

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 17th September, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

REVIEW OF THE EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the critical role played by women in the socio-economic growth of this country; and noting that the Government of Kenya has ratified the resolutions of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform of Action; being conscious that a large number of women in this country suffer from serious ante-natal and post-natal health problems and noting that the current maternity and entitlement leave is grossly inadequate; this House urges the Government to amend Section 72 of the employment Act, Cap 226 of the Laws of Kenya in order to grant women employees both in public and private sector three months mandatory maternity leave; excluding the annual leave.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Question No.539

MANAGEMENT OF NHC HOUSING UNITS

Mr. Busolo asked the Minister for Finance:-

(a) under what conditions and terms lease agreement between the Treasury and Pan African Paper Mills (E.A.) Limited was entered into regarding the management of the 750 housing units developed by the National Housing Corporation at Webuye in January, 1977; and,

(b) under what conditions and terms was the lease renewed in December, 1996.

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

(a) The lease terms in 1977, as indicated in the agreement signed in 1981, were as follows:- Twenty year period, annual rent, maintenance of buildings and grounds of the estate by the company; rectification of the structural and design defects of the buildings by the Government; maintenance of all drives, roads, foot paths, sewers and drains by the Government through the authority responsible for such functions; and renewal of lease for another twenty years.

(b) The agreement for lease provided for a renewal for another twenty years which was done and the Company will continue to pay rent to the Government.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I want the Assistant Minister to tell this House is why, at a time when this country is carrying out liberalisation of the economy, his Ministry should keep on holding houses and renting them. Why should you go against your own policy of liberalisation? Why should you maintain these houses?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do that because this was the arrangement we had made with the Pan African Paper Mills. This country needs industries to provide employment for our people. So we try, as much as possible, using all means to ensure that we retain those industries by doing the best we can.

Mr. Kaptan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister lay the lease agreement on the Table of this House so that the Members can peruse it to see exactly what it has? What is the annual rent; the money that the Company pays to the Government and how much money does the Company collect from the tenants who are occupying those premises?

Mr. Barmasai: To respond to the first part of hon. Kaptan's question, I do not have the agreement with me

here. As for the second part, the annual rent is as follows:- Kshs1,626,680 for the first two years; Kshs1,641,305 per year for the following two years and Kshs1,944,650 for the remaining 16 years. As to the third part of the hon. Member's question; concerning the total amount of money that the Company collects from the employees, I do not have the figure now, but I can avail it some other time.

Mr. Farah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, given the need to alleviate the problems of housing in this country and the fact that Pan African Paper Mills is a very rich Company, why was the company not made to build its own housing units for its own workers and lease them also to other workers? Why did the Company not build its own estate?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had stated earlier, when this Company proposed to start the factory at Webuye, that was one of the arrangements that they requested the Government to do for them.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that, part of the lease terms was for the Government to maintain these buildings. Is the Assistant Minister aware that these buildings are not maintained and that the health inspector has condemned the Chocolate Estate as inhabitable and unfit for human habitation? Thirdly, is the Assistant Minister aware that the relevant authority he is referring to, in part five, in terms of maintenance of drives, roads and foot paths is the municipality? Is he also aware that the Government actually stopped lending money to the municipality and that the Municipality of Webuye is unable to look after these houses?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of what the hon. Member has said, but I will investigate and be able to inform the hon. Member. I will check to see whether what he has said is correct and if it is, then we will rectify.

Mr. Kapten: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister give a date when he will provide the details of the terms of the lease agreement and the amount of money which the employees pay?

Mr. Speaker: When can you do that, Assistant Minister?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can do that on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Question No.606

PROTECTION OF DEPOSITORS

Mr. Maore asked the Minister for Finance :-

(a) whether he is aware that Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, Real Estate Management Companies/Landlords, local authorities are withholding billions of shillings from Kenyans without paying any interest; and,

(b) if he could institute a regulation to require all those who hold deposits to pay interest rate at half the market rate immediately; and,

(c) what securities have been put in place to insulate depositors from bankruptcy/death of the deposit holders.

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

(a) I am not aware that Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Kenya Posts and Telecommunications, Real Estate Management Companies/Landlords, Local authorities are withholding billions of shillings from Kenyans without even paying any interest.

(b) In view of the answer above, I cannot institute regulations to require all those who hold deposits to pay interest rate at half the market rate.

(c) In view of the answer to "a", the issue of securities does not arise.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think there is a problem at the Treasury with regard to answering Parliamentary Questions. The Assistant Minister does not seem to understand anything including this Question. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company requires every meter holder to pay Kshs2,500 and there are about 700,000 consumers of that item alone and if you multiply that you get over Kshs1.0 billion. The Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation equally has over 100,000 subscribers and the Minister is not aware of this and now he cannot be able to institute regulations. What is the Treasury for? Does he want to defer this Question in order to give time to do his homework? Is he really ready to reply to the Question now?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will reply. The deposits that hon. Maore has mentioned, are meant to safeguard these companies interests if customers default.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to ask a Supplementary Question. If the Assistant Minister is not aware, then we should make him aware that the municipal authorities request you to put down deposits for water and other services. Likewise the Kenya Power and Lighting Company does the same. All that we are

saying is that we should be paid interest on this money. As you have heard from the Questioner, they keep billions of shillings. So, could you assure this House that these companies will be requested to pay interest to the depositors?

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said before, the deposits, I am told, are meant to safeguard the companies interest in case customers default. Now, when customers default, they do not charge interests on the defaulting customers.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have heard, we are having a confused answer and I do not want to add anything else. The Assistant Minister says that he is not aware of the existence of these deposits then he comes later and says that he is trying to safeguard the companies interest from defaulters. In a country where the Treasury regulates this kind of thing, it would require those companies withholding deposits to pay some interest on those deposits to stop such companies from withholding deposits because they have many other ways of instituting legal measures. We are talking about billions of shillings. These companies are trading with that money. It is unfortunate to rule that the Treasury cannot think of ways of assisting Kenyans.

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Questioner has just made a statement. He did not actually ask any supplementary question.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if anybody deposits any money in a savings organisation then that person is given interest. So, when anybody pays Kshs100 to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company as a deposit and not as a payment, that money should be taken by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company and credit it as savings under their name. That Kshs100 belongs to George Nthenge and the interest that will accrue on it for ten years belongs to George Nthenge. All that we are asking is: Will you instruct these organisations to deposit this money in a savings account and finally refund the interest accrued to whoever does not default to enable him to clear his bills? They should refund Kshs100 plus the interest to hon. Nthenge. This is all that we are asking.

An Hon. Member: This is a corrupt country!

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will investigate the matter to see the best way to solve the problem for the good of the nation.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Mr. Maore that is the last question.

Mr. Maore: No!

Mr. Speaker: No what?

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister needs to dig deeper into the issue itself. For example, if you have a real estate developer with 200 units and for each house he is charging Kshs50,000, you can see the amount of money he is going to collect in form of a deposit. Since this is what is happening, the Government cannot say that these companies are using that kind of money even without paying any tax on it.

Mr. Barmasai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Real Estate Management is separate from both the Kenya Power and Lighting Company and the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications because---

Hon. Members: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Barmasai: Just hold on!

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you including Mr. Barmasai! If you are intending, as you told the House, to investigate this matter and come back to the House with a statement on what you have found, I do not think it is right that you should continue telling the House things that you have not investigated. I think we better leave the Assistant Minister now at this stage. Maybe, in the course of next week, you can come back with an answer. Very well. Next Question.

Question No.508

BOTTLING OF WATER FOR SALE

Mr. Munyasia asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry:

(a) how many companies are bottling water for sale in this country; and,

(b) whether he is satisfied that this water is of good quality as claimed by these companies, and if not, what he is doing about it.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody here from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry? We will leave that Question till the end. Next Question.

Question No.366

PAYMENT OF NSSF BENEFITS TO MRS. MUTHAMA

Mr. Nthenge asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Mrs. Kamene Muthama, FM/No.041 452 81X, an ex-employee of Nguliva Estate, has not been paid her NSSF benefits since 1994; and,
- (b) when Mrs. Kamene Muthama will be paid her NSSF benefits.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody here from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? We will leave the Question until the end. Next Question.

Question No.175

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SOTIK TEA COMPANY

Mr. Anyona asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Sotik Tea Company does not provide its employees with protective gloves, ambulance services, light duties for expectant mothers, co-operative society facilities and workman's compensation benefits; and,
- (b) if he is further aware that weighing scales are manipulated to defraud workers; service charges are not standard for employees of the same grade and women are not promoted to supervisory grades; and,
- (c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, whether will he institute urgent investigation into these allegations against the Company and take appropriate measures.

Mr. Speaker: Anyone here from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? Very well. For the second time, Mr. Munyasia's question.

Question No.508

BOTTLING OF WATER FOR SALE

Mr. Munyasia asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry:

- (a) how many companies are bottling water for sale in this country; and,
- (b) whether he is satisfied that this water is of good quality as claimed by these companies, and if not, what is he doing about it.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry? I will defer that Question. Next Question. Mr. Nthenge for the second time.

(Question deferred)

Question No.366

PAYMENT OF NSSF BENEFITS TO MR. MUTHAMA

Mr. Nthenge asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Mrs. Kamene Muthama, FM/No.041 452 81X, an ex-employee of Nguliva Estate, has not been paid her NSSF benefits since 1994; and,
- (b) when Mrs. Kamene Muthama will be paid her NSSF benefits.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? I will defer that Question. Next Question.

(Question deferred)

Question No.175

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SOTIK TEA COMPANY

Mr. Anyona asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development for the second time:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Sotik Tea Company does not provide its employees with protective gloves, ambulance services, light duties for expectant mothers, co-operative society facilities and workman's compensation benefits; and,

(b) if he is further aware that weighing scales are manipulated to defraud workers; service charges are not standard for employees of the same grade and women are not promoted to supervisory grades; and,

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, whether he will institute urgent investigation into these allegations against the company and take appropriate measures.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? I will defer that Question.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Some of these questions are very important Questions. Now, the Minister was given notice a week ago that this Question was coming up. They are not here to answer the Questions. Even as a matter of courtesy, I would expect the Minister to inform the Speaker that they are unable to answer the Questions. What are we going to do about this kind of thing?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I suppose this matter of lack of interest in the business of the House by Ministers, and also Members, has been raised several times. I have had occasion to say that Members owe it to this nation and to the electorate that they do give first priority to Parliamentary business. With that having not been heeded by those concerned, I again wish to state my concern about the neglect of the responsibility to the Kenyan nation by Ministers and Assistant Ministers. I hope it does not continue, and if it does, this House should take some action against one or two Ministers!

(Applause)

Mr. Farah: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. That is a very good communication from the Chair, but unfortunately, there is no Minister to hear that. Could we have the communication in the afternoon when we know for sure they will all be here?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I can assure the House that everything we say here is recorded verbatim. Of course, there are colleagues here and I can assure you there is also the Press. And if there is no Press, there is also the "rumour-mill" that they may have to get an answer from!

Mr. Kapter: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Thank you very much for that communication from the Chair, but of course, we do not actually believe in "rumour-mongers" and sometimes we do not take what the Press says seriously. Can we have that record sent to the President with a covering letter urging him to ask his Ministers, especially the Leader of the Government Business in the House, that he must ensure that Ministers are in the House to answer Questions?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I do not think that is the role set for me. I think what I have already stated from the Floor of this Chamber has sufficient ways to convince, even the most doubting Minister, that this House has the capacity to take some action against that Minister. If this House does not do that, two things will follow; the Government is likely to listen to what the House said and so will be the voters. I think that is enough.

