

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 23rd April, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[*Mr. Speaker in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No. 041

DISMISSAL OF CONSTABLE NJONGORE

Mr. Speaker: Is Dr. Lwali-Oyondi here? If he is not, we will move on to the next Question.

Question No. 029

TEA PRICE INCREASE

Mr. Michuki asked the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing:-

- (a) how many kilograms of made tea a tea grower member of Kanyenyaini Tea Factory is entitled to buy at the factory each month;
- (b) whether he is aware that the price of made tea referred to in "a" above has shot up from Kshs80 per kilo to Kshs120 since February 1997; and,
- (c) whether he will confirm that the price of green leaf tea will be increased accordingly with effect from February 1997, and if not, why.

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. D.M. Mbela): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) Each grower at Kanyenyaini Tea Factory is entitled to buy one kilogramme of tea each month.
- (b) I am aware.
- (c) The price of green leaf will not be increased with effect from February, 1997 since the price paid to farmers for green leaf, normally referred to as second payment, depends on the profit made by the tea factory at the end of the financial year. Although the prices have gone up, the overheads are correspondingly high as a result of the factory operating at below 10 per cent installed capacity due to the drought which affected the entire country during the last two years.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I have just received the written reply, which I have not even read, does the Minister believe that he can convince the farmers that there are any good reasons to retain the price of green leaf at this old price?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I probably will be able to convince the farmers, but better still, the prices are set by the management in consultation with the directors of each of the factories. The farmers have been buying a kilo of tea at Kshs80 compared to Kshs200 which is available in the open market. So, the Kshs120 is a reasonable price.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Arising from the Minister's reply that what the farmer will get will depend on the profit the factory gets, in many instances, there is mismanagement in these factories and this is not the fault of the farmers. Does the Minister believe, therefore, that the interest of the farmer is not being compromised by circumstances beyond their own control, and could he find ways and means of providing the necessary incentive through increased prices?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the Minister who controls the prices. The prices are controlled internationally and whatever is earned is brought back to the farmers, particularly in the second payment. I would further add that the farmers are able to study the situation in their own factories and, in fact, after liberalization the tea

industry is one of the best run.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the Kshs120 per kilo, to what extent is it related to the world market or is this just a figure out of the head of the management?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figure of Kshs120 is from the tea the farmer buys to take to his House and it is below the international price.

Question No.050

TARMACKING OF INDUSTRIAL AREA ROADS

Mr. Achola asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that nearly all former tarmacked roads in the Industrial Area of Nairobi have been completely destroyed and reduced to pathetic earth gulleys; and,
- (b) what action he is taking to improve the condition of these roads.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any Minister from this Ministry present? We will come back to the Question. We move on to the next Question.

Question No. 028

ALLOCATION OF BUS PARK

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Mwaura in? We will come back to the Question. Next Question.

Question No.031

GRAVELLING OF MASARA-KARUNGU ROAD

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Tom Onyango in? We move on to the next Question.

Question No. 039

INSTALLATION OF STD FACILITY

Mr. Gitonga asked the Minister for Transport and Communications:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Kagwe in Lari Constituency has no Subscriber Trunk Dialling telephone services; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what immediate plans he has to install this facility for ease of communication.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Minister for Transport and Communications in? We will come back to that Question. We move on to the next Question.

Question No. 036

RE-LOCATION OF QUARRIES

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Ruhiu not in? Let us try our luck again. For the second time, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi's Question.

Question No. 041

DISMISSAL OF CONSTABLE NJONGORE

Mr. Shikuku, on behalf of **Dr. Lwali-Oyondi**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President why Police Constable John Njongore, No.84762 was dismissed from the Police Force.

Mr. Kiliku: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When the Speaker called out this Question in the first round, hon. Shikuku was in the House and he did not ask it. Now, he should apologise for that.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think Mr. Kiliku you are absolutely right. Mr. Shikuku was seated here. Maybe he was going to ask this Question without instructions.

Mr. Shikuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very old Member of this House and I deserve respect from any hon. Member. There was an agreement between him and me to ask this Question on his behalf if I get here before him.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): I am sorry, I cannot give the answer to this Question because the number quoted does not exist in the police records. I spoke to hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, yesterday and asked him to go and get the correct number. So, he is still going to bring the number to me; then probably the Question can be answered.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. If this number is not in the records, what about the name of this constable? There is no Kenyan who can just call himself a constable when he has not joined the Police Force.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, Mr. Ndicho! Policemen are generally easy to track by their service numbers. Very well, the question will then be deferred.

Next Question. Mr. Achola's Question for the Second Time.

Question No.050

TARMACKING OF INDUSTRIAL AREA ROADS

Mr. Achola asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that nearly all the former tarmacked roads in the Industrial area of Nairobi have been completely destroyed and reduced to pathetic earth gulleys; and,
- (b) what action is he taking to improve the condition of these roads.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologize for being late. However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that sections of Nairobi particularly in the Industrial Area, roads are in a bad state and require rehabilitation or reconstruction.

(b) The Government has made all the necessary arrangements to improve the conditions of the very bad roads in the Industrial Area of Nairobi City under the on-going Kenya Urban Transport Infrastructure Project. Efforts will be made to ensure that the rest of the roads not falling under this programme are improved to meet the required standards.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from that answer from the Minister, could he inform the House why the roads were allowed to degenerate into the state in which they are today despite the fact that, we continue to pay taxes, service charge and maintenance levy?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, service charge is paid all over the country by wananchi to different municipal councils, but for some time, roads and other establishments have not been repaired by different councils and Government has taken over the repair of the roads, especially in Nairobi. I have given them the names of the roads in the Industrial Area which are being re-carpeted now. Very soon we shall go to Kisumu, Mombasa, Eldoret, Nakuru and the other 22 listed councils.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, does the Minister agree with me that, unless corruption is stamped out, things will never be in order because everybody will want to take an unfair share and that way, deny the public their rights.

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in what sense does he want me to stamp out corruption?

Mr. Wetangula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, being aware that there is a large sum of money that has been allocated to various towns in this country to re-carpet roads, for instance, Bungoma Town has been allocated Kshs95 million, could the Minister confirm to this House that he will ensure the work is properly supervised and those found doing a shoddy job both the constructors and the municipal officers will be prosecuted for fraud, if such shoddy jobs are discovered?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am dealing with a Question about Nairobi. The hon. Member cannot expect me to answer a question about Bungoma where work has not started yet. The Bungoma issue will come up after June, if the contractor who will be awarded the work, does not meet the required standards. We do not prosecute; we kick him off.

Prof. Ouma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Nairobi is notorious for floods during the rainy season and this is partly due to bad garbage collection which blocks the drainage system. Could I know from the Minister what steps his Ministry is taking to ensure that we are not going to have the recurrent floods in Nairobi, in which people die year after year?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we shall try to open the drainage system but I cannot stop the rain. We need the rains. I hope the floods will stop carrying away Kenyans.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to insinuate and thereby reply to a question which he was not asked? Hon. Prof. Ouma did not ask him to stop the rains and at any rate he has no power to stop the rains. Is he in order to tell us about stopping the rains when we are not talking about stopping the rains?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said "I hope". I am hoping that the rains will stop carrying away the people.

Mr. Manoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated that they started re-carpeting Nairobi roads and other towns after having been allocated some money. Can he tell us how much money the Nairobi City Council has spent in re-carpeting the roads in Nairobi, apart from the money which was allocated to other towns in this country and how many kilometres have been re-carpeted?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot give the breakdown of the amount of money that we are going to spend in Nairobi. We are re-carpeting all the roads in Nairobi and those in Kisii Town.

Mr. Manoti: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. He has not answered my question. I wanted to know from the Minister how much money the City Council has spent in re-carpeting roads in Nairobi and how many kilometres have been re-carpeted this year?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague has got a problem of hearing. I did say that I need time to get that breakdown. But roads in Nairobi, including those in Kisii Town, will be re-carpeted.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Once the Nairobi roads have been re-carpeted, what programmes do you have to ensure that the roads will be maintained and will not be allowed to get into the state in which they are now? You will remember that during the colonial times, the roads were consistently maintained by the colonialists. How come that the African Government is unable to maintain the few roads that the colonial government left for them?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, re-carpeting is being done by the Central Government, but as soon as this programme is over, the local authorities will ensure that the roads are not left as they were some time back.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 028, for the second time!

Question No. 028

ALLOCATION OF BUS PARK

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mwaura, not here!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: For the second time, Question No.31!

Question No. 031

GRAVELLING OF MASARA-KARUNGU ROAD

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Onyango, not here!

(Question dropped)

Question No. 039

INSTALLATION OF STD FACILITY

Mr. Gitonga asked the Minister for Transport and Communications:-

(a) Whether he is aware that Kagwe in Lari Constituency has no Subscriber Trunk Dialling

telephone services; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what immediate plans does he have to instal this facility for ease of communication.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody from the Ministry of Transport and Communications?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 036 for the second time!

Question No. 036

RE-LOCATION OF QUARRIES

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ruhiu, not here!

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

STRIKE: NZOIA SUGAR COMPANY

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is he aware that all unionisable employees of Nzoia Sugar Company Limited have gone on strike as from 14th April, 1997?

(b) What are the reasons that have necessitated this strike?

(c) What steps is he taking to ensure that the problems affecting these employees are addressed immediately?

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. D.M. Mbela): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) The strike was caused by unionisable employees of Nzoia Sugar Company who demanded the removal of the Personnel and Training Manager, Mr. Wangusu Khausi. Mr. Khausi was accused of poor communication with union officials, delays in implementation of the collective bargaining agreement, in terms of disciplinary cases and issues relating to his personal character.

(c) The Board of Directors has looked into these complaints and action has been taken to resolve those relating to the implementation of collective bargaining agreement.

