where coffee and tea prices were being discussed. It is unfortunate that we did not have a Kenyan representative in that discussion. I just came to know about it by virtue of being a Member of the IPU Steering Committee.

So, this country must take interest and focus on agriculture. How can we assist farmers to produce more? We can do it by making the cost of inputs affordable. We can do it also by accessing credit to our farmers and looking for markets for our products. I remember four years ago we, as a Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence made a visit to Russia. We talked to the Russians and opened up a huge market for our coffee and tea. Today, Russia is competing in the market with Germany and England on tea and coffee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must do value-adding processing of our products. Why do we have to package our tea in England and our coffee in Germany? Why can we not do it in this country? We should allocate about Kshs3 billion in the next Budget for value-adding processing of our products. We can assist our farmers by providing infrastructure like roads, railways and other communication so that our farmers can keep in contact with local and international markets and sell their products wherever they want.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must provide more flights for our flower and horticulture farmers. If you go to the airport, you will see how our horticulture farmers suffer before they get a flight to transport their produce to the overseas market. This Government must invest in providing adequate flights to transport our produce to the local and international markets.

We must also look for new markets, for example, the Chinese Market. If we were to sell one cup of tea or coffee to every Chinese, we would rake in billions which we can spend for other purposes. Let us develop agro-business. Let us develop cotton and revive our textile industry. By so doing, our semi-arid areas will become productive. They will produce cotton and create agro-businesses on textiles in those areas and provide employment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has got probably the largest number of Votes in this Budget, some of which are not delivering. A good example is the KTDA which does not facilitate farmers. I come from an area where we produce in excess of 10 million kilogrammes of tea. We have been looking for a factory to process our tea, but it is impossible. You will find a small-time director in one of our tea factories directing the Minister for Agriculture on what is to be done. The Minister for Agriculture has no power to tell that person that he does not understand the economy of tea production. It is time the Ministry took the mandate to provide this facility to our farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, coffee production is being revived. The Ministry should avail credit facilities to the coffee industry so that we can take our rightful position in the world market. This Ministry must take charge with regard to the ADC farms which were dished out to land grabbers. It should repossess all that land for research and the purpose for which they were meant. The Minister should not fear because some of the land grabbers are very senior officers in the present and previous Government. The Minister should take charge and repossess all that land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to conclude my remarks by asking the Minister to work closely with the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development and the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing, because livestock is part of production and co-operatives play a big role in the marketing of our produce. If they work in harmony, I am sure this Ministry will be allocated more funding and this country will develop.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Muturi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. At least, the Opposition will be heard. We were almost beginning to think that it is a policy to kill the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to begin by congratulating the Minister. At the same time I would like to touch on the issue he raised that he will employ 300 graduates. I only hope that those 300 graduates will provide the much needed extension services. I hope that they will not be located at the Ministry's headquarters but rather be deployed to the

districts and constituencies. Indeed, my suggestion would be that each one of them be attached to a specific constituency, because then, hon. Members will be able to monitor the way they perform their duties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have said time and again that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. Unfortunately, the budgetary allocation to this Ministry that we see today is in the range of 1.6 per cent of the general allocations to all Ministries. The policies that have been espoused through the various policy papers that the Minister for Planning and National Development has come up with, do not appear to be reflected in the budgetary allocation.

We have heard time and again, statements to the effect that ASAL areas would receive a boost. However, looking through this Ministry's Vote, it appears to me that the ASAL areas have completely been forgotten. There is very little that has been provided in terms of irrigation agriculture. As we all know, in ASAL areas, unless we encourage irrigation farming, it is a waste of time to continue telling farmers in those areas to keep praying that the rains will come at given times. As we have witnessed before, the rains have not come at those times we have envisaged them to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a quarrel with something that the Ministry calls "*Njaa Marufuku*". This Item appears to have been allocated a sum of Kshs63 million. However, what has been allocated to the individual districts, especially my own district, under this Head, is a paltry Kshs222,100. The bulk of the money provided under this Head has been retained at the Ministry's headquarters. We know that *njaa* is most pronounced in the rural areas, whereas a sum of Kshs63 million has been left at the Ministry's headquarters.