Questions by Private Notice, Mr. Ojode.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MEASURES TO COMBAT SPREAD OF CHOLERA

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

(a) Could the Minister urgently order the release of the Ambulance of Magina Health Centre which is stationed for Homa Bay to help in transporting cholera victims from Ndhiwa to Homa Bay District Hospital?

(b) Could the Minister also approve the use of NHIF cards by various private hospitals in Nyanza to help combat the spread of cholera which is now prevalent in the former South Nyanza District?

Mr. Speaker: Is there anyone from the Ministry of Health? Well, I will break with the tradition and wait a little longer!.

Next Question, Mr. Imana.

SUPPLY OF LABORATORY CHEMICALS TO LODWAR HOSPITAL

(Mr. Imana) to ask the Minister for Health:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that there have been no laboratory chemicals and X-ray films at Lodwar Hospital for the last two months?

(b) Is he further aware that the X-ray films for Lodwar Hospital were lost by one of the staff of the hospital between Eldoret and Lodwar?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" are in the affirmative, could the Minister intervene and ensure constant supply of laboratory chemicals and X-ray?

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Imana not here? Now, what do I do with the Backbenchers who do not turn up?

Mr. Farah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when they come from distant places like Lodwar and Mandera, you can tell the Government to avail helicopters or planes to make them---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order!

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Nang'ole): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. While I appreciate your ruling on the Ministers, I propose that the same ruling you made on us be applied against the Backbenchers who do not turn up.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I agree totally! The Question is straightaway dropped!

(Question dropped)

PAYMENT OF TERMINAL BENEFITS TO MR. MUTEMI

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. Kimugi Mutemi, who has worked for VANKEEP Construction Company Limited of P.O. Box 42147, Nairobi, for the last 25 years, has been dismissed without payment of his terminal benefits?

(b) What urgent steps is the Minister taking to ensure that Mr. Mutemi's benefits are paid by the said company without delay?

Mr. Speaker: Is there anyone here from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? I am afraid, we have to defer the Question.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Questions has not been answered for the last three weeks because the Ministers were not there. Could the Chair consider taking very stern action against these Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Murungi, you have just come in. So, you are "a stranger" to what has proceeded in the House! So, could you get an update from the Members sitting next to you? Question deferred.

(Question deferred)

For the second time, Mr. Ojode's Question.

MEASURES TO COMBAT SPREAD OF CHOLERA

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the second time, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister urgently order the release of the Ambulance for Magina Health Centre which is stationed at Homa Bay to help in transporting cholera victims from Ndhiwa to Homa Bay District Hospital?

(b) Could the Minister also approve the use of NHIF cards by various private hospitals in Nyanza to help combat the spread of cholera which is now prevalent in the former South Nyanza District?

Mr. Speaker: Is here anyone from the Ministry of Health? I am afraid I have to---

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I believe that you have been reading newspapers. This Question is very serious and even today in the newspapers, they say "cholera kills 100 people in Nyanza." I did tell you in the last two weeks I might not even come back to this House because I might not have voters. In view of that, what would be the ruling of the Chair in the event that a Member, especially a Backbencher, loses all the people who are supposed to elect him?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! As much as I sympathise with the Member for Ndhiwa about the effects of cholera in his constituency, I also, in the sense that I have faith--- I am very depressed that Ministers are not there to reply to his Question. But I doubt it very much if it could turn out that cholera should wipe out everybody. I really hope that it does not. And just to ensure that it does not, I will direct that this Question be put for tomorrow.

An hon. Member: Here is Mr. Criticos!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Very well, I can see Mr. Criticos coming in. Because this is a very epidemic problem, I will wait for Mr. Criticos to come in!

Mr. Criticos, we are in Question number one by Private Notice for the third time.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to apologise. You know that I have never been all that late, but I had carried the responsibility of my Ministry and was looking for this Question.

(a) The ambulance for Magina is grounded on account of mechanical problems. It will be released to the Health Centre as soon as the spares are fitted.

(b) NHIF cards are used only in NHIF approved hospitals. There are 79 such hospitals in Nyanza categorised as follows:-

(a) Eight Government hospitals.

(b) Nine mission hospitals.

(c) Sixty one hospitals.

(d) One community hospital.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, let me commend your ruling and wish you become the Speaker in the next Parliament.

With regard to the first answer which has been given by the Assistant Minister is misleading, this ambulance for Magina Health Centre had been rehabilitated, repaired and it was on the road. For the last one year, this ambulance has been used by the MOH, Homa Bay, despite the fact that I have been calling them and they have been giving me false promises. The same ambulance which is now being alleged to have been grounded has some small mechanical problems; that is just rewinding of a coil which only requires Kshs28,000.00. I am having a number of cholera victims, particularly in Kabouch Location. Could the Assistant Minister consider releasing an AIE of Kshs28,000.00 in order for this ambulance to be repaired? For part "b", I also believe that you are aware that a number of private hospitals, especially in Nyanza, were closed down and none of them has already been reinstated for accepting the NHIF cards. Could the Assistant Minister order these private hospitals to accept NHIF cards? For example, the Sori Maternity Hospital--- The Permanent Secretary had already given an order that they should pay half of their amount which was alleged to have been claimed by this hospital. Could the Assistant Minister order the acceptance of these cards in those various hospitals in order to curb the spread of cholera?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as to hon. Member's question, yes, I am willing to instruct my Permanent Secretary, if the amount does not exceed Kshs100,000.00 to release the Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) to repair this Toyota Land Cruiser which broke down in 1997.

With regards to part "b", the hon. Member is correct on the NHIF and only 10 hospitals have complied with the 50 per cent requirement and these are in Kisii, Migori, Siaya and Rachuonyo. In Kisii, it is Emma Hospital, Keroka Nursing Home and Maternity, Christine Marie Nursing Home and Maternity, Getembe Nursing Home and Maternity; Migori, Pastoral(?) Macheke, Teresa Wahowe(?), Migori; Kisumu: Daraja Mbili Nursing Home and Maternity, and Nyawika(?) Nursing Home; and then in Siaya, Siaya Medical Centre. In Rachuonyo District, we have Matata Nursing Home and Maternity.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part "b" was an issue that affected several hospitals in Western Kenya which were accused of falsification of claims, but some of them have been acquitted by the Director because of lack of evidence. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that he is going to reinstate them immediately so that they can offer services to our people in Western Kenya?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, obviously, whoever has a case in court, there is no need for the Ministry to relax these requirements. That is the case. Whichever hospital has been found not guilty in court, the Board can go head. That is what we had said. As a matter of fact, we said this thing earlier on during this Parliamentary Session.

Mr. Arte: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been hearing the hon. Assistant Minister talk of transporting the cholera victims. Cholera a transmittal disease and the victims need to be confined on the spot. Can the Assistant Minister make arrangements to treat these cholera victims on the spot instead of transporting them from one place to another?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not a doctor. Maybe by osmosis being in the Ministry for such a long time, but hon. Arte is correct. That is why we are not moving the victims, we are treating them on the spot with the

intravenous fluids.

Mrs. Asiyu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newspapers have talked about 100 people having been killed by cholera in the whole of Nyanza Province and in Karachuonyo Constituency alone, there are over 100 people who have so far been killed by cholera. Can the Assistant Minister tell this House what action the Ministry has taken so far because there are no drugs and intravenous fluids in health centres and hospitals? Can he take immediate action now to ensure that there are sufficient drugs and the intravenous fluids in the hospitals so that so many people do not die the way that they are dying now?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my pleasure to inform the hon. Gracious Lady, that as we speak right now, the Director of Medical Services left for Kisumu this morning on an early flight to check on the cholera situation which we consider is acute and urgent measures will be taken to contain it. I could like my Minister also stated yesterday, that he will give a full Ministerial Statement on the condition.

Mr. Ojode: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister consider introducing mobile clinics within Kabwochi South Location, Kanyamwa West Location, Kanyidoto and Kwabwai Locations because, as we are talking now, there no drugs or personnel from the Ministry of Health, although the Assistant Minister is still insisting that there are people on the ground? When I was in my constituency, there were no Ministry personnel within these locations. Could he also confirm when the Magina ambulance will be released?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we should be serious on this issue. When I say that the Director of Medical Services left this morning for Kisumu and he is on the ground, I think the hon. Member should respect us because we are doing something about it. On the mobile clinics, if they are available with time and the situation according to the Director of Medical Services, which he is taking action, which he explained it is acute and he is there himself, if the need arises and they are available, they will go down there. Secondly, if the costs of rehabilitating the ambulance does not exceed Kshs100,000.00 we will repair it as soon as possible. Like today when I leave Parliament; I will speak to my Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Mbeo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. During the debate on the Vote of the Ministry of Health this year under Development Estimates, we were informed that they were changing their strategy from curative to preventive medicine. Can the Assistant Minister explain to this House why all of a sudden we are spending a lot of time discussing curative measures when the policy of this Ministry and the Government, is to concentrate more on preventive medicine and preventive activities than curative? Can he explain why they have not built toilets, why they are not looking at other sources, clean water?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us know the causes of cholera even if we are not doctors. We know that we have to boil water, we have to be clean, build more toilets and I expect the hon. Members and the local community to do such things and not the Ministry of Health that should build toilets.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Next order.

POINTS OF ORDER

VIOLENCE AT COAST PROVINCE

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to request for a Ministerial Statement on the current situation at Likoni and Kwale District which is getting serious every day. Yesterday the President had indicated that the causes and reasons for the violence are known. Therefore, we would like the Minister to tell us the causes and reasons for this violence. We would also like to ask the Minister to implement the President's call for dialogue between the various communities at the Coast Province. Finally, we would also like the Minister to call for a cessation of police of brutality and call for hostility by civilians to end while dialogue is being implemented as called by H.E. the President arap Moi in his speech at Kasarani. This could be done in the same way the "KAMATUSA-GEMA" talks were carried out when violence broke out in Rift Valley Province. Thank you.

STRIKE BY TEACHERS

Mr. Magwaga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On 4th September, 1997, I raised a point of order in this House concerning the threat by teachers to go on strike. I wanted the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development to give a Ministerial Statement on that matter. The Minister promised this House that when the teachers communicate to him, he will be able to make a statement. I am requesting him to make that Ministerial Statement because the teachers are still threatening to go on strike. This is very dangerous because our children and parents are concerned about this and the Minister has kept quiet.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Magwaga, I think you are right. I have had many requests from hon. Members who want to get a clarification either from the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Labour. Since we had been waiting for the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development, my hands had been tied. Now that he is here, and it is only a matter of days before the date of the strike by the teachers and it is a very important issue, would you like to say something, Mr. Masinde?

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to deny the fact that I promised to give a statement here. I said that I had not received the letter giving notice of the strike. I also said that, as soon as I got that letter, I would take the necessary action. Indeed, I have got the letter and I am already carrying out consultations.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the reply given by the Minister. I understand that he has already appointed a conciliator. In his latest statement, therefore, a denial of that particular fact that a conciliator had been appointed to deal with this particular matter?