On the grievances raised pertaining to Mr. Khausi's character, the Board of Directors examined the issue and found no substance in accusations. However, the Board has been asked to critically examine all the complaints and take appropriate action.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the employees have been asked to go back on duty unconditionally.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from that reply, this Company has lost more than Kshs120 million since the strike started. Could the Minister assure this House that the same grievances which necessitated the employees to go on strike and they were more than 2,000 people, is not going to recur again?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Board of Directors is still working on the issue.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister says that the Board of Directors is still working on it. Is he aware that part of the problem has been caused by the Board of Directors? I say so, because, in the tripartite agreement between the Nzoia Sugar Company and the workers, it is the management that is recognized and not the Board of Management.

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Board of Management is not the problem.

Mr. Ogeka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Personnel and Training Manager at Nzoia Sugar Company has been on suspension pending investigations. The workers had to take up the decision for their own survival and for the interest of the Company to operate effectively. Only to be told that they were wrong to take up the action when the Board of Directors had failed to come up with a decision. Can the Minister consider that in the public interest, the Personnel and Training Manager at Nzoia Sugar Company has no business to stay any further, but if he does stay, it will be at the expense of the Company which has been losing money for a very long time?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Personnel and Training Manager has got his own terms of service which should be respected. I think it is only fair that the Board of Directors investigate the matter fully.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I sit down, I would like to say that the Union also messed up its case because they never gave the 21 days notice if they intended to go on strike.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the Minister is telling this House is not true. Mr. Wangusu was given a two months compulsory leave and then, because of some influence from outside the Company, he was brought back. Can the Minister tell this House Mr. Wangusu's worth in the Company to warrant it incur a loss of Kshs120? How much is he worth?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot answer that question.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister willing to get this matter rushed into quickly? The Company is incurring a big loss to the disadvantage of the whole nation.

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Khausi is still on leave and the 2,200 employees have been allowed to go back on duty unconditionally, irrespective of their having messed up the case.

Mr. Busolo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister is misleading this House. When I said earlier on that the Board is not even involved in the tripartite agreement, he said he had no problem with that and, now he is telling us that Mr. Khausi is still on leave. I was at the Company premises yesterday and the Managing Director told me that Mr. Khausi had exhausted his 42 leave days and if he has to get any other leave, it would just be a compulsory leave. The Minister should not mislead this House and the farmers of Bungoma who are losing a lot of money as a result of the ineptitude of his Ministry and the Board of Directors of the Nzoia Sugar Company. Could he withdraw?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Busolo, that is a speech.

Mr. Wetangula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Board of Directors of Nzoia Sugar Company sent Mr. Khausi on compulsory leave, because of what they described as some immoral indiscretion on his part. Can the Minister tell this House whether they are going to institute further investigations into his conduct and if he is found to be guilty of this indiscretion, to be dismissed forthwith?

Mr. D.M. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Company is under a Board of Directors and with liberalization, the Ministry has no business giving instructions, although we guide them. Mr. Speaker, sir, as concerns the allegation about immoral conduct, I believe that as long as it does not interfere with his duties, the management could not have any business telling the Personnel and Training Manager who he goes to bed with.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Kiliku!

REPAIR OF MZIMA PIPELINE

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is he aware that Mombasa Town residents have experienced very serious water shortages for sometime now?

(b) Is he further aware that the 50 year-old Mzima Pipeline is rotten all the way from Taita Taveta District to Mombasa, leading to constant leakages?

(c) What urgent action is he taking to repair the pipeline and check water shortage in Mombasa Town?

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Mombasa Town residents have experienced water shortage occasioned by the increase in water demand above the supply.

(b) I am aware that the Mzima Pipeline is old in some sections, but it is not rotten all the way as imputed by the hon. Member. However, the entire pipeline requires rehabilitation in order to restore its initial design and water carrying capacity of 7.5 million gallons per day, which has been reduced to 5.5 gallons per day.

(c) My Ministry through the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation has finalised most of the engineering designs for the additional water supply, under the Second Mombasa and Coast Water Supply Engineering Project being funded by the World Bank. In addition, the occasional bursts on the pipeline have promptly been repaired to ensure that Mombasa Town does not unduly suffer from water shortages.

Mr. Kiliku: Could the Assistant Minister tell this House why he is singing a chorus about another pipeline started in 1985, when he was a Permanent Secretary? How long will this chorus continue to be sung?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have in fact, not referred to a second pipeline in this answer. I have said that a number of other options are being examined, including the sinking of two boreholes at Sabaki, as short term measures to ensure that we can supply some additional water to the people of Mombasa. I am aware that the second

pipeline is still on the cards and that is being finalised through the various consultants that have been appointed. But that is not the only solution that we have on our drawing board.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (b) of the Question says that the pipeline is rotten. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that the people of the Coast Province, from Taita Taveta to Mombasa will receive water through a replacement of new pipes from Mzima springs?

Mr. Ligale: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When I was trying to catch your eye, I was being pulled down on this end. Is that in order?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members. I actually did see and I think it is absolutely wrong. It amounts to sabotaging the Speaker's eye.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has been talking about engineering works for the World Bank sponsored water programmes for Mombasa, Siaya and other towns for the last two years. When does the Assistant Minister hope to get work started on this particular project?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Siaya one, in fact, should be started within a period of less than one year. The Mombasa one is taking a little longer because of the environmental impacts studies that have had to be undertaken, to ensure that we do not obstruct more water than what could be able to sustain wildlife and other fauna and flora, in the upper reaches of Mzima.

Mr. Shikuku: Mhe. Waziri Msaindizi amesema atarekebisha huo mfereji kwa kutoa mfereji mpya. Nataka aambie Bunge hili, huo mfereji mpya utawekwa lini?

Mr. Ligale: Bw. Spika, sikusema ya kwamba kurekebisha ni kuweka mfereji mpya peke yake. Nimesema ya kwamba, ule mfereji ambao hupo leo utarekebisha kwa maana unapasuka mara kwa mara. Lakini mbali na hiyo, tutaweka mpya, na kuweka mpya ndio bado tunachunguza.

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order, for the Assistant Minister to commence his address in this House in English and get, so unduly influenced by a person who has sworn to speak in Kiswahili, to turn the language into another language here? Is he in order to use Kiswahili instead of English?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought both languages were admissible.

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The question by hon. Shikuku was when? He has not answered that question!

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I had not been rudely interrupted by hon. Michuki, I would have answered it. I had in fact, intimated that the environmental impact study is now underway and as soon as it is completed, we shall be in a better position to know how soon it would take for us to do the implementation.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the feasibility study to construct the second pipeline was completed and the money was given to the Government by World Bank - Kshs3 billion. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House why the Government has changed the decision and where is that money which was given by the World Bank since 1985, to construct the second pipeline is? He is now talking about a feasibility study being done and yet, a feasibility study was done and completed and the money was given! He is now talking about environmental factors. What are these environmental factors?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, it is the same World Bank that has requested that an environmental impact assessment should be carried out.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, next Order!

MOTION

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

Mrs. Asiyu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the fact that women play a very significant role in the social, economic and political development of this country; noting that women comprise over 52 per cent of the

population; bearing in mind that the Government of Kenya is a signatory to the Beijing Platform of Action and other United Nations Declarations on fundamental women rights and appreciating its (GoK) commitment to the implementation of the Beijing resolutions on the need to correct the present imbalance on the participation of women in the political life of this country, this House recommends that:-

- (i) the Government introduces legislation to require all registered political parties to nominate at least one third women candidates to participate in the Presidential, National Assembly and Local Authorities elections
- (ii) the Government introduces an amendment to the Constitution of Kenya to provide two Parliamentary Constituencies exclusively for women candidates in each administrative Province of the republic, and;
- (iii) the Government introduces appropriate legislation to provide funding for all registered political parties and wherever public funding is possible, the amount of funding be linked to the percentage of women candidates put forward by each party.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Motion, which can also be called an affirmative action Motion, has only one goal. The goal is to compensate for the absence of women representatives in elective offices from the grassroots to the national level and upto the policy making organs of this land. That provision is in the right direction, in as much as it commits not only the Government, but also political parties to nominate one third women candidates to participate in the Presidential, Local authorities as well as National Assembly Elections.

The Constitutional amendments which I am proposing here will enable an only women candidature from all political parties, to contest two Parliamentary seats in each Province, without any physical boundary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the women's elections could be held just before the General Elections as it is done, for example, in Tanzania and Uganda, or as the Electoral Commission might decide to do. This provision will not interfere with any constituency boundaries because the 16 seats, that is, two from each province will be contested only by women, and will not have any geographical boundaries. They will, therefore, be like national seats.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have moved this Motion because I know that the Government has committed itself and signed several international obligations without any reservations. Take for example, the Beijing Platform of Action which the Government signed in September, 1995, without any reservation. So, truthfully, we are only prompting the Government to implement those obligations that they have already committed themselves to.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

In the just ended 41st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Kenya was expected to report on the progress it has made in the follow-up to the Beijing Platform. Hopefully, this House will not view this Motion as an Opposition Motion, but a Motion for both sides of the House, aimed at improving the condition and status of women in Kenya. This affirmative action can be used as a short-term strategy to give women a head start in politics, but once Kenya achieves 35 to 50 per cent of women representation, the provision may be withdrawn. We know that the Ministry of Education adopted affirmative action and as a result of this adoption, we now have very many girls entering secondary schools and state universities. Affirmative action will give recognition---

Mr. Kamuyu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a very important Motion being moved, but I can see the KANU side making a lot of noise!

(There was clapping in the Speaker's Gallery)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order! Will all those who have been privileged to come to the galleries be aware that they are supposed to sit and follow the debate in total silence? Any more clapping will lead to the evacuation of the galleries.