If "*Njaa Marufuku*" is something that is meant to kick out hunger, then the Ministry has gotten its priorities upside down. There is no *njaa* at the Ministry's headquarters; certainly, not with the Minister, who is my good friend. But there is *njaa* in this country's ASAL areas, particularly in my constituency. Look at the amount of money that has been allocated for services of range and arid lands management. Again, it is a meagre Kshs6 million. What is Kshs6 million meant to do in the areas of range and arid lands management within the Ministry of Agriculture? We appreciate that it may well be that certain sums may have been provided for in other Ministries, but, of course, we are discussing agriculture. What kind of agriculture happens in range lands and arid lands, and how is it to be facilitated? How is it going to be facilitated and encouraged with a Kshs6 million allocation? That, to me, appears to be a slap in the face of policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the National Extension Project. Almost all hon. Members who have spoken this afternoon have been complaining about the provision to extension services. When you look at a budgetary allocation of Kshs139 million, and most of it is spent at the Ministry's headquarters, one wonders what that National Extension Project will be. Maybe, when responding, the Minister will take the opportunity to explain to us what is meant to be achieved with this budgetary allocation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I may say that I am happy to see something called "Eastern Province Horticultural and Traditional Food Crops Development". That is because I come from Eastern Province. But I just wonder: What was the rationale of picking only one province? Are there no horticultural or traditional food crops in the other provinces to attract such allocations? Even then, as Mr. Maore pointed out, the allocation is Kshs264.5 million. But only Kshs40 million goes to the individual districts. Even then, not all the districts in Eastern Province. I have seen nothing for Marsabit and Moyale. I think there is nothing traditional that grows there. I mean: What message are we supposed to read from this? My own district has been allocated Kshs4.7 million. I wonder what can be done with Kshs4.7 million! Maybe, the Minister will tell us. If that money was meant to go to Eastern Province, what logic, if any, is there to leave Kshs224 million at the Ministry's

headquarters? Eastern Province is not at the Ministry's headquarters. To me, that seems to suggest that, my very good friend, the Minister for Agriculture, may have occasion to visit my constituency and dish out Kshs40 million. I will, obviously, welcome that but, what I am trying to point out is that, it may, as well, end up being misused by various technocrats.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have talked about cotton growing. I come from a cotton-growing constituency. It is worthy noting that a sum of Kshs250 million has been allocated to that sector. But again, if the sums allocated were meant to provide, among others, technical extension services, then the Minister will need to tell us the rationale, if any, of leaving behind at the headquarters, the sum of Kshs120 million. Then, the cotton farmers will not benefit, if it is going to be left here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that we have seen a lot of exploitation of cotton farmers in our areas. There does not appear to be any sensible regulatory framework in place currently, for ginner and other players involved in cotton buying. Last year, a kilogramme of cotton was selling at between Kshs23 and Kshs25. But this year, just last weekend, farmers from my constituency came to me complaining that they are now being offered Kshs17 per kilogramme. Surely, if we are saying we have a policy under the SRS, what are we telling the farmers? If you paid him Kshs25 last year and now, you are paying him Kshs17---

I want to plead and appeal to our good friend, the Minister for Agriculture, to step in and put in place proper legal framework, or whatever regulatory machinery, to ensure that farmers are not over-exploited.

Finally, I want to remind the Minister that he still has the Agriculture Act in place. The Act makes provisions for enforcement of certain farming methods. In the older days, people would be prosecuted for farming in certain sloppy areas. One was even compelled to do terraces. But, today, it is disheartening to note that, we have completely ignored the existence of that law. That law does not appear to be enforced by anybody in the Ministry and, as a result, we have continued to witness deteriorating crop production and other factors associated with farming in rural areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the Minister, when he comes to respond, to have liaised with his technocrats and tell us where those many civil works, reconstructions and rehabilitations are going on?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 27th, July, 2005, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.