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I promised here that as soon as I got the letter, I would take the necessary action. Indeed, he is confirming that I have taken the necessary action.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Masinde! I think the hon. Members are right. This House is the representative of the Kenyan people. It is not asking too much of any Minister to ask him to inform the House, and therefore, the country. What steps are you taking to avert a national strike?

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the House would like to know the steps I am taking to solve this problem, I am sure hon. Munyasia is already aware as he has mentioned here. Immediately I got the letter, I appointed an investigator to get into the details from either side. That is the teachers and the Ministry of Education, so that we look at the recommendations and take the necessary action. The KNUT has refused to accept the conciliator and since they have refused that, we have the established machinery to follow. The Government cannot begin to follow a different machinery apart from the legal and established machinery.

Since the KNUT refused the conciliator, I convened an investigation committee which would be composed of senior members from my Ministry plus other people from outside the Ministry, to look into the situation, but KNUT has also refused that committee. Obviously, they have to come to the negotiating table. They are saying that they want to see me and I have accepted to see them and we have already set a date. We are going to meet later this morning and start discussing other issues next week. I must say it is strange that we have the procedures laid down and a union comes up to negate them. The matter now is not with the Ministry of Education but with my Ministry and they should co-operate with officers from the Ministry and not necessarily demanding to meet with me. But anyway, I am ready to meet them. After all, I was a founder member of KNUT and when I was dealing with KNUT issues, the present Secretary-General of KNUT was in standard eight.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! I suppose that is what the House wanted of Mr. Masinde. He has discharged that responsibility and I would like to encourage Ministers to use the Floor of the House more often to disclose Government policies. That is how it is done all over the world. They should also use the Floor of the House to give a feedback on what is going on.

MOTIONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKER'S BANK

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

(Mr. Kiliku on 10.9.97)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 10.9.97)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mathenge was on the Floor last time. But since he is not here, he is deemed to have concluded. I will now give the opportunity to Mr. Obwocha.

Mr. Obwocha: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this very important Motion, of establishing a worker's bank through the National Social Security Fund.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I would like to say that the current age provided for in the Act for retirement should be reduced from 55 to 45 years, in order to give people a chance to use their life time savings effectively. When they wait until the age of 55 years when a person has retired, he cannot use the money he has been saving effectively. The other issue is on the investment portfolio of the National Social Security Fund which is flawed. These people have gone into investments that are not yielding any money to the workers. I have in mind the purchase of the Embakasi quarry from a group of conmen at exorbitant prices. Those of us who have been able to receive statements for the last five years, wonder how a Fund, like the one we have, pays only 3 per cent interest to the workers and yet, these people are keeping a lot of billions of shillings of workers' money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if this Fund could be converted from what it is now to a worker's bank, then workers can receive value for the money they are saving. The problem we have with the National Social Security Fund currently is delayed payments. I have several cases from my constituency for people who have retired and they sent in their forms long time ago, but this has taken over six months before they get their payments. What are people at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) doing? Yet, they continue to invest the workers' money in unviable projects. I would like to request those in charge of the Ministry to examine what the NSSF is doing with the workers' money. The amount of the money that they receive every month runs into many millions of shillings. But I do not know the problem they have in paying workers.

In transforming the NSSF into a bank, I would like to propose the following: The money should be transferred into a bank and lent to the workers at an interest rate similar to the one prevailing in Savings and Credit Co-operative (SACCO) societies. Those of us who have been members of these societies know that the lending rate is one per cent interest per month. If you compound it, it amounts to 6.6 per cent interest *per annum*. If they do that, then the workers will benefit from their savings and their sweat. So, this is basically what we are asking. We are not asking for the money to be converted to a bank, and lent at heavy interest rates. This money should help the workers themselves. Therefore, the workers' bank should operate in the same way as SACCO societies in the co-operative movement.

I would also like to say that once this bank is established, we would like to see proper provisions provided in running the bank. We would like the deposits of the workers to be managed properly. We do not want to establish a workers bank that is going to use this money the way the NSSF is using it. I have two examples where the NSSF has misused the workers' money. One is the purchase of the Embakasi Quarry for Kshs950 million from a Mr. Gohil and two African conmen, who are purporting to be helping the NSSF. What kind of returns are they getting from this investment? I would like the NSSF to re-examine their investment on Park View Towers building, which was purchased at an exorbitant price of Kshs967 million. I am not an architect, but we are told by architects that this building was not properly constructed. Therefore, workers stand to lose in the event of any disaster. We would like to request the NSSF to remove its investment from this particular venture.

I would also like to request the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development to bring services closer to the people they intend to serve. For example, the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development established an old office at the Kisii district Headquarters in the 1920s. This office has been serving the districts of Kisii, Gucha and Nyamira. But right now, these three places have established new districts. There is the new Gucha district and Nyamira district which were established in 1989, and Kisii district remains there. Our people from Nyamira find it so difficult to travel from Nyamira up to Kisii just to collect the NSSF forms to claim their benefits. Therefore, we are requesting the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development to establish an office in Nyamira. This will enable our people to collect the forms and contact the NSSF officers, so that they can get these services closer.

Finally, I would like to say that I do not know the merit or basis the Ministry, or whoever appoints the people to the NSSF, uses to get these people. The Managing Trustees should be financial people. They should be people who know how to invest money. They should be bankers or people who can invest the workers' money properly. The Minister and the chief executives are corruptly appointed to these places, to benefit those who appoint them. Therefore, we are asking the appointing man, if it is the President or the Minister, to get people who know how to manage and use finances properly. In that way, our money can be effectively re-invested for the benefit of the workers. If we put that in place, then a workers' bank would be viable.

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

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to get a chance to talk about this issue. When the NSSF was established, I was a Member of this House. The Minister who did it was a great friend of

mine. In fact, we used to discuss these things. The NSSF started very successfully. But because of hon. Mwendwa, during the late President Kenyatta's time, the crooks of this nation---

An hon. Member: Crooks?

Mr. Nthenge: Yes! Bad people! When they discovered that the poor man had already started benefiting, they said: "there is a lot of money here". They forgot that the money which was there belonged to very many poor people. They started to trade cunningly for their own benefit, with the NSSF. Therefore, they made the NSSF not to be what it was originally meant to be. It became an organisation of troubling the owners, who are the ordinary poor workers who retired. On one occasion, many years ago, I was a member. In my political office in Machakos, 90 per cent of the work I did was of the retired NSSF beneficiaries, who had not got their benefits. I had to come to this House and ask hon. Nassir, who was then the Assistant Minister responsible: "why are you troubling wananchi with their own money?" "The worst thing that can happen to a worker is to be asked many questions concerning his particulars when NSSF has already got them. I do not see any reason why we cannot begin processing a retiree's pension benefits long before he retires. If we know that a person by the name of Mutiso would be retiring in December, 1998, there is no reason why we should not begin processing his retirement benefits, so that he gets them just before he leaves. If we want all his particulars, we can get them easily when he is still working.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, NSSF was meant to help workers and not to cause them untold suffering. I support the intentions of the Motion. It is necessary that we establish a Workers' Bank. Actually, if the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development was strict in matters relating to the payment of workers' retirement benefits, it would not even be necessary to establish such a bank. A good number of people in Kenya have lost national interest and now they have selfish personal interests. And for that reason, people no longer benefit from their own sweat. Workers' money is retained by the NSSF so that it can help them when they retire. When a worker retires and goes to his home, for example, in Garissa, you can imagine the difficulties he encounters in terms of meeting his fare to and from Nairobi to follow up his money. He spends so much money on the way and still does not get his retirement benefits. Some of these people sell their camels to get money to travel to Nairobi. The intention behind the establishment of NSSF was not to punish the workers, but to make their life in old age better.

People come from different parts of this country to get their money, and sometimes they are forced to bribe the clerks at NSSF before they get their money. There is a lot of corruption going on in that place. That is why we feel that establishing a Workers' Bank might solve the workers' problems. I am insisting that the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development becomes more strict and ensures that NSSF benefits the workers and does not frustrate them. It is an organ for the ordinary worker and it should help him. There are billions of shillings in NSSF, but they do not help the ordinary workers. Why should we, the influential, steal money from the poor workers? That is what is being done. If a manager in NSSF is given orders to purchase property from somebody else, he has no choice, but to do so. He will do that because he wants to keep his job. It is we, the influential class, who are exploiting the workers and not the ordinary man. We take the poor men's money to buy a second and third car and marry third and fourth wives and all other luxuries that go with this kind of thing.

All these luxuries annoy God because we no longer care for his people. By doing this kind of thing, we are actually asking for God's curse and a curse from God is a terrible thing. One curse has manifested itself in form of AIDS. We do not know how to go about curing it. This is a curse which one can hardly avoid, especially the young people. The Minister should make sure that when we establish such a bank, the workers' money will not be misappropriated. I am suggesting that the bank gets two categories of clients. The first category is those people who are registered with NSSF. They should be in a position to get soft loans. A man like hon. George Nthenge, hon. Mutiso and hon. Masinde should fall under the second category. If the bank has surplus money, then it can loan money to the second category of clients at commercial interest rates. In this way, the bank will also assist the ordinary investor. Let us close up all the loopholes that would make us lose so much of our money. Before I finish, I would like to say that the ordinary people are God-given. We need to care for them. We have a responsibility to care for the weak. God knows that he has given us brains to care for his weak people and it is our responsibility to do that. Any religion, whether Hindu, Muslim or Christianity, preaches the doctrine of God's love for his people. Is stealing these people's money one way of loving them? That is calling for a curse. At my age, I know that God can curse people. He is powerful and merciful and if we change our ways, he will not curse us. If we go on punishing his poor people, he will defend them because he is able to defend them.

The Minister has to tighten his belt and get support from this House so that the ordinary workers do not suffer. These people do not have what a few of us have, although they form about 80 or 90 per cent of the population. Why should we not care for them? What do we lose by caring for them? We must remember that, that bank is meant to help those who require help and that is why a friend in need is a friend indeed.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage (Mr. Mutiso): Thank you, Mr. Temporary

Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on this very important Motion. The issue of NSSF is one that all of us, leaders, must take very seriously. If you consider the amount of money collected from workers, beginning with Members of this House, other government workers and the ordinary person who is in employment throughout the country, it is a colossal sum of money. Therefore, I cannot understand why at the end of everything, the workers are just paid the exact amount of money that they contributed during their working period without considering that some interest has accrued on that money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the idea of the Government considering establishing a bank or being requested to establish a bank. It is a very wise idea because that bank will collect a lot of money for the workers of this country. The bank will do some business with the money and the workers will have a right to get their benefits or get soft loans from the bank as the Motion indicates. I have in view workers with low incomes. Those on higher grades should also benefit from this bank. If the NSSF was established as a bank during its inception, it would be one of the richest banks in the country and in a position to offer soft loans to workers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the previous speaker said, when a person retires, there are a lot of difficulties in obtaining their retirement benefits from NSSF. Although I understand the Government has decentralised this system to make it possible for somebody to obtain his or her retirement benefits in their home districts, this is still not enough. If it was a bank, that money would have generated a lot of interest, and at the end of retirement, a retiree's money would have accrued a lot of interest. This would enable the contributor to get better returns on retirement.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Minister that this is a wonderful idea, because we want to help this country develop. We want Kenyan workers to be happy. Everybody who is ready to get into any development activity should on retirement, be in a position to benefit from his or her contributions. I believe the Minister will not find this a difficult suggestion, since this is a wise move which I urge him to consider. All of us have one interest and that is to ensure that, Kenyan workers get the fruits of Independence and labour to the maximum.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I sometimes get shocked when I see banks' returns at the end of the year, that they have made over 100 per cent profit. If this was a workers' bank whereby all NSSF contributors put their money, many Kenya workers would be very rich people. They would overcome some of the problems they are facing today. This is a wise suggestion, and I would like to support it personally because as a former trade unionist, I represented workers of this country in many platforms and fields when I was the Deputy Secretary-General of the Kenya Federation of Labour, when most of these young hon. Members were still in school. Therefore, I know the needs of the workers, having represented them locally and internationally and negotiated for their benefits. I therefore, support this Motion because it is for the interest of the workers who have a soft spot in my heart.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the Motion has been brought by an hon. Member from the Opposition side, it should be supported. At the moment, there is a wonderful atmosphere in this House, that Members of the House consider the business of the House on its merits and not on the basis of who is bringing it. If it is a good thing, we have a right to support it. I support the move, because it is a wonderful one.