Mrs. Asiyo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am afraid some hon. Members in this House are not taking this Motion seriously while the bulk of those of us who have been elected to come here, have had the privilege of being elected by a majority of women voters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that affirmative action that we are calling for today will only be used as a strategy to give women a head start in politics. Once this country achieves 35 to 50 per cent of

women representation in this House and in all cadres, the provision can be withdrawn. I also said that the Ministry of Education has applied affirmative action that has worked very well for Kenya. The affirmative action will give recognition to the fact that cultural attitudes and institutions have marginalised and have not taken women on board. It will also give recognition and appreciation to the status of women in the family, community and society at large as educators, lawmakers, advisers, farmers and as politicians.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there can be no democracy without political and decision making involvement of 50 per cent of the population of our nation. Representation of women in political parties, Parliament and local authorities will bring a different perspective in politics and our national lives generally. It will bring a new vision and new policies to our nation. It will improve the quality of our politics and policies. It will cleanse politics which is stated to be a very dirty game. It will also demystify politics in this country. It will bring new contributions and implementations of our national programmes, some of which have been ignored like the Beijing Platform of Action. There will be an extremely high priority placed on food security at the household level, agriculture, education, health, national security, the situation of street children and a renewal of purpose in many areas.

For example, if the women were here and in the Government, when a decision was made to establish an oil pipeline from Mombasa to Kisumu and Eldoret, they would have simultaneously created a water pipeline alongside the oil pipeline. That would have saved many lives and a lot of hours that women have to spend looking for dirty water all over this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the challenges that are facing our country are immense. They are sometimes very frightening. We cannot leave these challenges to 40 per cent of the population of Kenya to respond to. Kenya, in any case, needs its women at all levels, that is, from the grassroot level as assistant chiefs, through all cadres in the public and private sector. The one third rule should apply. This should go up to the highest decision making organ of our land, which is the Cabinet, and this is where we need women most. If we can get 15 per cent from all the provinces coming to this House, we would give the President a lot of leeway in appointing people in the Cabinet, who can bring the very much needed changes. Maybe, time has come now for this country to consider establishing a Ministry especially for women, dealing with the policies of women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya cannot remain the only island of man in Sub-Saharan Africa, in matters of power sharing and partnership with women in leadership. As of now, Kenya ranks at the bottom. If you look at the Inter-Parliamentary Union chart, Kenya is the 31st country out of 35 countries that have not carried out what they promised to do when they signed various instruments. Take for example, Seychelles, which in 1993 carried out elections, and 33 people were elected, nine of whom were women. This was 27.3 per cent. In 1994, Mozambique also carried out elections, and they elected 250 people in their House, and 53 of them, which is 25 per cent, were women. South Africa has already elected 100 women to their House. Right now, African National Congress (ANC) is moving upward to provide up to 50 per cent representation of women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if change does not come about in ourselves in this House, and through ourselves as Parliamentarians, it will not come to the lives of most of the Kenya people, especially women, youth and children. We, Parliamentarians must root out prejudices against women, and the negative attitude towards their participation in politics. We have to help to eliminate all practises and traditions that militate against women leadership.

Women too must intensify the momentum for change. Women must look for allies across the political spectrum. This is because the political future of Kenya will belong to the women of this country, and the youth. Women must not leave the political arena to be the hunting ground of men.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem with politics around the world really is that there are too many men in it. That is the biggest problem that is facing this nation. Look at this House now, we are only four women here and only one woman Cabinet Minister. Think of the good changes that there could be in this country if that Front Bench now had half of the Cabinet as women! Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that the political parties will also have to work very hard to review their policies to organise women and enrol them, at least, in the same proportionate to their ratio in their electoral constituencies. They should also involve women when they prepare elections manifestos.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be asking hon. Murungi to second this Motion, but I want to appeal to both sides of the House to consider that this Motion is not looked at as an Opposition or Government Motion. It is a Motion about the women of this country, it is a Motion about what the Kenya Government must do now to amend the Constitution to facilitate more representation of women in this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I ask hon. Murungi to second the Motion.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to second this very important Motion.

As usual, my colleagues on the other sides are jeering at me, but I am asking them this time to take this Motion very, very seriously because on paper, the KANU Government has done a lot to support the cause of women, especially in the international fora.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Kenya is a signatory to the UN Convention on the political rights of women.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you protect me from the likes of Mr. Shamalla and Mr. Shikuku who do not seem to listen to what we are saying here?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Shamalla): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know what threats I have against the hon. Member making contribution.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): What is your point of order?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Shamalla): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am accused of threatening hon. Murungi. In what way have I threatened him?

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was merely requesting, through the Chair, that hon. Shamalla and hon. Shikuku pay attention to this Motion because it is important.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Under what Standing Order can the hon. Member demand that I pay attention to him? So, let him shut up!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there were loud consultations.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Carry on, Mr. Murungi!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Kenya Government has done very well at international level in supporting the cause of women by signing important international conventions like the UN Convention on political rights of women, the UN Convention on elimination of all forms of discriminations against women, it has been party to the Nairobi-forward-looking strategies and I am very happy that hon. Nyiva Mwendwa led a high-powered delegation to Beijing to support the cause of women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, all this Motion is requiring us to do is to implement what the Government has already agreed to do at the international level. It is asking us to take our international obligations more seriously. More specifically, the Motion intends to correct the present imbalance and injustice between men and women in holding senior political positions in this country, especially the elective positions; normally in civic and parliamentary elections.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Motion seeks to introduce a quota system to be established at political party level so that one-third of all the candidates for civic and parliamentary elections put forward by political parties are women. Secondly, it intends to create two special seats in each province for women in this country. Third, it intends to empower the candidate by providing funding for all registered political parties on progressive basis depending on the percentage of women candidates.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion within the general framework of constitutional and administrative reforms that we are seeking for better governance of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, women form 52 per cent of the population of Kenya, but they have been relegated to "political invisibility and tokenism."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the KANU National Executive sits down to deliberate on important matters of this country, there is not a single woman who sits within the KANU National Executive. Even within the Opposition parties---

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for ordinary women and all the other members of public to be denied right to listen to this Motion? They are all locked outside there and are not allowed to come in and occupy the Public Galleries.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was trying to say that even Opposition parties---

Mr. Kamuyu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In view of what hon. Nthenge has just informed the Chair and maybe the Chair was ignorant of that fact, can we now have a ruling from the Chair that the gates, indeed, be opened for these Public Galleries to be occupied by women who are all locked outside?

(Applause)

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no woman who is a chairman of any political party, even opposition parties, there is no woman who is a secretary-general, treasurer, national organising secretary

and so on. All the top positions of the registered political parties are held by men. We are not trying to have a "holier-than-thou-attitude", but all we are saying is that we have a collective responsibility to include women in the main-stream of Kenya politics by bringing in measures which will ensure that they are elected to top political decision-making positions in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is only SAFINA which has a treasurer who is a woman and it is for that reason that we are urging the Government to register SAFINA so that the woman in SAFINA would be able to play an important role.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Shamalla): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Murungi keeps on telling us the position in political parties and then he proceeds to name SAFINA which is not a registered political party!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): For sure that is not a point of order!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought that hon. Shamalla would be more intelligent than that. As far as the KANU Manifesto of 1992 is concerned, the role model of a woman is that one who is knitting a *kiondo*. KANU does not think of women as leaders. They think of them as people who are knitting all the time. We need to change this image. KANU has captured and destroyed the women's organisations in this country. Maendeleo ya Wanawake is controlled by men and men use women in Maendeleo ya Wanawake to oppress other women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we wonder why educated women are not elected in Maendeleo ya Wanawake. We only get women who support KANU. I think, it is very important that Maendeleo ya Wanawake is liberated so that it can play an important political role in this country.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Dr. Misoi): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Kiraitu Murungi to use this forum to ridicule a very respectable women organisation which is running its own affairs democratically?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): I do not know where ridicule and personal opinion starts. I thought that was his personal opinion.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as representation of women in Parliament is concerned, Kenya is one of the most backward countries in Africa in this issue. In fact, only three per cent of the Members of Parliament in Kenya are women. In South Africa, out of 400 Members of Parliament, 100 are women. In Eritrea, out of 105 Members of Parliament, 22 are women. In Uganda, out of 276 Members of Parliament, 50 are women. In Tanzania, out of 275 Members of Parliament, 48 are women.

So, we should be ashamed of ourselves that out of a Parliament comprising of 200 Members, only six are women. So, this is clearly unjust and it is upon us to make sure that at least, 30 per cent of the Members of Parliament in this House are women. You are laughing at me, but our Government is getting a reputation of being an insensitive Government; a Government which does not respond to the wishes and aspirations of its people, a Government which does not listen to women, a Government which does not listen to men and a Government which does not listen to its Parliament. When we passed a Motion here, even with KANU, that all political parties be funded publicly, a few people in the Cabinet went and rejected it. So, we have to take this issue seriously.

This is an election year and this is not a Motion between hon. Kiraitu, Phoebe Asiyo and the others. It is a Motion for those who support women and those who do not. The women are there in the Galleries and they will see who is supporting them.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Kiraitu! Order, Kiraitu! Your time is up. Before I propose the question, I would like to respond to Messrs. Nthenge and Kamuyu's points of order. I understand that nobody has been prevented from getting into the Galleries.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is the practice of this House, and it has been ruled in the past, that it will be completely out of order--- Can I go to Swahili now?

Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Shikuku: Okay, let me finish this point of order in English. It has been ruled in the past that it is completely out of order for one to address the Gallery. You heard the hon. Kiraitu saying that "these ladies are here", and he was pointing where the ladies are sitting thereby threatening other Members of Parliament. He said "These ladies are here and anybody who does not support this Motion is against the women". Is he in order to do that and intimidate us when he knows the Standing Orders?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the

principle on which this Motion is based is actually the principle of affirmative action; that the Government do take affirmative action to ensure that women are represented in this House. The principle of affirmative action is used in many countries of the world to help minorities. In the United States, some Congressional districts are created in order to ensure that black people are elected. The reason is because black people in America are a minority. In Romania, there are deliberate laws to protect people like the Turks and other minorities in order to ensure that they are duly represented in Parliament. In New Zealand, the Maori people are a minority and there are laws to protect that minority in order to ensure that they are elected in Parliament. It is important to note that affirmative action is a tool used in order to correct an imbalance created because one is a minority and cannot be elected just because they are a minority.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are being asked today to help a majority through affirmative action. The women of this country---

Mr. Muite: On a point of order Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to mislead this House that the policy of affirmative action is intended for minorities when he knows, or ought to know, that the policy of affirmative action is also intended for marginalised and disadvantaged groups?

