

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 3rd May, 1995

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

USAGE OF LEAD IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Mr. Ogeka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give Notice of the following Motions:-
THAT, in view of the Clean Air Act by United Nations Organizations and given that major air pollutant originate from lead-oxide discharged from automobile, this House urges the Government to stop the usage of lead as a blender to petroleum products and substitute it with an acceptable blender in conformity with the Clean Air Act.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NYANDO IRRIGATION SCHEME

THAT, in view of the current shortage of sugar in the country due to the variable climate conditions, this House urges the immediate establishment of irrigation scheme for Nyando Sugar Belt.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUGAR BILL

THAT, in view of the fact that sugar-cane is one of the major cash crops engaging large numbers of the community in employment and generating big revenue for this country, bearing in mind that sugarcane farmers experience hardships in the cultivation of the crop due to production costs and considering that small-scale growers must continuously be encouraged by the Government to improve their production, this House calls upon the Government to enact a Sugar Bill to help provide for an institution with authority to intensify and facilitate sugar cane farming in the country.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.242

BOMBING OF MAGAZINE'S OFFICE

Mr. Ruhii, on behalf of **Mr. Gatabaki**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-
(a) whether in view of the recent fire-bombing of the offices of Finance Magazine, he could confirm or deny that the action had been "state-sponsored";, and,
(b) given that nobody has been arrested in connection with this very serious crime in which Kenya citizens are injured and property worth millions of shillings destroyed by fire, what assurance there is that the crime will not be repeated.

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

- (a) The fire-bombing of the offices of the *Finance Magazine* was not state sponsored.
- (b) The Government has intensified the security surveillance in the whole of Tom Mboya Street with a view to curbing the crime in the area.

Mr. Ruhiu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Assistant Minister is not only misleading but also evasive. I am saying so because it is a well-known fact that Government sponsored bombings have been very common in Kenya in recent times. Recently, we had the Kituo Cha Sheria and the office of the *Finance Magazine* bombed. When the office of this Magazine was bombed the secretary of hon. Gatabaki was seriously injured by the State-sponsored fire-bomb and there is no doubt about the involvement of the Government in this criminal act. Recently, when the Press was vandalized, we know that the thugs who did this were hired by this Government. Could the Assistant Minister be honest enough and tell this House the policy of this Government regarding Press freedom, freedom of association and freedom of expression?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the real question here is what the policy of the hon. Member for Embakasi is in respect to telling the truth. I am saying this because Mr. Ruhiu is not adhering to any truth and, therefore, for an hon. Member of his calibre to stand in this House and make a categorical statement that unproven facts, not in any doubt, represent the truth, then his policy about telling the truth is highly questionable. The truth of the matter is that this Government has never sponsored any type of bombing. I was asked a question about the bombing of Kituo cha Sheria a few weeks ago and I categorically stated that there is no possibility of motive on part of the Government in such a criminal act as was being alleged. This is a matter that the Government is investigating especially in one regard, namely, that we want to find out if such incidents are not stage-managed for the purposes of maligning the name of the Government.

Mr. Shikuku: No way! Arising from that reply by the hon. Assistant Minister, does he know that we know that not all things that are proved are true? There are certain true things that cannot be proved. For example, we all know that there is God, but the hon. Member cannot prove that there is God. However, we know that God is there due to our faith in Him. Now, is he aware that the mystery of any crime involving this Government will never be solved? For example, the mystery of the bombing of the bus stage at the Overseas Trading Company (OTC) before the death of J.M. Kariuki has never been solved because it was done by the Government of that day? Does he also know that the murder of the late hon. Robert Ouko was done by this Government and nobody will ever be brought to book for that cruel crime? These are just a few of the criminal acts of this Government for which nobody will ever be brought to book? Therefore, following this pattern of Government-sponsored crimes, there is truth regarding the hon. Member's statement to the effect that the thugs who carried out this crime of bombing the offices of the *Finance Magazine*, are stage-managed?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that the hon. Member for Butere has brought into this Question diversionary irrelevance that is totally unconnected to this matter. I have said here - and he has not challenged it - that the hon. Member for Embakasi is not adhering to the truth and has no respect for it.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, given that this thuggery was done during the broad daylight when people with guns raided the *Finance Magazine* offices and were seen by people raising the Press, would the Assistant Minister accede to the fact that they have not been arrested by the very efficient Kenya Police, is indeed, conclusive evidence that they were sent by the State?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is indeed, conclusive evidence that these people were not sponsored by the state because the state does not guard *Finance Magazine* offices. In fact, this could be evidence of stage-management by an opposition that is only too willing to prove the guilt of a Government that is innocent.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I put it to the hon. Assistant Minister that these thugs will never be found and that nobody will be arrested or prosecuted because the State is involved?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member states categorically that the thugs will never be found and that he is very sure about that fact, I do not wish to challenge a statement made by an hon. Member who perhaps has knowledge of a fact that I do not know.