Since many Members would like to contribute to the Motion, I will not take most of the time. I wish to support the Motion.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Motion. The Motion in general is a good one, but I would like to make very few amendments, perhaps by inserting a word or two. Otherwise, we are all aware that when the NSSF was started in 1966, it was meant for the welfare of the workers and indeed, they have to benefit before they die, because they will not have the opportunity to benefit when they are dead.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since its inception, the NSSF has tried its level best, despite a lot of accusations. It has expanded and registered many contributors numbering about 2.2 million. With the contributions, apart from getting the old age payments, they should also benefit when they still have the strength. By doing so, they will add to the improvement of the economy. When we have such a bank, they could borrow money and invest it in their own ways while they are still working, despite the fact that operation of the bank is not easy especially when it is lending to the workers at lesser interest rates, bearing in mind occurrences such as mobility, deaths, termination of employment and so on. What should be done to these people when they fail to repay the money? They will affect the system as well as the money that would have been generated so as to help other people. There are quite a number of issues to be considered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in general, the idea is a good one. However, I would also like to mention that hon. Members are aware that very recently, we had two Bills passed in this House and they have already been signed by His Excellency the President and made Acts of Parliament. One was the Retirement Benefits Bill, which is now the Retirement Benefits Act and the NSSF Amendment Act, 1997. The NSSF Act is going to operate very closely with Section 37 of the Retirement Benefits Act, Sub-section 2.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members will remember the areas to be invested in would have to be regulated by the Section 37 of the Retirement Benefits Act. If that section prohibits the NSSF from getting into banking business, then, of course, it will not disobey the section. However, again, by the NSSF Act, the Fund has to establish its own management procedures. Obviously, the Government has very little say in this. In fact, initially I wanted to ask hon. Members to amend the Act to ask the Fund to consider--- The Government has hardly any authority in this case. However, since the Government will be appointing the directors of the Fund I would accept this Motion. But later on I will move an amendment to delete the word "establish" in the Motion and insert in place thereof the words "consider establishing". The reasons are that, as I have explained, the Government must not have direct involvement in the Fund. Therefore, it is naive for us to ask the Government to change things in an institution in which it is not directly involved.

Also, we would have to ask the NSSF to consult both employers and other countries, which may be in a similar situation in order to see how best this sort of a bank can be operated in this country. I know that Ghana had established a workers' bank, but I am also aware that they have been advised to privatise it. I do not want to equate that with the Kenyan situation, because we here we have a different situation. But I know that, in fact, the Minister for Labour in Ghana has been a member of the board of directors of that bank. However, the Government of Ghana has been asked by the World Bank to sell its majority shares.

In that case the bank will be strictly commercial. This will mean that it will have to be competitive against other banks. It cannot afford to lend money to workers when it may be risky to do this. If a worker is sacked after borrowing money at a low interest rate he will have no means of repaying his loan. If a worker loanee dies his loan may be recovered from his pension benefits. But when he is sacked and he does not get another job then the situation becomes complicated because he will not be qualified for a pension. So, this is a complex situation that I would like hon. Members to be aware of.

In the course of debate quite a number of hon. Members have complained about the NSSF. For example, Hon. Obwocha said that he needs an NSSF office in his area. I would like to tell hon. Members - I have told them this before - that the NSSF has improved tremendously. When I got there seven years back payments were taking years to make and were centralised in Nairobi. Now that is a thing of the past. In general, now payments are being made within 30 days of application for payment, if all papers are in order.

Also, the question of anybody coming to Nairobi does not arise any more because we have had to open offices in districts. In fact, we have NSSF branch offices in 32 districts, though not in a few new districts which are being created. However, when we get organised I hope that offices will be opened in the new districts, where Fund members will be able to make inquiries. But people in the new districts are not very far from their former district headquarters. We have offices in all the old districts, and any retiree can go to them and check how much he is entitled to. He can fill up the claim form at the district office and then it will be sent to the NSSF Headquarters. His cheque will then be sent back to the district office and our district staff will get in touch with the fellow and ask him to go for his payment. So, really there is no cause for any retiree to come to Nairobi to look for his retirement benefits at all. Even in the case of workers who are still in employment, we have installed computers in every province except North Eastern Province. Therefore, anybody can get to any NSSF district office and ask the staff there to give him his account balance as per that day. The district office will contact the provincial office concerned and the member concerned can get his balance on the spot at the district office. So, things have been simplified.

However, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to take this opportunity to tell hon. Members that, as representatives of the people, I know that they get the same complaints as I do. Our constituents come to us and complain that NSSF payments are delayed. There are quite a number of reasons as to why there are delays in making NSSF payments at the moment. One reason is that when a member leaves his employer he does not give his next address. When we write to his former employer he is no longer there and his former employer does not know where the member is.

Therefore, we should advise our voters to give their correct address when they make claims. If their correct address is found on the claim forms this will help us. The claimants should indicate other employers for whom they have worked. Sometimes we get schedules from various employers which do not match. This means that one employer did not send the member's contributions or that he sent them without a schedule. So, we have to go back to the member to ask him where he has worked before. When he tells us we check his account and if we find that we do not have records from that particular employer, we then have to write to that employer, or ask the member to go and ask the employer, to get us the member's details. As soon as we get those details, we process the member's payment. Sometimes, to avoid undue delay, we make part payment: We pay for whatever we have in our records and then write to the employer whose details we do not have on record to give us such details. When we get and verify such details we issue the second cheque.

It is also important for hon. Members to know that the NSSF has tried its best to simplify the payment

procedure. In the past we used to issue cheques for even Kshs10. At the moment I have agreed with the Fund that cheques for up to Kshs10,000 can be written to an individual at the district labour office. The NSSF officer in that office should then be able to cash that cheque and give the recipient cash money. This is better than the claimant having to run around with a Kshs10,000 cheque when, perhaps, he may not even have a bank account.

We have observed and seen that the figure of Kshs10,000 has worked very well. I want to ask the Managing Trustee if perhaps, this can be raised to Kshs20,000. That anybody getting up to Kshs20,000 can be paid cash at his district headquarters instead of having to come up or go to the banks to open an account in order to get this money. Really, we are trying our best and we definitely need support from hon. Members and from anybody to make sure that if we can, the employee should be able to get payments as soon as possible. At the moment, we are saying payments should be made within thirty days, but I would like it to be within fourteen days. If a worker and his children were used to taking some tea every morning and you send him away without paying him his dues and he has to wait for two months in order to get his pension or the final benefits, then there is a problem. The worker has had hardships and we would like to minimise these hardships as much as possible because it is his money. We have also heard accusations about mismanagement, especially in investing. The outcry has always been about plots, buildings and so on. Obviously, the plots and buildings which have been bought are there. While the plots may not be yielding funds now, but the buildings which have been bought are yielding funds in the form of rents. As far as we know, in the history of estate management, land never depreciates. It does not matter what happens, but land never depreciates. Therefore money placed in land cannot be considered as money lost. I would like to assure the House that with the amendments that we made recently, we will ensure that money is properly invested and when the Pension Fund begins operating, we hope that instead of contributors being paid in lumpsums, which they spend within six months and they have nothing left, they can at least continue earning something small until they die.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I would like to move that the Motion be amended by deleting the word "establish" appearing in the third line and inserting in the place thereof the words "consider establishing". The amendment as explained, is very minor and the reasons for that are that we need to make thorough investigations to make sure that the workers' money, is secure even if we have to establish the bank and the money is borrowed.

With those few remarks, I beg to move and at the same time to support.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Dr. Misoi): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to second the amendment to the Motion as amended, that the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) be considered for transformation into a workers' bank because this is a very important institution. It is really a depository for members' savings, to ensure that at the end of their hard work, when they retire, they have something to live on. That is why it is important that these savings should be safeguarded in such a manner that as and when the workers retire for any reasons, they are paid promptly to avoid frustrations and delays, which in the past, have been very common. I appreciate that the Minister has confirmed that payments are being done within a very short time. This is very encouraging.

But while considering the establishment of a bank of this kind, we must ensure that a thorough feasibility study is done to ensure that when such a bank comes into being, it will be viable, profitable financially and economically. It would be a tragedy if a bank is created which finally is run down to collapse as we have seen with a few other banks, and this is very critical. It may be attractive to establish a bank, but we must also ensure that its management is controlled and all other critical aspects of management are put in place to ensure that it is shielded from the profiteers, exploiters, looters and others who have caused the collapse of other banks. These other banks which failed never failed because the managers were not doing a good job, but because other third party interests exploited the same for dubious businesses.

This must be taken care of. In the past we have had complained that the NSSF funds have been misdirected, misused and mis-applied by the same exploiters and people who want to reap where they never planted. They made investments in non-viable projects, bought land at excessively inflated prices because they felt that there was available money. That money is available, but it is owned by workers, so nobody should imagine that it is free money to be looted and to be shared by people who have never worked hard. This is a misguided belief. Workers have sweated and worked hard to save this money. Therefore, anybody else who wants to benefit must also work hard. That is why reasonable and viable investments have to be put in place. Workers are not the ones who have created losses. It is the people who are able to venture into good businesses, but they have found it easy to approach NSSF for their ill gotten wealth. So, it is very important that while we are talking about this bank, we must also consider if other similar banks have been established elsewhere, the basis of their establishment, the way they fit into the existing banking system and how much better the workers will benefit from a bank as opposed to other investment options.

It is crucial to ensure that we establish institutions which will survive the test of time, last long and remain as a permanent feature of the workers' investments. After all, we will always be having workers because we are all

workers. So, we are a permanent feature of our society. Therefore, any institutions established must also be a permanent feature. It is also very important that those who manage these institutions like those in the Board of Trustees should be people of appropriate qualifications, experience, with good track records, with no blemishes, incorrupt and who cannot commit their jobs to other third party interests. They should not be tribalists, motivated by political affiliations. They should be people who are determined to run the business of the workers' fund, be it a bank as we are proposing today. That is why it is crucial that appointments to these institutions are done on merit, not to satisfy anybody, not even to be a promoter of anybody. We should not promote what we call "sponsored mobility", where you sponsor people to positions because you want them to benefit. We must put people in places because the institutions will benefit, not the person. But if he does a good job, he will be rewarded. This is very important. I must also caution leaders and politicians to desist from interfering in workers' business such as trade unions, organisations, investments, funds and so on. Politicians should keep off because their work is to practise politics and mobilise the people for political purposes. Let the workers mobilise the people for the welfare of the workers. These politicians have no business to interfere, calling for strikes, mass actions and closing of the shops and telling people to destroy things. That is a sign of failure by some of our politicians. They try to sympathise with workers as if the workers and their leaders do not know their work.