Mr. Boy: Kaa chini!

Mr. Muite: Keep quiet, wewe Mswahili!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Chief Whip! Any more heckling and I will show you the door.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought that you were going to inform the hon. Muite that, this is a bright argument and let him catch your eye. This is because I am putting forward my argument to the effect that this is a lopsided Motion. The Motion is being put upside down. We are being told that the women are the majority and we should assist them by affirmative action. It has never been done anywhere. This is because our Constitution like every constitution in the world, is based on the equality of human beings. Every person is equal and one vote should be given to one person. Every woman in this country has one vote. Every man in this country also has one vote and if the women of this country can exercise their votes correctly, then tomorrow we can have all these Members of Parliament being women because they are the majority. They are capable of actually electing themselves into this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is lacking and what the Government and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) must do is to avail education to the public so that they can be able to utilise their rights because they do have the weapons and tools to enable them do what, in fact, they want.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in the Office of the President in order to come and mislead this House that they support civic education when they have issued circulars to prevent civic education in this country?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member knows that there is a big difference between civic education and misusing a process in order to tell people whom to vote for. Civic education means you tell people how to vote, not whom to vote for and when it is misused is big business.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know the hon. Murungi is too interested in the Galleries probably because there are some people he would like to address there. I am here to address the truth---

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to impute improper motives to a hon. Member of Parliament who is merely sitting here in silence?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it came from his own mouth. We are a revolving culture and we must accept that if this Motion were to be passed today, it would be regarded as radical. We must move our nation from one stage to another and the only way to do it is not by deliberate legislation, but by a process of education.

Mr. Rotino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to mislead the House that if this Motion is passed, it is going to be radical while Kenya is a signatory to the Beijing Platform of Action?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must say that, in fact, if you read the Beijing Platform of Action correctly, what is emphasised there is affirmative action on the side of women in terms of jobs and in terms of their economic empowerment. That is what I want to argue that women in this country should be enabled to be financially-well-off. Women should be educated and they must be given the opportunity, both by the law and by practice, to participate in the nation-building of this country. It is not a contradiction at all and the women of this country are taking part in the politics of this country.

We have women today here and the Press even says that some of them want to be the President of this country, although the particular candidate they are proposing has not even seen the map of Kenya. She does not know

where Kilgoris is, for instance---

Mr. Kiliku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to know whether the Assistant Minister is now replying so that we can take that as the Government stand or is it another Minister who is going to reply?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Koech will be responding on behalf of the Government. I am standing here as a Member for Narok West and I am saying that one of the areas that the lady candidate does not know is Kilgoris. She does not know the entire nation how big it is. I think it is important to go by the quality of a person rather than by the gender of the person---

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to say that the hon. Kaluki Ngilu does not know the geography of Kenya?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is my opinion. There are so many women in this country, not all of them are wearing high-heeled shoes. But those who are not wearing high-heeled shoes happen to be the majority and they cannot entrust their lives to people just because they are women. They have to look for something else---

Mr. Kamuyu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for this Assistant Minister who is comparatively young, to mislead this House regarding the political position of women while it is very clear that the Maasai and the Muslims have very great disrespect for women?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Members! This is a very important Motion and it is also time to debate. Can we limit these endless points of order, so that we can hear each others' point of view? The fact that you do not agree with what he is saying, does not give rise to an automatic point of order.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at any rate, the Maasai word for "woman" means "the great one" and the Maasai community really exalts their women. They are the ones who own the houses, cattle and, in fact, the man has no responsibility going into the cattle boma to sell a cow that belongs to his wife. It is, perhaps, the hon. Member who has no respect for women---

Mrs. Asiyu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Assistant Minister right in telling us what the Maasai women own as property like cattle and houses when we are talking about political position of women in this country?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the politics of Maasai is based on land and cows. I think the hon. Member should know that the economy of the people determines their politics. I am saying that the political position of women in Maasailand is very strong and the hon. Kamuyu has no business saying that it is not.

At any rate, the hon. Members would like to derail what I was trying to say and I am saying that this particular Motion is radical in its nature. It has not taken into account our culture at all. It has not taken into account the international principles of equality of men and women. It should be rejected because it has no basis at all. There is no need introducing an amendment because an amendment would just mean an amendment based on affirmative action. Any amendment based on affirmative action would have had no responsibility at all being accepted.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Sunkuli in order to anticipate business which is not before the House? There has not been any amendment moved, what amendment is he discussing?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am trying to advance an argument and I am trying to use the word "amendment" to show that if there is anybody who thinks that we can amend this particular Motion, I am saying it should be rejected *in toto*. That is my position, I reject.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. The proposer of the Motion must have thought about it for a very long time and must have tremendous advice from other interested parties. But I want to talk about this Motion in relation to something that happened probably 30 years ago in this country.

At that time, I was the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury of this Republic and, at the same time, the Government at the time had the policy of Africanisation of businesses throughout Kenya. The issue was discussed at length and it was found that, although, the African in Kenya was the majority, unless he was protected, there was no way he could win contracts even though the tender system was well established. It, therefore, became my onerous duty to finalise this circular and sign it. I am giving this example because it is very much analogous to the case we have here. The majority were Africans and yet the performance within that community had somehow, on the basis of the country the way it was, to be protected. So, this circular came out and, as far as I know, the circular is still in use, which says that where an African's tender is higher by 5 per cent to that of other people, that tender should be awarded

to an African. The issue was seized by the Attorney-General of the time that I had discriminated against certain people. In fact, the issue went to the late President Kenyatta and the then Attorney-General and I was summoned by the late President. I have to say that the opinion within the Government, particularly in the Civil Service, was that we were supporting the Constitution. We were not being discriminatory because the Constitution was not supposed to confirm the discrimination that existed before it came into existence.

Therefore, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, procedures in this country have been unable to cater for women in top leadership. As hon. Murungi said here, unless we are addressing, as we have in the last four and a half years, a very insensitive KANU Government, this Motion ought to be supported by the whole of this House, so as to cater for present deficiencies in the national leadership. It does not matter whether women are 52 per cent of the population. The position was the same at that time, when we had to protect it. There was no other way of getting Kenyans to participate in business. This is the same principle embraced by this Motion.

Our women have been misused. As it has been stated here, Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation has been embraced by a political party, not because it sympathises with women, but because it knows that it can misuse the judgement of women in elections. A circular was issued in Kajiado District stating that non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which were giving civic education were a threat to security. What kind of a Government can actually designate a procedure to educate people as a security risk? We must look at this Motion without thinking, as appears to be the case, that there are sectoral interests. We are talking about Kenya and the participation of women in leadership. They lead in the farms, the teaching profession and have, in fact, come out very strongly also in business. Due to the selfish motives of men, this country has an obligation to provide for leadership of women in the political field.

Therefore, I support this Motion in all clarity of my mind and say that we have to do something, as we did in 1965, in order to get Kenyans into business. If we had not done something, Kenyans would not have got into business because some communities had for many years been entrenched in business.

Mr. Shikuku: But the Asians have come back!

Mr. Michuki: They have come back through the policies of this insensitive KANU Government! We have Asians who are cooks---

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Michuki in order to say that the KANU Government brought Asians back to businesses while he, himself, as chairman of Kenya Commercial Bank, supported Asians to buy out Africans?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my career in the Kenya Commercial Bank, I financed businesses and not individuals. I have never been known to work in the way the hon. Member is suggesting. I am saying that we should create opportunities for the---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member says that he only financed businesses and not individuals. Are we to understand that there are no individuals in businesses?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think I am being interrupted because I wholly support this Motion.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Michuki to mislead this House that particular persons who are here elsewhere in this country, actually promoted Indian businesses when, in fact, there is evidence that he financed very many of these Asians? He was one of those who brought them here and, in fact, he should not blame anybody else. He, in fact, also financed people along tribal lines. Is he in order to mislead this House?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, of course, people in this country know that, that accusation is false and malicious. I am being diverted from the issue, but let me say this: If this House does not support this Motion, that will be very unfortunate. It will be very unfortunate in the sense that, women must be given an equal chance. We are not discriminating against anybody or making any special arrangements. We are catering for a community that has a lot to contribute to the development of the country.

Therefore, I support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I have a great deal of sympathy for the sentiments expressed by the gracious lady who brought in this Motion. After all, women do influence almost all our lives. My mother influences me a great deal. My wife does so and so do my daughters. So, women have a great deal of influence on all of us. But there is a difference between sympathy and reality. When we look at this Motion we see that it is discriminatory. It is discriminating because it is asking that women be treated separately and specially. One would ask: Why not the disabled? Why do we not have special seats for the disabled? Why do we not have special seats for the very young? Why do we not have special seats for the very aged? If we open up the door, we must open it fully. We

cannot open it for only a section of the population.

The Motion negates the whole spirit of Beijing because in Beijing, the purpose was empowerment of women; bringing about the full rights of women and the equality of women in order for women to be treated equally with men. If you now give separate seats, you are making them more equal than men. Women, by nature, are complex. One minute they are tender and kind, the next minute they are hard and cruel!

(Laughter)

I should know, because women have a great deal of influence on me. I am being very serious and very sympathetic to this Motion, but it is unworkable. It is unworkable because I have understood that the constituencies are going to be provinces. We suffer from the scourge of tribalism in this country. When you have two people representing a whole province where there are, perhaps, ten or twelve tribes, you are in trouble. How are you going to get these two representatives representing the whole province fairly?

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to draw the attention of the hon. Assistant Minister to the fact that, the way I understand the Motion, that it is not--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Ndicho! You know very well what a point of order is, do you not? Carry on, Mr. Awori.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you cannot legislate against attitude. Attitudes are very difficult to legislate against. Women prefer men to represent them.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Standing Order No. 73(3) prohibits hon. Members from using offensive or insulting language, whether in respect of hon. Members in the House or other persons. It is offensive to women, for the hon. Member to say that women generally prefer men to represent them. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to use offensive language?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Muite! Honestly, what is offensive there? I do not see anything offensive.

Carry on, Mr. Awori.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Are you satisfied by the point of order raised by hon. Muite, who also purports to be the "Speaker?" He made a ruling that; "it is offensive". Under what Standing Order is what the hon. Member said offensive?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, you cannot legislate against attitudes, and this brings me to hon. Michuki's analogy on Africanising business in this country. At the time when hon. Michuki was the Permanent Secretary, and a legislation was brought in to Africanise business, in fact, I happened to be the Chairman of that particular Committee. Africans have got an attitude of not wanting to see their fellow Africans succeed and you cannot legislate against that. As hon. Michuki stated, there is a directive which states that when there is a tender and there are many people who have tendered, if it happens that an African's tender is even 10 per cent higher, he should be given that tender. Does it happen?

An hon. Member: No.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, and who refuses that? It is our own Africans. There is no Indian or European Minister here, neither is there a European Permanent Secretary. So, all the tenders that should be given are not given to Africans by Africans themselves. If you run a factory that manufactures building materials as I happen to do, you need an African Architect to give the specifications for use of that material. If you go to an African Architect, he will not specify your material, instead, he will specify the material manufactured by an Asian. Whose fault is that? You cannot legislate against attitudes. Therefore, even if we did what this Motion wants us to do, the chances are, maybe, the majority of women may not even want them to go and vote on those particular situations. I have a great deal of sympathy with this Motion. But I think one thing we should try and do is to find a way of increased nominations so that there can be more women nominated to this House. Women have been very successful in business. They have competed with men very effectively and they have not been given any special treatment. Women have succeeded very ably in Government, but they have not been given special treatment.

Today, we have got women Judges. Someone has been talking of racial discrimination. In the Judiciary, women are almost a third of the judges and they got there on their own merit. Since our Constitution says: "One person, one vote", we must uphold that Constitution and then encourage the women to vote for their fellow women. But we need not legislate on that. We should not force women to vote for their fellow women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, very regrettably, I oppose

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to move an amendment to the Motion before the House. I move that the Motion be amended as follows:

(a) By deleting parts (i) and (ii) and inserting the following in place thereof:

(i) That the Government commits itself to the principal of gender parity in public leadership by introducing legislation to increase the number of women candidates in Civic and Parliamentary elections.

(ii) That the Government introduces constitutional amendment to allow women in each administrative district to elect one woman to Parliament until the time when at least one-third of elected parliamentarians are women.

(iii) By deleting the words, "whenever public funding is possible" appearing in the second line.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is painful and agonizing for some of us when we sit here and listen to the way a very important matter of national concern is being treated like an opportunity to heckle at each other instead of availing ourselves of this chance to reflect on what we have been doing and how to strengthen the political process of this country, not just for the interest of women, but for the interest of this country.

I want to argue that legislative action and constitutional reform action meant to strengthen the participation of women in leadership prowess in this country is good, first and foremost, for the whole country then for women and lastly for men. First, I want to clear some misconceptions that have been aired here by some people opposing this Motion. Hon. Members who want to deal with matters of gender parity on the basis of male paternalism doing favours to women, want to point a few cases of successful women without respecting the difficult conditions under which they have succeeded, say others should follow that route. In fact, what we should say is that if a few women have succeeded in business, imagine at what odds; how difficult it has been for them to get what they have got in spite of doing our homework for us. They cook for us, tend our children, wash our clothes, stay up late after we have gone to sleep to clear what was eaten and, in spite of that, some of them have been able to do what they have been able to do. The responsibility of this National Assembly is to think how we can remove institutional and attitudinal hurdles in the way of women to free this immense energy that will do a lot of good for our country.

I listened to an hon. Member of Parliament totally distorting the meaning of the words "affirmative action". If affirmative action is about helping the minority, in the USA, affirmative action would be focused on Jews. There are less Jews than African Americans in the USA. Affirmative action is not about helping minorities, but about strengthening the hand of the disadvantaged, where the disadvantaged are the majority. Like in the commercial sphere at Independence, affirmative action is to remove hurdles in the path of the majority.

No country can boast of its being in transition towards democracy if it retains institutional premodal, sentimental and attitudinal hurdles in the path of more than 50 per cent of its population. I have listened to some hon. Members idealizing about the dominion of women by men. I have a slightly above average knowledge of the plight of a Maasai woman. I have an above average knowledge that the Maasai woman does not own livestock. She has user rights in those animals and there is a difference---

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Kituyi in order to pretend to know about the Maasai woman and even go further and say that a Maasai woman does not own livestock, while from the very day you marry her, you give her property?

Dr. Kituyi: As I was saying, it is a fairly widespread inability to understand things that there is a difference between user rights and owner rights. There is no Maasai woman who has a right to sell a single animal and the fact that men allocate the rights to milk animals, does not represent---

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Kituyi to use his little knowledge to say untrue things about my society?

Dr. Kituyi: As I was saying, it is the responsibility of every leader in this country to try to know as much as possible about other communities in this country. It is something that one does not apologise for.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Dr. Kituyi, do you want information from hon. Sunkuli?

Dr. Kituyi: He is not capable of having any information. I wish it is known that if that Maasai woman who treks 15 kilometres following a donkey to go and fetch water, responsible for the kraaling of all the animals at the end of the day, responsible for fetching firewood---

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Dr. Kituyi to continue misleading the nation about a tribe he knows least about?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish hon. Sankori will give himself an opportunity to

understand a few fundamentals about the extent to which male domination has blinded average Maasai men to the reality of the oppression and suppression of Maasai women. If that Maasai woman was given a chance to pursue intellectual opportunities, great say in disposal of the animals she theoretically owns and is allocated by husband, Maasai society would be better today than it is.

There are fundamental issues I wish to mention in---

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Is the hon. Member in order to mislead this House when we all know that he only has academic, and theoretical knowledge of the Maasai while hon. Sankori and I have actual knowledge of what happens in Maasailand? The woman in Maasailand has enough power to dispose off her livestock.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Kituyi, hon. Sankori and hon. Sunkuli! This debate is not about Maasai women. It is about the women of Kenya.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that you mentioned that. Some people have problems of understanding these things.

I said that a Motion which sets out our commitment to the principle of parity, to replace a specific quarter right now because of the following:- Although this country has been a signatory to the Beijing instruments and programme of action; in order for us to facilitate that action in terms of a legislative agenda, we need a certain fundamental constitutional amendment which allows for proportional representation, in which case parties can put lists of candidates where, at least, one-third are from the other gender and that is not possible under the current constitutional dispensation. Now, because of that, I think it is important that we emphasize the following; that we should not pretend that greater participation of women in parliamentary leadership is just going to be for women. I wish to mention a few specific cases. Today, there is a major crisis in this country. You open any newspaper and find cases of child defilement by adult men. We are haemorrhaging our conscience and dignity as a nation. The number of wide brutalization in domestic circles is a major disgrace to the men of this country. The number of street children, who are our children, is a great shame to this country and what happens is that men legislators do not even seem to see these things. While the public is outraged about child defilement and domestic violence, there is none of this that comes to the Floor of this House---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If the hon. Member is not getting irrelevant, can he explain to this House what would happen, in matters pertaining to male defilement, if the majority of legislators here were women? I thought he was getting off the point.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to have the protection of the Chair. I am trying to make a very fundamental point. The point I am making is that if there were more women in this Parliament, this Parliament would reflect the outrage of the society out there about defilement of children. If there were more women in this House, this society would pay more attention to street children. If there were more women in this Parliament, this society would pay attention to domestic violence, but because hon. Members are interested in pettiness of heckling each other, we lose an opportunity to address a matter that is of major national concern. We turn it into a play thing. We start scoring petty childish points. It is important for this society that this House rises above pettiness while dealing with this matter.

It is important particularly that hon. Members who lay claim to a semblance of education should understand how much women struggle in this country and we are keeping them out because of our pretensions---

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is fond of calling hon. Members "childish" and "petty". Is it in order for him to call hon. Members "childish" and "petty", just because he does not agree with us?

Dr. Kituyi: I do not intend to call any Member childish, but this Kabras should try to use better language in Parliament.

With those remarks, I beg to move.

Mr. Orengo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to support the Amendment very emphatically. At the outset, I want to say the following: If you look at the texture of our legislation, beginning with the Constitution to the various legislations which have been made or enacted by this House, you will find that the wording, the formulation or the language used in our legislations do not aim at putting men and women in equal footing. In fact, there is more use of the masculine formulation rather than the feminine formulation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at many modern constitutions in the world today--- I want to take the Constitution of South Africa as one modern constitution. When it talks about Parliament, it says that its National Assembly or Parliament shall consist of no less 350 and no more than 400 women and men. That is the basic formulation of the law in South Africa today; it is gender sensitive. I am saying this because we are dealing with a major problem of sexism, prejudice and discrimination against women. Both in our law and in our attitudes, sexism pertains in all the spheres of our life, and legislation is required to ensure that this comes to an end.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some time last year, we attended a seminar organised by the World Bank where it was noted that during the first six or seven years of our Independence when there was no so much victimization and detention, our economy was doing very very well. But the moment there was a lot of detention and a lot of violation of human rights; our economy also started going downwards. If you look in the continent of Africa today - I want every hon. Member to sit down and look at the figures - First, you will notice that on the political sphere, in the countries where women are not represented in the national assemblies or in Parliament, like in Kenya where only three per cent of the Members of Parliament are women, the level of political oppression is very high. Kenya is in the same list with Nigeria.