Why should politicians think that they know everything to the extent that they go and bulldoze the trade unions who have elected their own leaders? Yes, those are leaders who are as good as you are. So, these politicians should stop messing up the economy and the political environment of this nation. Mind your own business! We all have departments, politics is another department; workers' business is another department, banks are other departments, the Government is another department. That is why we have division of labour so that each unit can be productive. This is crucial and I want to say that we are not going to entertain people who want to do everything. None of us has the monopoly of solutions to the problems of this country, but we can contribute, little by little, for the welfare of this nation. So, those who are masquerading around and saying that they sympathise with the teachers are wasting their time. They had better come to this House and contribute to a Motion of this kind which will benefit the people of this country, the workers; their children and the economy at large.

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

*(Question of the first part of the amendment,
that the word to be left out be left out, proposed)*

*(Question of the first part of the amendment, that
the word to be left out be left out, put and agreed to)*

*(Question of the second part of the amendment,
that the words to be inserted in place
thereof be inserted, proposed)*

*(Question of the second part of the amendment,
that the words to be inserted in place
thereof be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Question of the Motion as amended, proposed)

Prof. Mzee: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to this important Motion which stands to benefit the workers in this country. Let me first define the type of workers who contribute and expect to benefit from the NSSF. Most of the workers in this country do not contribute to the NSSF because they have either the Government Pension Scheme, Provident Fund or insurance funds which cover them very well during their retirement age. The workers who contribute to the NSSF are the down-trodden and the poorest paid in this country. They are the people who receive a minimum salary; and the minimum salary in this country stands at Kshs2,100 per month. These are the type of workers who contribute their money to the NSSF and they expect retirement benefits at the end of the working period.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must say that what they contribute now for their future is peanuts. We have, again and again, asked for this figure of Kshs80 to be raised so that they can have substantive amounts of retirement benefits when they reach their retirement age. If the contribution remains at Kshs80 and the employer pays another Kshs80, this will mean that, per year the contribution is Kshs1,920 and even if the workers work for another 30 years, which is impossible, they stand to earn only about Kshs57,600 at the end of their retirement age. This is also

peanuts in this economy of ours; especially if this is contributed today and collected 20 years to come. This amount of money will be totally and absolutely meaningless. We have to be realistic if we want to help our workers at the time of retirement. We have to ensure that what they get is sufficient for them to be able to live comfortably and pay for their medical bills and also be able to educate their children who are still in school. At the present time, nothing of that sort happens.

I am proposing that the Government should totally move out of this Pension Scheme for the workers. This should be turned into a sort of an insurance policy where the workers and the employers pay an insurance premium so that the workers can be covered effectively at the time they retire.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one most important aspect is the life expectancy of the African male worker. We have to know that the life expectancy of these people is about 48 years and the retirement age is about 55 years. A large number of workers never live to collect their NSSF contribution; this is over 50 per cent of the workers--- They never live to the day when they collect their NSSF benefits. There are large dormant accounts with the NSSF which have been lying there for the last 25 years where nobody has collected any money. These accounts have millions and millions of shillings. This is the money which the NSSF management plays around with. This amount of money in dormant accounts is in excess of millions and millions of shillings. With the life expectancy of 48 years, you will agree with me that many of these workers never live to collect their money. At the present time, there is an option; if workers retire after the age of 40 to 50 years and they can produce a letter to show that they are sick, they can be given their money, but still it remains that most of the workers never collect this amount of money until they attain the age of 55 years. I want to ask the NSSF how many of these workers? What is the proportion of those workers who live up to 55 years actually do present their claims? I can tell you that these are hardly more than 20 per cent. Most of the Kenyan workers, especially the down-trodden poorest workers, who are paid merely Kshs2,100, never live to the day when they would celebrate their 55th birth day. This is how their money is being squandered by those people who run the NSSF. This money is being squandered through lame deals which are uneconomical; it is squandered through other dubious means.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to give hon. Mrs. Phoebe Asiyo two minutes to contribute.

Mrs. Asiyo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to help the Minister allay fears about the establishment and the running of this Government. I would like to ask the Minister, as soon as he can possibly do so, to send some personnel from the NSSF to Bangladesh to see what the Gramain Bank has done in Bangladesh. I happen to know that the Ghanian experience has failed, but I know that the Gramain Bank has transformed the living conditions, especially of the workers, and it is now helping to eradicate poverty in that country. We have a similar bank that was set up by the women called the Women Finance Trust Bank which is affiliated to the Women World Bank. This bank in Kenya has succeeded in a very small way. With maybe just about Kshs300 million, it is able to give loans to poor women in the countryside who are repaying back these loans comfortably without problems and the repayment success is 98 per cent.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister needs not to fear about the repayment of these loans because if he organises the training of those who will be benefitting from this Bank through such loans and adopt the Gramian experience, there is now way we can fail. The gap between the rich and poor in Kenya is, perhaps, the widest in the whole of this sub-region. I, therefore, want to appeal to the Minister to make sure that he establishes a bank and that if he needs the experience of women in this country, then we will support him.

Thank you.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed and those who wanted to contribute, but had no time. I have got every reason to commend workers in this country for their efforts under the harsh economic conditions that we are living under during these time. The basic salary of a civil servant - the Minister can support me on this - is equivalent or even less than the price of one day's breakfast for the Minister. You can see the logic behind it. That is where we are being told that this country is progressing on well? What kind of economic growth is that one? The basic salary of a civil servant is Kshs1,700 or Kshs2,100 because the circular from the Presidential Salary Review Commission has not been implemented. You should compare the basic salary of a civil servant, which is Kshs1,700 with the salary of the highest paid person in this country, who is a whiteman who works at the Kilindini Container Terminal. He earns over Kshs1.2 million per month. What formula would you use to compare and contract the two salaries? The difference is too much.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the benefits given to the retired workers which the Minister has quoted this in the National Development Plan Report are quite inadequate due to the erosion of the purchasing power because of inflation. Therefore, we must find out the basic idea behind the establishment of the NSSF. The NSSF was established to promote the welfare of the workers but it is not doing so. Even after retiring and getting the money, you

cannot do anything with that money. That is why we are proposing that we have a bank so that these workers can invest early enough, of course, when they are productive. We should not pay worker's their dues when, in the first place, they are not productive or when they cannot do anything with that money. The NSSF money has been misused deliberately by politicians and highly placed corrupt business people. A good example is what happened when they purchased Bruce House and View Park Towers. A lot of money was wasted. I would propose that the workers must be shareholders in those two buildings and the dividends should go to the workers. We should do that if we want to promote the domestic investments which have been declining. As I am talking now, tourism at the Coast has collapsed. There are no tourist activities going on at the Coast. This country has lost at least, Kshs3 billion for the last two months because of the violence at the Coast.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, it is better to find how we can promote the welfare of workers. Even that salary being proposed by the Presidential Salary Review of Kshs2,300 is too small. What is Kshs2,300 surely? This is mockery bearing in mind that the retrenchment policy of the Government was aimed at reducing the workers. The workers were reduced. We were told that the reason behind the reduction, in the Civil Service and in the private sector was to have their salaries adjusted so that their welfare was enhanced. But they have not done anything although they have reduced the workforce. Therefore, although the Minister has amended the Motion, he should consider this issue fully. He should direct that bank to build houses for local workers. That bank can give soft loans to workers who can in turn invest in other projects so that they can earn more money. This is because you cannot earn until you invest.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the NSSF does not belong to the Government. Even most of the workers who have been contributing to the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) have not even benefitted from the Fund. Where is the money kept? Therefore, I would like to tell the Minister that unless he amends labour laws especially Chapter 226 which is contained in a colonial Act which deals with companies placed under receivership, workers will continue to be the last people to be paid their dues. That is why people come into this country, trade and then conspire with the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development to declare them bankrupt and finally run away.

The Minister for labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to say that when companies declare themselves or when they are declared bankrupt, they have conspired with the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development? The Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development has nothing to do with the running of business. It merely looks after the welfare of wananchi or the workers and not the running of business.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, but the redundancies are approved by the Ministry and the Minister himself knows that. He is the one who approved the redundancies at Madhvani Group of Company which moved to Kampala. In fact, it is the richest company in Kampala today and yet he said that the company was bankrupt. How come and yet it left Lyons Maid and the Ramisi Sugar Company to go to Uganda after Idi Amin's regime collapsed and President Museveni came to power. The Minister is the one who approves the redundancies? I am speaking about what I know. That the Act must be amended. I want to remind my friend, the Minister that we have skilled labour in this country now and we should stop forthwith the issuance of the work permits. Work permits should only be given to the investor and the person who is supposed to look after the financial affairs of the company. We should stop giving out work permits to those people who claim to be very educated. We have skilled labour in this country. Indeed, we have the most educated people in this region now.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1960s, we could have engaged foreign experts, but not now. We have educated people in this country who have no work. I would like to call upon the Minister to stop issuing work permits, so that our personnel and local skilled labour can get employment in the labour market.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these few points, I beg to move.

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

Resolved accordingly:

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

QUORUM

Mr. Mwaura: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a very important Motion,

and yet we do not have quorum in the House.

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

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Arte): Order! We have a quorum. You may proceed, Mr. Mcharo.

CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND MZIMA
SPRINGS WATER PIPELINE

Mr. Mcharo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-
THAT, since Mombasa and its environs have been experiencing acute water shortages due to frequent break down of the old Mzima Springs pipeline which was built in 1949/50; considering the adverse effects of the frequent shortages of water supply in the tourist industry and for the general development of the Coast area; considering that the World Bank undertook to build the Second Mzima Springs pipeline to alleviate the above mentioned difficulties, this House calls upon the Government to implement this long overdue project within the current Development Plan (1997-2001).

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, water is a very important commodity in the development of the economy of Kenya and of any country in this world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Kenya, the development of our economy or of our both major and small towns is very much impeded by shortage of this important commodity called water. When we come to Mombasa in particular, there are very important issues that must be addressed. If we are going to allow Mombasa to develop into a city and offer the kind of facilities required in a major city or town like Mombasa, we must work hard.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mombasa, as a major port in this country has been faced with major water problems for a long period of time. I think time has come when this water problem was addressed so that it is solved once and for all.