If you look at the level of women representation in Nigeria, you will find that it is very low and; it is not an accident. If you look at the level of women representation in the current Zaire Parliament, it is less than three per cent; just as in the case of Kenya. In the equatorial Guinea which has been a dictatorship ever since it was founded, women representation is less than three per cent; just like is the case in Kenya. If you look at various countries in northern Africa where dictatorship exists including Sudan, the representation of women is less than three per cent. This is not a coincidence, neither is it an accident; it is because the generality of our laws do not recognise human rights to the extent that they should and; women rights are part of the fundamental rights that should be part of our legislation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying this because even hon. Shikuku, who is a very good friend of mine, still remembers that Africans were the majority in this country and through the various instruments that were negotiated before Independence, the level of membership of the Africans in the legislative council went up gradually. Even during the colonial times, there were some kind of affirmative actions to increase African participation in the legislative council. The colonialists were aware, through pressure which was exerted that some day we will have a Parliament where the Africans would be the majority; but progressively they increased the numbers of the black people in the Legislative Council from the original eight to 14 and to 33. What I am saying is that the truth of the matter is that the way forward, whether we like it or not, is that women are going to be a major voice in our Parliament in the future.

It is so surprising that in the East, or in the Indian Sub-Continent women are playing a greater role on democratization. In Burma, for example, the person who is leading the movement for liberation and democratization is a lady who won the Nobel Peace Prize. In Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India, women have shown their qualities for leadership. What I know, as a matter of fact, and, I do not fear any contradiction on this is that; we are all affected psychologically. We have stereotyped women as being passive and dependent because we think that we know better than women know. I must say that, unless we move forward with the times, we are going to be left behind, both in terms of the process for democratization and also in trying to build an economy that is going to be good for this country, not only for the present generation, but even for the future generation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was in a delegation that went to South Africa with some Members of Parliament here, including hon. Shikuku. Hon. Shikuku could see for himself that in that country, in fact, the African National Congress has made sure that in South Africa, one quarter of that Parliament consists of women. The African National Congress has said that in the next elections, they are going to nominate more than 50 per cent of their membership in Parliament. If ANC is going to have 300 members of Parliament, 150 of them are going to be women.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The point which hon. James Orengo is advancing about women in this country is very correct. However, I want to inform him that our women in this country are their own greatest enemy because they do not admire themselves. For example, in Dagoretti, where hon. Kamuyu comes from, he was opposed by a woman and women in Dagoretti, who are the majority gave hon. Kamuyu 20,000 votes and gave that lady 7,000 votes. So, it is important to tell our women not to be their own enemy and then they will lead the whole world.

Mr. Orengo: Thank you for the information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, but I am sure hon. Kamuyu had votes from women and I think the candidate for the Democratic Party of Kenya also had votes from women which shows they are essentially democratic in nature. I do not think that is the point that is being made in this Motion. But the point that is being made in this Motion is: We must take concrete steps to ensure that representation of women in elective bodies such as Parliament and Local Authorities, is increased and we can only do that through affirmative action. Women have been disadvantaged in education, in businesses and the fact that they are not able to have as many candidates as men have had in the past, does not mean that they do not want to aspire to those positions. Time is running out and today, we will see whether we are looking for the way forward or we are looking back to the past.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I beg to second the Motion.

(Question of the first part of the amendment, that

the words to be left out be left out, proposed)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Due to the shortage of time, I will not allow the amendment to be debated. I will put the question straightaway.

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

Hon. Members: Division! Division!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order! You require 20 Members standing, to support a division. I counted from both sides of the House, 25 Members on their seats. If a division is what you want, you have it.

DIVISION

(Question put and the House divided)

(Question defeated by 40 votes to 25)

AYES: Messrs. Achieng-Oneko, Aluoch, Mrs. Asiyo, Messrs. Busolo, Gichuki, Gitau, Githiomi, Gitonga, Icharia, Ms. Karua, Mr. Kiliku, Bishop Kimani, Dr. Kituyi, Messrs. Mak'Onyango, Michuki, Muite, Mwavumo, Mwiraria, Obure, Dr. Ombaka, Mr. Onyango, Dr. Opere, Mr. Orengo, Prof. Ouma, Mr. Ruhui.

Tellers of the Ayes: Messrs. Busolo and Mwiraria.

NOES: Messrs. Abdi, Ali, Awori, Barmasai, Boy, Chebelyon, Criticos, Galgalo, Kaino, Kalweo, Kavisi, Keah, Khaniri, Kochalle, Koech, Lengees, Ligale, Magwaga, Dr. Manduku, Messrs. Mohamed A., Morogo, Mumba, Musyoki, Mrs. Mwendwa, Messrs. Nang'ole, Ndzai, Nthenge, Rev. Ommami, Messrs. Oyondi R.O., Rai, Sankori, Shamalla, Shikuku, Sing'aru, Sumbeiywo, Sunkuli.

Tellers of the Noes: Messrs. Badawy and Sankori.

ABSTENTIONS: Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, Messrs. Maore, Osogo and Rotino.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): We now revert to the original Motion as moved by Mrs. Asiyo.

(Debate on the original Motion resumed)

Mr. Orengo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was wondering whether you are satisfied as to whether or not the voting that has just taken place was free and fair.

An hon. Member: Ah! How can you doubt that?

Mr. Orengo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have my sound reservations that some hon. Members, especially the Gracious Ladies in KANU, were intimidated to vote for---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am making my point. The hon. Nominated Member from Kisii came to plead with me last week to support this Motion. This morning, Mrs. Nyiva Mwendwa gave me an indication that she is strongly supporting this Motion.

An hon. Member: But we are on the Motion! This is the very best!

Mr. Orengo: No, I am saying that both the Motion---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Orengo! I do not know under what Standing Order you are questioning the voting pattern of hon. Members of this House. This is a conscience Motion and people vote according to their conscience. In any event, whichever way the two ladies voted, they were not voting for or against the Motion. They were voting on the amendment.

Mrs. Nyamato, you have five minutes to give your contribution!

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought when one tries to catch your eye, he should stand at his or her place. But you realise that when I was standing in my place, hon. Muite was

right in front of me, thereby making it impossible for you to see my face!

(Laughter)

Mrs. Nyamato: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very big opportunity for hon. Members in this august House to demonstrate to the women of this country, how gender sensitive they are.

Hon. Members of Parliament should be aware that women have supported and voted them you for the last 34 years without raising a finger or requesting for a favour. This is a historic day because if you support and pass this Motion, women in Kenya will have it on record that in the Seventh Parliament, you accorded them an opportunity to get fair representation in this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Africa region, women who are hon. Members of Parliament from Kenya sometimes get overshadowed when they go to African Women Parliamentary meetings. We find that Kenya is the only country with the least women Members of Parliament. It will be an image booster for Kenya if this Motion was passed and increase the representation of women in Parliament so that women from Kenya do not feel as if the Government is not supporting their goals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is already on record that women in Kenya constitute 52 per cent of the population, but when it comes to voting, we are very much aware that women do not have money to sponsor violence and, therefore, it becomes difficult for women to pass through the queue and get registered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, passing this Motion as an affirmative action---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. gracious lady is saying that men sponsor violence. I have all along been coming to this Parliament since 1963 and no violence has ever taken place in Butere. Is she in order to say that men sponsor violence to get to this Parliament? I have never got here through violence!

Mrs. Nyamato: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known that---

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it not true that violence is creeping into our society and it is going to be a culture that would be very difficult to uproot?

Mrs. Nyamato: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very well-known fact that a lot of votes are solicited in bar-halls. Women do not go to bars to solicit for support and for that reason they are disadvantaged.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, women today are here to judge you, hon. Members of Parliament, whether you are supporting their interests or acting against them.

As you are aware, they are the ones who have always supported you, they have voted for you and here they are making a very minor request that you consider increasing the number of women in this Parliament. We are not going to increase the number of women here to fight for seats or to make you feel disadvantaged. No! We have always worked together with men as a team. If anything, it goes on record that women are very good managers. For example, the current good performance of Harambee Stars is because the current Minister for Culture and Social Services is a woman. Harambee Stars is doing very well in soccer!

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, women will, therefore, make very good managers and Ministers, if we increase their number in Parliament and probably increase their number in the Cabinet.

It also goes on record that when it comes to organisations, women are good organisers. That is why we have so many women groups, but we do not have a single men's organisation. We are very busy raising funds for various women organisations in the country because we are the backbone of development. It is, therefore, only reasonable that we support women.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these few words, I support this Motion.

Mr. Shikuku: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Jambo la kwanza ni Katiba---

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Standing Order No.75 requires an hon. Member to declare personal interest. The hon. Member for Butere ought to declare his interest. He regards women as " chattels"; he has got three wives, and he should declare that interest before he contributes.

Mr. Shikuku: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kumwashia kipofu taa ni kuharibu mafuta!

(Laughter)

Jambo la kwanza, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ni kuhusu Katiba yetu. Katika Katiba hii tuliwahi kuweka mila zetu. Ikiwa wanataka sasa tubadilisha hizo mila waleta Hoja ya kubadilisha mila za Kiafrika.

Jambo la pili, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Tumeambiwa katika Hoja hii ya kwamba wanawake ni asilimia 52 ya idadi ya wananchi wa Kenya. Hili ni jambo wazi kuwa wana nguvu za kutosha na wanaweza kupigania viti vyote vya Bunge hili. Kwa hivyo, hakuna haja ya kusaidiwa!

(Applause)

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, wakati wa ukoloni, watu walikuwa na kura nne au tatu; ukiwa tajiri kura moja, ukiwa umesoma kura nyingine na ukiwa na biashara kura nyingine. Lakini wakati huu kila mtu ana kura moja. Kwa hivyo, hakuna haja ya kuwasaidia.

Jambo la tatu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ni kuhusu "Africanisation" katika taifa letu. Mimi niliwahi kuwa katika Wizara ya Mashauri ya Nchi na Turadhi za Kitaifa, nilikuwa mmoja wa wale waliokuwa wakitoa ilani kwa Wahindi kuondoka ili Wafrika wapate nafasi za biashara. Hii ni kwa sababu Wafrika walikuwa wengi na Wahindi wachache walikuwa wamemiliki biashara zote. Ajabu ni kwamba kama vile mhe. Mbunge amesema hapa, Wafrika wenyewe, baada ya kupewa hizo biashara, waliwauzia Wahindi tena. Wakati huu hatuna Mhindi au Mzungu katika Baraza la Mawaziri, lakini ukipata tenda au biashara yoyote, inapewa watu hawa na watu weusi zaidi ya mhe. Shikuku ambao wako katika Serikali hii.

Kwa hivyo, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninaunga mkono maneno ya mhe. Awori ya kwamba sheria haiwezi kubadilisha mila au mawazo ya watu. Jambo hilo haliwezekani!

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kuhusu jambo hili la 'progressive', akina mama wetu wanapokutana na mama wengine kutoka nchi za nje wanaambiwa maneno mengi ambayo si sawa.

Nchini Kenya tangu, mwaka 1963, hatujawahi kuwa na sheria inayosema ya kwamba wanawake wasipige kura na wanaume wapige kura. Sote tunapiga kura pamoja. Nimewahi kupingwa na mwanamke katika eneo langu na ilikuwa taabu sana. Nilikuwa nikimzuia huyo mwanamke kwa sababu wanawake wenyewe walikuwa wakimtemea mate! Kama ni juhudi, hawa akina mama waanze kuwaelimisha akina mama kule mashambani na si katika Intercontinental, Hilton, Serena na kadhalika! Waende kule mashambani ambapo kuna wanawake wengi. Ninaunga mkono ya kuwa kwa vile wanawake ni wengi katika taifa hili wapigania viti vyote na wala si kupewa viti vitatu, vinne na kadhalika. Wana uhuru wa kupigania viti vyote katika nchi hii kwa sababu mwanamume ana kura moja na mwanamke ana kura moja. Tunagombania nini? Wanasema kuna eti "gender." Hata katika hiyo "gender" ya Kiingereza kuna "masculine gender" na "feminine gender". Kwa hivyo, wanasema juu ya "gender" wakidhani hawa tu ndio wanaohusika na maswala haya, sote tunahusika katika maswala ya "gender."

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ukiangalia upande wa elimu utaona ya kwamba shule za wasichana zinafanya vizuri katika mitihani ya kitaifa kuliko shule za wavulana. Na sasa idadi yao katika vyuo vikuu inaongezeka. Kwa hivyo, wawe na uhuru wa kupigania viti kama wanaume lakini tusiseme tuko sawa na huko tunasema wanawake wapewe viti zaidi katika Bunge. Kwa kusema hivyo tunachanganyikiwa!

Mr. Busolo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead this House on matters of education when we know that economic survey of last year showed very clearly that women and development---

Mr. Shikuku: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninapinga Hoja hii kwa sababu italeti tofauti kati ya mume na mke nyumbani na sote tunapendana sana!

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do sympathise with the sentiments of the Motion, but the way it is brought does not augur very well for this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we as hon. Members of this House respect women. We have a lot of respect for them, they are our mothers, sisters and wives and some of us are very lucky that they have got more than one which shows that they love them.

When you look at the educational statistics in this country, you will find that the primary school enrolment is almost equal which means that there is no discrimination between boys and girls. Also when you look at the educational statistics in our secondary schools, you will find that the number of boys and that of girls is almost the same. This is because to be exact, the boys constitute 54 per cent while the girls constitute 46 per cent. This level of percentage is not very bad. Now, when you go to our tertiary institutions, you will note that the number of girls who are joining our universities has increased tremendously. And, in fact, in all our private universities, we have got more women than men. This, therefore, shows very well that this country is doing quite a lot to make sure that the women are supported right from the nursery school upto the tertiary level.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now with this kind of support, you can also see that even the Government has already recognised the roles of women. In this Chamber, we have a woman Minister which shows that we are moving. At the same time, we have women Assistant Ministers. We also have women Permanent Secretaries.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to

mislead this House that the Government has a woman Minister when they have only a Minister for Culture and Social Services in that Government? There is no woman Minister in this Government but there is only a Minister for Culture and Social Services.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me request Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo not to finish my time. In the Public Service we have got women in very senior positions. We have got women Permanent Secretaries. We have women who are Deputy Secretaries. We have women who are Assistant Secretaries. We have got women who are District Commissioners. We have got women judges and we have women in all roles of Government undertaking. I think, what we should do in this House is to encourage more educational opportunities for women and we have got to create awareness among women to make them realise that they have got also a very big role to play in this country. I believe this would be more important than forcing the women into leadership.

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to say that we should encourage women education while it is the Government that is stopping all the seminars to educate women about their positions in this country?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a trained teacher. I know what the right curriculum should be. When we talk about civic education, we should not be too anxious to bring in ideas which are foreign to this country. Let us be honest about our positions. Women constitute 52 per cent of the population of this country. If they make a decision that they will come to Parliament, would there be a male Member of Parliament in this august House? It would only be women Members of Parliament in this House because they constitute 52 per cent of the Kenyan population. Now, we have got to ask ourselves why are women---

Mr. Busolo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. On what basis shall women make decisions when they are not even represented in the Committees of this House? They are not represented in the DDCs; they are not represented at any policy level not even in the Cabinet?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a point of argument. Now, you leave me alone to make my contribution. If the women today decided to elect women Members of Parliament to this House, there would be no man in this House and that is a fact. Let us ask ourselves, why women are not making the decisions? And the reason is that---

Mr. Obure: On a point of order Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead this House and this nation when he knows that the women are very democratic? They have principles. They do not support people because they are women. They are supporting people because they are capable. They are not like men.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say that the reason why they cannot make a decision--- We know the roles of the women. They are doing a wonderful job to bring up the children in this country. It is a very big role. We have not refused them to come to Parliament. If there are some women who have the time, energy and they can struggle like these ladies who are Members of Parliament, then they can come. Nobody is refusing them entry to this House. The Constitution is not discriminatory towards them. It does not bar women from coming to this Chamber. And let us be realistic.

If it is the question of the African culture as the hon. Shikuku put it very well; which makes it difficult for women to be elected Members of Parliament, we are moving forward and we are coming to that situation which is referred to as international inculturation. But you cannot push us to an area where we have not reached. We have to move slowly and practically. We must be practical. We must allow some of the changes to come in naturally. Anything which is false cannot survive. If a woman who has got a seven month old "child" suddenly gives birth, the "child" cannot survive the outside environment. It will die. So, you have got to wait for that "child" until it is nine months old in the womb for it to be born naturally. And it will be able to---

Mr. Orengo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead the House? In fact, this is part of the problem that we have because we are not sensitive about women. You cannot have a child in a womb. It is not possible to have a child in the womb.

Hon. Members: He does not know what he is talking about!

The Minister for State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not want to go to the semantic part of that. What I am stressing at this juncture is that we have got to leave some of these things to natural forces. And what is natural will survive. I have been talking to some of our women Members of Parliament here. I asked them "why have you come to Parliament?" Their answer is that they have the time, energy and they can move. If some of them do not have the time now, why do you want to force them to come to Parliament? These things will come naturally. If we educate them, which the Government has already done, and we are exposing them to quite a good number of good things, it is alright. We are exposing them to riots if we give them this other kind of education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look back at the British political development, you will find that the women were not even allowed to vote. The Universal Suffrage came some time in the middle of this century.

Mr. Busolo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. With this kind of childish Government response on a very serious matter, we may as well close this debate and go! The Minister is wasting our time here!

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We must uphold the dignity of this House and keep within our Standing Orders. Was it in order for the hon. Member to say that "this is a childish response from the Government?"

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Busolo, you must withdraw that remark and apologise to the House.

Hon. Members: Discipline him!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! The Chair does not need your assistance to deal with hon. Busolo. I will deal with him myself. Can you withdraw the remarks, that the Minister is being childish and apologise to the House?

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the word "childish" and substitute it with the word "insult" to our nation.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Can you apologise as well?

Mr. Busolo: I apologise.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was touching on the evolution of a political system in this country. I think what is very important is that we should leave the natural forces of political evolution to come slowly. I believe a time will come when this House may come up with some ideas like that. But we must not force some of these things to come too abruptly. And I want the women in this nation to know that the Government recognises the role played by women. The roles that women are playing are very important for this nation. We recognise you and I want this to go on record; that what the women are doing in this country is a wonderful and noble role.

What the women are doing in this country is a wonderful and noble role and we want them to develop it slowly until they come into a position of leadership. I believe they will come to Parliament because they are natural forces and because of the roles they play at home. We do not have any Parliament in the world where the majority are women because they are natural forces.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister to tell us that the limits of his knowledge are the limits of reality when we know that the Kingdoms of Norway and Iceland have majority women?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to challenge anything, but it has taken those countries a very long time to reach that stage. It will also reach a time in Kenya when there would be more women Members of Parliament in this House. That time will definitely come. The only unfortunate thing is that it has not come now due to our cultural set-ups which we need to mould slowly and make suitable for our environment.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If this is the official Government response to this Motion and the Minister is talking about the time-frame, could he be kind enough to inform the House how long it would take for us to get to this point?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of evolution and the political temperature of the nation. The political temperature will one day permit, just as I told you, when the child is ready to be born, you do not use force, it just comes out naturally.