The main water source for Mombasa is the Mzima Springs up in Taita Taveta District. During the colonial era, the colonialists found it necessary to build a major water pipeline all the way from Mzima to Mombasa. At that time, the population of Mombasa - I do not have that statistics - but it was well below 100,000 people, and they saw it necessary to build a pipeline from Mzima to Mombasa. The water from Mzima Springs has assisted this town to grow to what it is now. We are aware that there are other minor sources of water which supply Mombasa like Marere in Kwale, but these sources are very insignificant especially when one considers the rate at which Mombasa is growing today. The people of Mombasa have complained for many years due to the shortage of water both for domestic purposes and hospitals. Above all, the tourism industry has been affected very adversely by the shortage of water in Mombasa, and, yet, Mombasa is the second major town which is soon going to become a city, and in a few years time to come, it is going to be one of the mega cities in this Eastern African region and one of the major cities in the world. So, this is why I am saying that we must begin addressing this problem now.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are told that the World Bank had a plan to finance the Second Mzima Springs Pipeline years ago because, we have no idea as to what happened to this plan. The purpose of this Motion is to urge the Government to begin negotiations afresh with the World Bank, if those negotiations had stopped, with a view to securing the necessary funds to finance this important project. We are urging the necessary feasibility studies to be carried out with immediate effect, so that Mombasa as our major port can be supplied with the necessary water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not have to mention the importance of tourism in so far as Mombasa and the Coast Province is concerned. I believe that more than 50 per cent of the revenue accruing from tourism industry originate from Mombasa. There are so many hotels in Mombasa South Coast and the North Coast, and tourists quite often find it difficult to enjoy their stay there because of lack of water. There is also scope for even further growth of tourism in Mombasa, South Coast and North Coast, including the Island. If the growth of the tourism industry is going to be maintained so that this country continues to earn the foreign exchange required to assist the growth of the economy of this country, then we must address again, this water problem very seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development was created precisely to look into these problems. I would like when the Minister is replying to tell us exactly what the Ministry is doing in order to provide Mombasa with the necessary water that we require. When building the Second Mzima Springs, we are not going to consider only water for domestic purposes, hospitals and tourism, but we

must also take into account that there are other major industries that require water.

Manufacturing industries are growing on the western mainland of Mombasa Island. Changanwe has many manufacturing industries and they are spreading to Mazaras and Mariakani. We want more and more of these industries to grow so that our youth can secure employment. Secondly, we want our economy to grow and, thirdly, we want Kenya to become a country to be relied upon not by only ourselves, but by the international community. Mombasa, as a port, is also being depended upon by other East African countries. It is a major regional port and as such, we Kenyans, must play our part in ensuring that East Africa, as a region, grows as fast as possible. That cannot be achieved, unless Mombasa as a port is taken care of effectively in so far as the water resources are concerned so that the industries we are talking about can develop without these impediments of water shortages.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want the Government and all well-wishers like the World Bank and others, to assist us in this important project. The Second Mzima Springs Pipeline, in my view, should not be constructed to take care of Mombasa interests alone. The Second Mzima Springs Pipeline will pass across the entire length of Taita Taveta District, and I would like to put it on record here, as a request that when this pipeline is constructed, it should take care of the interests of the people in areas where this pipeline passes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have in mind major towns including municipalities like Voi which are growing very fast and have no water. The pipeline should be big enough to take care of the interests of cities and towns that I have mentioned. There should also be extension of this pipeline to some other major towns which are growing like Mwatate Town which is about 20 kilometres from Voi. We need this water for the development of rural based centres. It is by so doing that we can assist in the development and growth of our towns and, therefore, the growth of industries in our small towns and, therefore, the creation of employment opportunities for our young people all over the country and in Coast Province in particular.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have noted that wherever a pipeline passes and provides water points in an area, it is very easy to develop horticultural produce like vegetables, flowers and fruits. The soil between Mzima and Mombasa is very fertile. It is a vast stretch of land which requires water for its development. I am suggesting that major water points should be provided, so that all that area where the pipeline passes through is developed and the people around there can utilise that water for agricultural purposes. That would enable them to provide food crops and other produce that can assist in the development of the economy of this country. So, the Mzima pipeline is very important because it is going to help in opening up large parts of Taita/Taveta and Coast Province, especially Kilifi and Kwale for development. There will be development of horticulture and industries in that area and it will also make living in those places more convenient for the people of Coast Province.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Kenyans from Nairobi and other upcountry towns travel to Mombasa during the holidays for leisure. For that reason, I am requesting this House to support this Motion fully. It requires the support of the House, because, as I have said, the provision of water makes life very comfortable. It is also going to make it easy to develop industries there. It is also going to make it easy to manage the different institutions down there like hospitals and schools. It is also going to make life more affordable as it should be. The first Mzima pipeline was built about 40 years ago and when one looks at it now, it is very old and it keeps on breaking from time to time. Repairs are being done from time to time and it inconveniences general life and industrial activities in Mombasa. The second Mzima springs pipeline should be a project much bigger than the one we have today. When that pipeline was being built, the population of Mombasa was not even 100,000 people, but today, it is a town of over 1 million people. At the rate in which Mombasa is growing now, I am sure, in 10 years time, that the population of Mombasa will be about 3 million people. This is one of the reasons why we must now begin looking ahead. We must develop in this country, the culture of looking far ahead when we are talking about the development of our towns.

I understand that even here in Nairobi, there are water shortages from time to time. This is because we do not plan our development for 10 or 20 years, especially when we are looking at commodities such as water. If we do that, I think our water problems will be minimised and we will accelerate the rate of economic development in this country. Kenya must be made to be one of the major newly industrialised countries under the Government policy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the year 2020, Kenya must be one of the newly industrialised countries like the giants of Asia. That can be done when we begin to take into account the development of water, not just in Mombasa, but all over the country. I believe that we have the water resources both on the surface and underground. Surface and underground water is plenty and what we need is to prioritise our needs. Let us make the provision of water in this country a major priority. I am appealing to the Government to make sure that the provision of water is allocated adequate funds in future budgets. This means that in the least, other services are going to have their budgets reduced. It is better because investment in water is for the future development of the country - especially Kenya being an agricultural country and more than 80 per cent being arid and semi arid zones. Even all those areas along which the Mzima pipeline passes and going all the way to Mombasa, is arid and semi arid land. If we prioritise water as one of our major priorities, we will go a long way in assisting this country to develop. Our policies should be

geared towards the development of our economy and providing employment opportunities for our youths. That must be our priority and the management of the resources for the development of projects like water must be done effectively. In other words, we must have well paid water engineers and other personnel that are going to effect the development of these projects. We must also have people who are not corrupt. I am saying this because when we have major water projects that are not managed properly, they are not going to succeed.

With those few remarks, I call upon hon. Kiliku to second the Motion.

Mr. Kiliku: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nataka kuikumbusha Serikali hii ahadi ambazo imewahi kuwapatia watu. Serikali ilipeana ahadi kuwa ifikiapo mwaka wa 2000, kila mtu atakuwa na maji safi. Mpaka sasa, imebaki miaka miwili na miezi mitatu na hata hatuoni dalili yoyote kuonyesha kwamba hili jambo litatendeka. Pili, Serikali ilisema kwamba Kshs3 bilioni zilipatikana kutoka kwa Benki Kuu ya Dunia, kujenga Mzima Pipeline, yaani mtambo wa maji kutoka Mzima Springs hadi Mombasa. Juzi tulipouliza hapa Bungeni, walisema feasibility study imefanywa, lakini hakuna dalili ya pesa hizo kupatikana. Serikali hii ndiyo iliyotuaambia kuwa pesa zimepatikana! Kwa sasa hivi, asilimia 40 peke yake ya Mombasa inapata maji. Asilimia 60 iliobaki imewachwa tu kuhangaika bila maji. Mtambo wa Mzima Springs ulipokuwa ukijengwa miaka 50 iliopita, hakukuwa na hata kiwanda kimoja katika sehemu ya Changamwe Mainland West. Viwanda vyote vilikuwa kule Simanzi. Lakini sasa, kuna sehemu ya viwanda ya Changamwe na Simanzi, na mtambo wa simiti upande wa Bamburi, na watu wameongezeka. Watu walio Mombasa ni mara nne ya watu wa wilaya ya Taita Taveta. Sehemu ya uwakilishi Bungeni ya Changamwe ina idadi sawa ya watu na wilaya ya Taita Taveta. Kwa hivyo, maji ni ya maana sana. Sifa ya Mombasa imezoroteka kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa maji. Hivi sasa, sifa hiyo imepotea kabisa kwa sababu ya fujo zilizoko Mombasa.

Miaka miwili iliopita, 'Serikali' ilikuja Mombasa na kutangaza kwamba Mombasa itakuwa duty-free city. Lakini waweka rasimali wanauliza duty-free city itafaulu ikiwa asilimia 40 tu ndiyo iko na maji? Hayo si mambo yangu bali ni Serikali ilisema! Sasa tunauliza, kabla ya kuwa duty-free city, kwa nini wasilete maji kwanza ili waweka rasimali wakija, wakute maji?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kupitia kwa chombo hiki, nawauliza watu wa Mombasa wawe wakichemsha maji kabla ya kuyanywa. Hii ni kwa sababu nimesikia kuwa kila siku, kunatakiwa kuwekwe magunia manne ya chlorine kwa maji kule Taita Taveta. Lakini magunia matatu yanaibwa na wanaweka gunia moja peke yake. Sasa, maji ya Mombasa si masafi. Mimi nawauliza watu wa Mombasa waanze kuchemsha maji kabla ya kuyanywa kwa sababu dawa inayotakiwa kuwekwa kwa maji, inaibwa. Wanaweka gunia moja badala ya magunia manne. Huo ni ukweli mtupu.

Tulipopata Uhuru, wale watu wanaotoka sehemu ambazo hazina maji walikuwa wakifikiri Uhuru utaleta maji, na wakipata maji, watapata chakula. Lakini mpaka sasa, miaka mingi baada ya Uhuru, wale watu waliokuwa wakihangaika kwa ukosefu wa maji bado wanahangaika. Lakini wao bado wako tayari kukubali ahadi hata kama ni za uongo, wakati wa kampeni. Itakuwaje Wabunge kuzungumza hapa Bungeni miaka-nenda-miaka-rudi na hakuna chochote kinachofanyika? Kazi yetu ni kuzungumza vile tunataka mambo yawe. Lakini kazi ya Serikali ni kufanya kazi. Kazi ya Serikali siyo kuzungumza kwamba watafanya kitu na hawafanyi. Ndiyo naona heshima ya Serikali imezoroteka wakati huu. Hata Serikali ikisema kitu, watu wanapuuzwa. Hawaoni kama kuna kitu maanake wanazungumza na hakuna kitu kinachofanyika. Zamani, hayati Rais Kenyatta aliposema kitu tu, kilikuwa kinafanyika kwa masaa 24. Maanake angelisema na kisifanyike, wanaohusika wangeputwa kazi mara moja. Zamani, Waziri akizungumza, unasema Serikali imezungumza. Siku hizi, Waziri akizungumza, hakuna kitu chochote na unacheka tu! Hakuna chochote wala lolote. Mawaziri kama wale wa zamani hakuna. Ikiwa Serikali haifanyi jambo lolote, basi isizungumze. Ikiwa inafanya, basi izungumze. Ndio maana unaona watu wengine wakisema eti hakuna heshima. Si eti ni heshima hakuna! Ukijiheshimu, utaheshimiwa. Ukisema kitu na kifanyike, heshima itakuja yenyewe.