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mrs. Ndeti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order to say that it is the time of evolution when the women of this country are asking for a time of "she-evolution"?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the hon. Members for making their contributions. We have also heard their sentiments which are the sentiments of the House. Before I end my contribution, I want to say once again, that we should respect women as a Government. That is why His Excellency the President has appointed women to very senior positions in this country. As time goes on more women---

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mrs. Ndeti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am in the Government myself and the hon. Minister knows very well that the problems that this country is having are due to the attitude of these men, not the President. The President had ordered for the appointment of 20 women to top positions in the parastatals but where are they today? What happened? Can he tell us where those

women are? They were eliminated one by one.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Hon. Ndetei, of course, is an Assistant Minister for Education, and we have got a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education who is also a woman. We shall continue to improve girls' schools in this country and I want to urge hon. Members to ensure that we have very good girls boarding schools so that the drop rate among women is reduced. These are some of the issues we should be addressing ourselves to. The Government has already introduced bursaries in schools and when it comes to the distribution of these bursaries---

Mr. Rotino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Ndetei asked a very categorical question---

Mr. Shikuku: This is not Question Time!

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Koech): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, somebody has said that this is not Question Time---

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Members, I have been informed by hon. Mrs. Asiyo that hon. Ms. Karua will respond on her behalf and that she has surrendered five minutes of her time to hon. Dr. Ombaka.

Dr. Ombaka: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have a very short time and in that short time I want to make a few points in support of this very important Motion in response to this debate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, research done in this country and elsewhere indicates that men and women have different perspectives to same situations. In a survey conducted in a village in this country on development needs of that particular village, men wanted a road constructed from the village to the nearest town, and women wanted safe water and medicine for their kids. That point illustrates the qualitative difference that gender brings to any nation's development. The fact that women are not represented in this House warp the qualitative analysis that we bring as Members of Parliament in any debate before this House, and having more women Members in this House, might rescue us from this time-warp and analysis in development issues.

The second point, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is that in a country where the demography speaks for itself, if you go out of this House, 52 per cent of the people you are going to see there are women, but when you come here, the highest organ in this country, you only find 3 per cent women MPs. It is just commonsense to know that something is seriously wrong with this society.

A society that ignores 52 per cent of its members is not a democratic society!

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to come up to the third point that I want to make, which is simply the question of modality. I think Members have addressed the substantive issues adequately. What do we do about this fact? It is no use answering it pathetically like the Government has attempted to respond to this Motion by saying that let the women take charge and let them come to this House, after all they make 52 per cent of our population. This is precisely why this Motion is so important. It is a recognition that if left on its own, the society will continue being the way it is and Government, by definition, has to offer leadership.

It is pathetic and shameful for the Kenya Government to abscond from this responsibility by saying that somehow the society will take care of itself, if it has failed to offer the leadership the Motion is asking us to do is to show the way by providing for more representation of women and through that education, women will take charge. But until the Government takes charge, this is not going to happen.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is a matter of shame sitting in this House at the close of the 20th century and hearing Kenyan leaders talk the way we are talking about the most important issue facing the nation. I think at the end of the day, the question of modality is the most important. It is no use, for example, saying that there should be nominated women Members of Parliament. Right now, in the worth Constitution we have, the President has power to nominate 12 Members. It is until recently that he nominated one woman. If you are talking of a situation where there are 12 nominated women, I would understand if the Government stood up and said it was serious about this issue. Every action the Government has taken shows total lack of sensitivity, lack of understanding and dismissal of a democratic necessity of governance.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Ms. Karua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I must, like my colleague who has just sat down, express dismay at the stand taken by the Government with regard to this Motion. In the last Session, the Government told this House that it was committed to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. One of the areas of critical concern is the political empowerment of women. This means increasing women participation in decision making. Today's response by the Government seems to suggest that it does not exactly know its stand with regard to women issues. It seems to, suggest that there is a serious contradiction within the Government as to how it should tackle the issue of women empowerment. One hon. Member did say that the Beijing Platform for Action stood for economic empowerment. Yes, it did, indeed. But that is not the only area. That is one of the areas of critical concern. There are also areas like access to health, education and, most important of all, women in decision making, or political empowerment.

Recently, I attended the 41st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The position of Kenyan Government, like all other civilised countries, was that it was committed to women's empowerment in all fields, including decision making. It does appear, therefore, that the Government is busy giving mere lip service to women's issues and making statements that are suitable in international fora to gain respectability, whereas back at home it is doing exactly the opposite. That is what has transpired in the Government's response to today's Motion. Those of us who did attend that Session were quite embarrassed. We were among the most backward nations when it comes to the question of women's political empowerment. Newer countries like Mozambique and South Africa--

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I hate to disrupt the gracious lady, but is she in order not to point out the fact that the Opposition also does not support her view? It is just not the Government which does not do that.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as amply put by hon. Ombaka, the Government must take responsibility and take up leadership. If it absconds from the position of leadership it has no business being called a Government. That is what my learned junior at law should understand when it comes to showing political commitment and good will. What this Motion is calling for is political good will and leadership from the Government towards women's empowerment. If there is no political good will and leadership from the Government, it is difficult to hope that the society will evolve differently.

In response, the Minister said that we should leave matters to natural evolution. I would like to respond to this by saying that if we had left matters to natural evolution, he would be far away herding cattle. He would be wearing some skins; he would not be dressed in a suit and speaking a foreign language in this august House. All of us would be somewhere else very different. We need to interact and adopt to changing times. That is what this Motion is talking about. Let us not bury our heads in the sand and hope that things will work out without a conscious effort by the people of this nation; and without a conscious effort and leadership from the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what women of Kenya have been today by some of the hon. Members in this House is to use their numerical superiority to bring their numbers to Parliament. I am saying to the women of Kenya: Hear ye; when voting time comes, let us use our numerical superiority. That will not be enough. We still need a campaign to enhance awareness of women. There are women in this country who today do not know that they actually can vie for those positions. The official attitude of the Government and its institutions is that woman should play a secondary role. We have been told by the Minister in response that women are doing very well in other areas, which I understood to mean in the kitchen and child rearing. I want to respond to that by saying that by nature, a woman is capable of taking dual or multiple responsibilities quite effectively. We should, therefore, not be told about our maternal duties when we ask for participation in leadership. A woman is endowed by nature to take many responsibilities in different areas.

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

(Question put and negatived)

Hon Members: Division! Division!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): I am afraid, you are not enough to mount a Division. Next Order.

REPEAL OF GUARANTEE LOANS ACT

THAT, noting that the Government has embarked on a serious liberalisation of the economy involving a calculated divesture from the non-strategic parastatals and further noting that recently many parastatals which had borrowed from foreign financiers defaulted in loan repayment, thus making the foreign financiers to invoke the Government Loan Guarantees Act for those loans, this House urges the Government to urgently bring a Bill to repeal Section 5 of the Guarantee (Loans)

Act (Cap 461).

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Muluya is not here to move his Motion? The next Order.

(Motion dropped)

UNBANNING OF CIVIL SERVANTS UNION

THAT, in view of the fact that the public service glory has waned and morale of its employees extinguished beyond redemption when the Government banned the Kenya Civil Servants Union, the only voice on public workers grievances, this House urges the Government in the spirit of being mindful of other people's welfare, to restore the dwindling morale and glory by effecting the following with immediate effect:

- (i) implement the resolution of the House made on 13.10.93, by lifting the ban on the Kenya Civil Servants Union;
- (ii) pay competitive salaries and benefits commensurate with the tasks;
- (iii) provide medical and general insurance cover against foreseeable and unforeseeable occupational risks;
- (iv) provide decent, habitable shelter and affordable mortgage to potential home owners;
- (v) provide transport to and from work to junior category of civil servants; and
- (vi) subsidise education for the children of such dedicated employees in the face of economic hardships.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Nyagah is also not here to move his Motion? The next Order.

(Motion dropped)

(There were loud consultations as several hon. Members left the Chamber)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Members! Will those leaving the Chamber do so quietly? We are now on Mr. Obure's Motion

CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL RAILWAY LINE

Mr. Obure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, recognising the economic potentialities obtaining in Kisii and Nyamira Districts; noting the huge economic losses incurred by farmers due to high cost in road transport; and aware that farm produce (e.g. tea, coffee, pyrethrum, sugarcane, bananas, maize, beans and fruits) from the area contribute significantly in earning the much needed foreign exchange for the country, this House urges the Government to secure funds to construct a railway line connecting Kijabe-Narok-Bomett-Sotik-Kisii-Homa Bay Towns.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion has come at a time when this country is experiencing a lot of problems on transport and has lost quite a significant part of the produce in those areas that have been mentioned. As you have realised, not the whole of our country is endowed with a good climate; some parts are fertile while others are not.

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

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

As you all know, in Kisii, we are endowed with good soil, climate and a reasonably good amount of rain that enable us to produce the much needed food and cash crops. For a long time since Independence, our nation has depended on what is produced in Kisii. As you all now, the much needed foreign exchange is earned through agricultural produce

such as coffee, tea and others. However, our roads are in a bad state. These roads are impassable and they have not been expanded for a long time. The trucks that travel on these roads have done a lot of damage to our roads. As a result of this damage, the Government has incurred a lot of expenses in maintaining these roads now and again. Most of this damage has been done by trailers. This Motion requires us to construct a second railway line. If we do so, we will reduce the expenses incurred on these roads

Secondly, as you all know, we have lost valuable lives on these roads. The Government spends a lot of money to educate and bring up managers and entrepreneurs who travel on these roads quite often. Because of the narrowness of our roads and the damage being done by these trailers, accidents have taken place. These accidents have caused this country a lot of damage.

*(The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Ndotto) left the Chair)*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) resumed the Chair]*

If the roads are built---

QUORUM

Prof. Ouma: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is an important Motion. It is my wish that when my friend, hon. Obure is moving it, there should be reasonable attendance in the House.

(Mrs. Ndetei consulted with other hon. Members)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Ndetei, are you the centre of attraction there? Prof. Ouma is complaining that you are not listening.

Prof. Ouma: No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not complaining about hon. Ndetei. I am saying that when this is going on, the House does not have a quorum.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): We do not have a quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Members! There being no quorum, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until this afternoon, 23rd April, 1997, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.20 p.m.