Sasa, Serikali inapanga kuweka mtambo wa mafuta kutoka Eldoret mpaka Kampala. Mambo haya yako katika mpango wa kitaifa. Lakini mtambo wa maji kwenda Mombasa na kwa wale watu wengine wanaohangaika na maji haupo katika mpango huo wa kitaifa. Je, hii itakuwa Serikali ya watu kujitafutia pesa ama ni Serikali ya wananchi? Tukitaka kuwa na utulivu na amani ya kutosha katika nchi hii, lazima tupeleke mambo kwa watu. Kama ni maji, lazima watu wapelekewe. Mambo haya hayako Mombasa peke yake. Juzi, nilikuwa Kisumu. Kisumu, ni mji ambao uko karibu na ziwa kubwa lenye maji masafi, lakini hakuna maji. Maji ni kidogo tu na pia wanahangaika, na maji yako hapo. Ni ile gugu-maji tu inamea ziwani, na sijui imetoka wapi. Ukiwa kwa ndege, unaangalia na haujui ikiwa umefika Ziwa Victoria au la. Pia, Serikali imeshindwa na kutoa hiyo gugu-maji. Sasa, gugu-maji hiyo imetambaa mpaka hapa Nairobi. Mambo mengine lazima tuseme ni siasa. Hata mkisema tunasema uongo, lazima tuseme. Serikali imeshindwa kutoa gugu-maji ambayo inamea katika Ziwa Victoria mpaka inaenea kila mahali, na hali inaangalia! Ukienda upande wa Uganda, hakuna. Hiyo ndiyo maji ambayo tunatarajia itatusaidia. Tunaomba labda Serikali nyingine itakapokuja, itatusaidia kwa kutoa maji kutoka Ziwa Victoria, ili iwalettee watu wanywe. Mimi niliona vibaya sana kwenda Kisumu na kukuta hakuna maji, ihali maji yako hapo tu! Halafu tunaambiwa tupandane. Ni vizuri pesa ya maji - siyo pesa nyingi kwa sababu maji yenyewe yako - itunzwe na maafisa

wanaohusika. Lazima Serikali ifuatilie ikiwa kazi inafanywa kulingana na pesa zilizopitishwa hapa Bungeni. Lakini ikiwa Serikali inakubali maofisa wake wafanye magendo na watu wengine, watafanya kazi namna gani? Wewe unamtuma kwa Mhindi akachukue pesa akuletee. Utamuamrisha namna gani? Ni vizuri kusema tutenganishe Utumishi wa Umma kutoka kwa siasa, ili mwanasiasa, awe ni kiongozi wa nchi ama Waziri, akizungumza kitu, kazi inafanyika mara moja. Ikiwa Waziri na maofisa wake watajijhusisha na ufisadi, hawa maofisa hawatafanya kazi kwa sababu wanafahamu unyonge wake. Wanaelewa vyema kwamba hawezi kuchukuwa hatua yoyote dhidi yao. Hiyo ndiyo shida moja kubwa tuliyonayo. Katika nyakati za utawala wa Rais Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, jambo likisemwa lilifanyika kwa muda wa masaa 24. Lakini siku hizi, Rais Moi akisema kwamba jambo fulani lifanyike, watu wanapiga makofi na mambo hayo yanaishia hapo.

An hon. Member: Angalia Likoni!

Mr. Kiliku: Serikali imeshindwa kukomesha vita vya kikabila kule Likoni.

Kwa hayo machache, naafiki.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Mulusya: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This Motion should have been brought here five years ago because the water problem in Mombasa is so acute that it is persistently causing this country and the Government very huge losses in terms of revenue. Mombasa, being the entry point into the country, is the only major town whose industrial expansion should have been highest in the whole of East Africa and Africa in general. When you look at the Government's mode of prioritizing its development agenda, you wonder whether it is acting in absentia or what is happening. You even wonder whether it is being dictated upon by other factors other than the real development agenda which it preaches every day or what is happening. If you visit Mombasa and see the sufferings the residents, industry and hotel owners go through, you will know that the Government does not have any agenda for its people. You cannot have a thinking and working Government ignoring the importance of implementing this project. The water in Mombasa is clean and all that is required is to pipe it to Mombasa Town and its environs. That water is even enough to irrigate parts of the national parks in the area, but nobody wants to tap it.

If you look at the current Mzima Springs pipeline, it is so old that it breaks down virtually every other day. Very little water gets to Mombasa because of the poor state of the pipe. You repair one part of the pipe and some two kilometres away, it breaks down. And you wonder why the Government cannot do something about it. As hon. Kiliku has said, we can comfortably do without an oil pipeline from Mombasa to Kampala, but we cannot do without water. I think the problem here is with the people who are working for this Government. Their interest is to get huge bribes. When they find that the World Bank is very particular on who is to be awarded the contract, they lose interest because they will not get bribes. They decide to conveniently wait until such a time when they will be able to negotiate for huge bribes to cover all the people in the Ministry concerned, from the highest to the lowest cadre. This is why we are suffering and that is why we cannot afford to employ our youths.

If an investor, who wants to invest in Mombasa and is looking around for a plot to buy, visits a hotel and finds that there is no water, he would not bother looking for that plot? Those people who are distilling water to sell as mineral water are making huge sums of money. They are doing a booming business. The tourists have been told that our water is not treated, and this is true. As hon. Kiliku has said, four sacks of chlorine are expected to be used to treat water in Mombasa everyday, but only one goes into treating the water while the rest is left. The purpose of doing this is to make sure that those people who sell mineral water continue to make millions of shillings. Most of the people doing this business are in the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development. They are very many and I can name them---

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Mulusya has made a very categorical statement that the people who are denying Mombasa water are the very people who are selling mineral water and that is because they want their business to flourish. Can he name those people and provide evidence that they are actually involved in this business and, if not, he should withdraw and apologise?

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no single Permanent Secretary who has been in that Ministry and does not own a company which is being run by his wife---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Arte): Order, Mr. Mulusya! The hon. Member should desist from making wild allegations which he cannot substantiate. Proceed.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that we need to be sincere. Let the Government monitor the civil servants. It should not allow civil servants to sabotage the good name of the Government. If the Government wants a good name for itself, it must be able to know what each of the top civil servants is doing. Today, it appoints a Permanent Secretary or a Deputy Secretary who starts a business which

benefits him. He actually benefits from the office that he is serving.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the near future, civil servants should be told to either concentrate on their duties as civil servants or leave for business. You cannot have somebody with a conflict of interests sitting in a position of authority, making decisions which are supposed to affect the welfare of the whole Kenyan population. Civil servants should be paid good salaries and made to sign contracts to the effect that they together with their spouses, will not engage in businesses which are in total conflict with their jobs. That way, conflict of interests will not affect their jobs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even Cabinet Ministers, their wives and children should declare their business interests, so that they do not engage in businesses related to their jobs in the Ministry. That is the only way that we can ensure that high level corruption is eliminated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, prices of products required for water treatment and installation are very expensive. The Government should reduce duty charged on these items. The best thing is to zero-rate duty on products used in distilling water and pipes. At the moment, they are excessively expensive and un-affordable by the poor Kenyans.

Mr. D.D. Mbela: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to this important Motion on water supply for Mombasa as well as the entire Coast Province.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I start contributing to this Motion, I would like to comment on the prevailing situation at the Coast Province, particularly in the Likoni area. I would like to say that all of us from the Coast Province are still traumatised by the events in Likoni. We would be happy to see a swift end to these problems, because it is not only affecting the lives of school going children and the pending examinations, but the whole Tourism Industry on which many of our people depend for paying school fees for their children. It is also antagonising our friends who assume that perhaps the Coast Province people are the ones who are making things difficult for their up country colleagues.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with full confidence, I would like to say that Coast Province people are well known for their friendly attitude to other Kenyans and that spirit has not changed now and it will not change. I would like to say that Coast people are just as shocked by the happenings there as anyone else in the country. No one should point an accusing finger at any Member of Parliament from the Coast Province and accuse him of the culture of silence, because violence is not in our blood and we do not intend to have it in future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would like to say that Coast people feel a little bit neglected, particularly when it comes to major issues like the supply of water which is an extremely important commodity in the lives of both our people and for industrial development of the Coast Province. Hon. Members have mentioned that the Mombasa pipeline which was one of the first pipelines to be constructed in this country, which was supposed to last only 25 years and be replaced, and whose funding had been pre-arranged long before, has again been neglected and fallen by the wayside. The Mombasa Pipeline Board and other Ministry departments and corporations were based on the Mombasa Pipeline.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, somehow this organization has not measured up to the expectations of wananchi at the Coast. Now the entire Coast Province, particularly Mombasa Town, is threatened because of lack of water. Indeed, if the health authorities had taken their responsibilities seriously, Mombasa as a town, would have been closed. In the case of Nairobi, if I was in the Ministry of Health, I would close down the City Council because it cannot even clear the garbage. Mombasa Town is threatened with closure because of water. I would like to appeal to the Ministry of water development to start taking this matter very seriously and act. Hon. Members have mentioned here that there is a lot of neglect of our major assets like the Mombasa Pipeline.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mombasa Town's population has increased very substantially over the years. Whereas 30 years ago at the time of Independence, the Mombasa population was about a quarter of a million, but is now heading to nearly 2 million people. To expect a pipeline which was intended to supply water to a quarter a million people to adequately serve the current high level of population, is impossible. At present, our consumption rate is higher since we have schools, colleges, the Kenya Ports Authority, large ships, the Moi International Airport in Mombasa and very rapid development. Despite that, we are left with the same pipeline which was constructed 50 years ago, to supply water to a major town like Mombasa.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like the Ministry to really start doing something definite about water supply in this country. Hon. Members have mentioned the fact that we have pipelines from Mombasa to supply fuel and other commodities up-country and yet, we cannot have a single water pipeline from Kisumu to the Coast to supply water to everybody along the route. This means that our priorities are not quite right. Time has come for Kenyans to start getting their priorities right. This matter is not purely for the Government or civil servants, but even Members of Parliament, in the spirit that we have just started in the IPPG of discussing our problems and agreeing together, to push the Ministries and everyone else to take action. I think we have the capacity and the will to push

ahead, some of these major projects together and get the Government to start working in the same spirit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a quick reference to my own Voi Constituency and Taita Taveta District because we had a very elaborate water system during the colonial times. No more water is coming out of Tsavo for these people. The water is just flowing into the sea and yet the sea does not require any more water: It has got enough of it. Its water is salty and we have to desalinate it before we make use of it. We are allowing a lot of water flow into the sea instead of diverting it to our people along its route.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present there is a good example at Kibwezi. It is just a small water project which starts from a small river. It is operated by KARI and people are coming from all the world to see it. If the Ministry took matters seriously projects similar to this one would be spread in almost every dry district in the country. This would relief our people's water problems greatly. These are issues which can be handled very effectively by the Ministry, if only, as my colleagues have said, we can get our people to act on decisions.

I would like to conclude by again referring to the commitment of this Government, to which I belong, that there would be water for all by the year 2000. We seem to have drifted further away from that proposal. I think that very soon we may be put on the carpet by wananchi. This being an election year, they may ask us to tell them what we meant when we said in this House and elsewhere that there would be water for all by the year 2000. Now, the situation is getting worse by the day. Mombasa is now getting 20 to 40 per cent of the amount of water it needs. This is because the pipeline that supplies it with water cannot be maintained any more. By the time we get a new pipeline for Mombasa I think we shall have lost all that water to this town. This means that we shall be starting with zero supply of water to the town.

I would like to appeal to the Ministry to at least do something to give water to some areas in the country. Already the project which supplies water to Machakos District is almost falling apart, and yet we cannot even say that it has been completed.

Thank you, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute. With those words, I beg to support the Motion.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to speak on water, which is a very important commodity. It is amazing that colonialists, whom we would like to call all sorts of bad names, had plans which have sustained us up to now. Way back in the 19th century, they planned to build a railway line from Mombasa to Uganda. They also build things like the Mzima Springs Pipeline, which has served us for 50 years, even though we have not improved on it. We have not built a branch railway line from Mombasa - we are still using what the Mzungu left for us. In fact, we are now trying to vandalise what the Wazungu left behind for us.

The Mzima Springs Pipeline, which was built 50 years ago, has served us well, even though we added nothing to it. This means that there is something wrong with us, our Government and African management generally.

I think we should re-examine ourselves. Mombasa is the easiest place to supply with water. This is because it is on the lowest part of Kenya - it is at sea level. Therefore water from anywhere in the country will gravitate to Mombasa without the use of any force. In fact, you will have a problem in trying to reduce the pressure of the water. Yet Mombasa does not have any water and nobody cares about it. We would rather care about having oil coming from the sea level, climbing up to over 10,000 feet above sea level, and flowing to Uganda. It is far harder to pump liquids upwards than downwards. I do not know why we have not made use of natural gravity to supply Mombasa with plenty of water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry in charge of water was doing a good job until we created the National Water and Pipeline Corporation (NWPC). This corporation is supposed to have been more efficient than the Ministry in supplying water to towns and other needy areas. Unfortunately, this corporation has been dogged by political managers. This corporation provides one of the most important commodities, namely water, and water is life.

This corporation has a chairman who was a politician in this House. Like any other politician, he is selfish and is minding his own business. Just to prove that and why there is inefficiency in the supply of water in Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru and so on--- Although this man is an honorary chairman he is working as an executive chairman. I have a list of people whom he has employed after sacking those who were in employment. Sixteen members of his family are in my list. This list has the chairman himself, Mr. Kiptanui, Greg Kiptanui, Nancy Kiptanui, Hassan Kiptanui, Osman Kiptanui and so on. All these people are members of his family. The list has names of 42 people from Mr. Kiptanui's family and home area. Out of this group only two people are technically knowledgeable. These are the plant operator, Mr. Shiundu, and the electrician, Mr. Koech. The rest of the people are relatives of Mr. Kiptanui who are just getting money for doing nothing. This sort of thing cannot sustain supply of water in the country. I have even shown in this list these people's personal numbers. I will lay the list on the Table.

(Dr. Lwali-Oyondi laid the list on the Table)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to make some suggestions, if the Ministry can ever hear our "cries". In the case of Mombasa, the Ministry should consider having a stand-by desalination plant. If, and whenever, there is a big water problem, the Ministry could desalinate water for Mombasa Town. President Gaddafi is desalinating water for irrigation, not even for drinking. At the moment he has more milk and wheat than he needs. In fact, he is going to export agricultural products instead of importing them.

Secondly, we have a lot of other rivers apart from the Mzima Springs. We could easily gravitate very clean water that needs no treatment at all from Mount Kenya. By gravity, it can roll down. Another method would be making use of the Sabaki River, which is just up in Malindi, and then have this town well supplied with water. We are getting into a lot of problems because of water shortages. We are developing a lot of other diseases because of poor supply of water. For example this morning, hon. Members were complaining about cholera which is a water-borne disease. Typhoid is another water-borne disease. We are suffering from these diseases because of lack of clean water. I have spoken here before that we suffer from AIDS more than the developed countries, although they are involved in the same activities, probably at a higher rate than us, because we have no water. Personal cleanliness has a lot to do with one's survival in this AIDS business. Those who involve themselves in these social activities and cannot get water to clean themselves up are likely to suffer from AIDS, particularly the males. This is because they cannot wash themselves

Mr. Moiben: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to inform my colleague that AIDS is more aggravated when somebody is not circumcised, not from lack of water.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you very much for that information. But while I agree with the hon. Member that when you are not circumcised you are most likely to get AIDS because you get torn much more easily, anyway---

(Laughter)

I would say that those who are circumcised are also likely to get AIDS when they cannot wash themselves quickly enough. So, that is why heterosexuals here in Africa get AIDS while heterosexuals in Europe do not get it. There, it is only homosexuals who get AIDS due to obvious reasons; because they easily get torn as they go to the wrong entry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to turn to my home town. The same Pipeline and Water Development Corporation has given us a hell of a time. We have no water in Nakuru.

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to know whether you are satisfied that hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi is contributing to the Motion that we are discussing here. He is discussing AIDS and related problems. Now he wants to go to his home town of Nakuru, while we are discussing water problems in Mombasa.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order in that we are discussing water and the effects of water on our lives. Therefore, I am completely in order and that is why I have connected it with AIDS. Water problems are not only in Mombasa. They are everywhere, even in hon. Ligale's home.

With those few remarks I wish to support.

Mr. Mumba: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

This Motion is very straightforward and it is long overdue. Nobody in his right mind will oppose this Motion.

Water problems are everywhere, but the problems at the Coast are more acute and serious than in many other places of Kenya, although they may not have been highlighted as such. I have always wondered, why the construction of the second Mzima pipeline has not taken place despite the World Bank having given a green light. We feel that Coast Province is an area that has been marginalised. To date, nothing has been done to the Mzima pipeline although it is clear that the pipeline is 50 years old, outdated and no longer serviceable. Even in many places where the pipeline passes through, there have been no outlets to serve wananchi. I submit that there is a very urgent and immediate need for the Government to quickly install the second Mzima pipeline. In 1985/86, when I was a public servant, I was a member of a delegation that went to Rome to negotiate for money for the second Mzima pipeline. I was surprised later to learn that whatever monies that had been obtained were channelled elsewhere and were not utilised for the Coast Province. Yet when you look at it, Coast Province contributes more than 70 per cent of the foreign exchange earned by this country. So, why does the Government not plough back some of these resources, at least, to sustain its own momentum of development? The Government had better come to terms with the reality and the gravity of the situation before a lot of things go seriously wrong.

In Kilifi, where I come from, the water problems are so serious that if you go to the three constituencies that remained after Malindi was hived out, you will find that the main talk is water. I remember in 1993, the President

directed that Nida Matsangoni Water Project be completed immediately. This is an area in the North of my constituency which borders Malindi District. Out of a stretch of 12 kilometres, only seven kilometres have been done in the last four years. I am giving this as an example because of the state of complacency on the part of the Ministry concerned, when it comes to issues concerning the Coast. Water problems are even worse in Ganze, the neighbouring constituency. The situation is no better in Kaloleni, which has been crying for water for a long time. St. Luke's Hospital situated in Kaloleni goes without water for several months in a year. These are serious problems which the Ministry must address itself to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the industries that have grown or developed at the Coast do require an immediate and additional source of water. Although the Ministry has come up with the development of water resources in Sabaki, the Ministry cannot hope to cope with the up-coming industries unless the Mzima pipeline is rehabilitated or a completely new one is built up. We should not talk of rehabilitation, a totally new one should be built up. Recently, there were findings in the North Coast, in Vipingo in my constituency, Sokoke in Ganze and Mambui in Malindi of this new metal which has been in the news quite a lot recently, known as the titanium. There is a Canadian company called Tayomin(??) Incorporated, which is going to mine this mineral. The information I have is that this particular industry will require twice the amount of water that the whole of Kilifi district needs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this particular industry will require water which will be twice the amount of water Kilifi District requires today. There are pamphlets which have been written and we have carried out an analysis of our discussions. So, I am sure the Ministry is not aware of this and it is sitting there waiting for the industry to come up and then suddenly they find that there is no water. So, I am urging the Ministry concerned to quickly address itself, not only to the requirements that are there today, but also to the projected requirements. Because, obviously, the present status is that, the Mzima Pipeline is not adequate for the supply of water. The current developments in the North Coast are not adequate to cater for the present situation, I do not know what the situation will be like, in the next three to four years, when new industries mushroom. We have always been talking of Jua Kali, industrialisation and all these activities which require water. If we are serious about our industrial development and making Kenya one of these newly industrialised nations by the year 2020, then the key Ministry is not the Ministry of Commerce and industry, but the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development. That is the Ministry that must really keep an eye on all the projected development activities that are planned for this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have visited hospitals in my area, and there are moments when I have nearly shed tears, especially when there is no water whatsoever. Most of these problems arise because of the water problem in that part of the world. I would urge the Ministry concerned not only to address itself to the Second Mzima Pipeline from Taita to the Coast, but to all the other water development activities. There are dams which were built by the colonial Government, before Independence; most of those are now being looked at. During the last 30 years, nothing has been done to desilt them. A lot of them were clogged, unserviceable and people only thought of a pipe water line water to the extent that they forgot that, at one time there were dams in this country which did serve the bulk of the rural folks. So, if we are talking about the pipelines we should also remember the other sources of water; catchment areas and so forth.

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

Mr. Ndicho: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I stand to support this Motion wholeheartedly because the people of Mombasa and Coast Province at large deserve to have water just like any other Kenyan in this country. It is a very big shame that despite this country having all the big rivers and streams including Lake Victoria which is a fresh water lake, every Kenyan in Mombasa, Kisumu, North Eastern Province, Central Province, Nairobi and any other place in this country, is crying over water and yet we have a very efficient Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development with a very efficient Minister and an Assistant Minister who was previously a PS. We are all wondering as to what is happening. Why is the Government of the Republic of Kenya not willing to supply water to its people? All our fresh water is going to waste in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also a very big irony that the Mover of this Motion comes from the Coast Province where all our fresh water passes before it enters into the Indian Ocean. What we can only conclude is that the Government is not willing to provide every Kenyan with fresh water. Even the illusion that every Kenyan will have fresh water by the year 2000 is far from true. This is because we only have three years to go before the year 2000 and I do not see what miracle the Government will perform in order to have the 30 million Kenyans supplied with that water. We are nearing the end of the world. The Bible says that when we shall see signs in the sky--- Those who are christians will discern the signs of the times. Last night I witnessed the moon having turned blood red and remembered what Jesus said; that the end of the world will be signalled by the eclipse of the moon. We know what an eclipse looks like and what we saw last night was a fulfilment of the Bible. So, we are approaching the end of this world at a time when the Kenya Government has given a false promise to Kenyans that it shall provide fresh water to all. We are sure

that the Government is not going to give us water and I am calling upon every Kenyan to work out his own ways of harnessing water and to have his own source of water because the Government is not willing to supply this fresh water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support what the hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi said, that instead of the Kenya Government maintaining what the colonial Government left, it just left it to go to waste. What does this Ministry do with the money that is voted by this Parliament? Every MP including the Minister and his Assistant Minister has a water problem in his constituencies. I do not know what they tell their constituents about the water problem that they have in their constituencies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion very strongly. Mzima Springs pipeline should not only be maintained, but another pipeline should be established because we all have an interest in Mombasa. When we visit Mombasa, we either carry our own water from up here or we buy the mineral water. Why should we do that and yet the Ministry is capable of providing water since it has got qualified personnel and money that is voted by this Parliament? What is the Minister going to tell us in his reply about how he intends to do for our people to enjoy fresh water? It is a shame that the Government of Kenya does not have any interest in its people. People are not complaining about water only but about everything including roads, provision of medicines in hospitals, education in primary schools, secondary schools and at the university. Every Kenyan is making noise about a certain issue related to the Government. You can see that the Government is concerned about politics, instead of tackling the problem of water.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Arte): Order! Hon. Members, it now time to interrupt business and the House is, therefore, adjourned until today afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.