Question No. 172

PROVISION OF NYAYO BUSES

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

- (a) how many Nyayo buses are operational and serviceable in Kisii District;
- (b) if he is aware that there are no Nyayo Buses in Nyamira District; and
- (c) when Nyayo buses will be provided in Nyamira District to alleviate the acute transport problems in the area.

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

- (a) There are seven serviceable Nyayo Buses operating in Kisii District.
- (b) Yes, I am aware that there are no Nyayo Buses operating in Nyamira District.
- (c) The Corporation is looking for a plot for workshop before it commences operating buses in Nyamira District.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister in the meantime use the facilities in Kisii District for buses that would operate in Nyamira District? What is wrong with that?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will consider the hon. Member's request. Actually, after I had conducted my investigations, I also arrived at the conclusion that maybe there could be a possibility and we are looking into the possibility of using the facilities in Kisii District to run buses in Nyamira District though the hon. Member will appreciate that, that will be very limited, given the condition of the road between Kisii and Nyamira.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister state whether the Nyayo Buses, which started with a fleet of several buses and now they have diminished tremendously, is a viable proposition for the Government to keep on holding on?

Mr. Sunkuli: Yes, it is a viable project, Sir.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can the Minister tell us the original number of Nyayo Buses in Kisii District? Was seven the original number or are there some buses that are not operational at the moment?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of the remaining buses currently in Kisii District are seven.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. How many buses were there originally? He says seven buses are operational at the moment. In fact, I do not think seven buses are operational at the moment. How many were there originally?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can only say that the total number of buses now is 313, and, out of that, 122 are grounded due to non-availability of spareparts. Unfortunately, I do not have the exact figure of the original number of buses in Kisii District.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, does the Minister not agree with me that there is somebody somewhere misleading the President so that the President got connected with the Nyayo Buses hoping to help the nation and within a short time the buses are collapsing and the problem is going back to where it was originally? Who is that person misleading the President?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware so far that the President has been misled by anybody.

Question No. 121

TOP MANAGERS OF BANK

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo asked the Minister for Finance to provide the list of names of the top management of Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd. as at 10th March, 1995.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Anyone from the Ministry of Finance to respond? None. Shall we move to hon. Rev. Ommani's Question?

Question No. 171

AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Rev. Ommani asked the Minister for Education:-

- (a) how many Kenyans benefitted from scholarships awarded through the Government to study overseas between the years 1993 and 1994; and
- (b) if he will give the names of the people from Kakamega District who were awarded those scholarships.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The total number of Kenyans who benefitted from the scholarships awarded through my Ministry by various friendly governments during 1992/93 and 1993/94 was 37 and 45 respectively.

(b) My Ministry does not award any scholarships as this is the prerogative of the foreign governments offering them. The role of my Ministry is limited to advertising, interviewing and nominating of eligible candidates. As the hon. Member will appreciate from the statistics which I am going to table, the number of

scholarships available annually is quite small relative to the demand and competition for them. In the circumstances, therefore, and whereas my Ministry as far as possible ensures that there is fair and national distribution of candidates nominated for any scholarships offered, the scholarships are ultimately awarded strictly on the basis of academic and professional qualifications.

Lastly, Sir, the district of origin of those who are awarded such scholarships is not considered. Consequently, it is not possible to inform the House and the hon. Member the names of the beneficiaries who come from Kakamega District, in particular, as no such records are maintained by the Ministry.

Rev. Ommani: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I thank the Minister for answering part (a) of the Question, what is wrong with him giving names of only those beneficiaries who come from Kakamega District? He said that it is spread all over the country.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, these scholarships are given by friendly governments and agencies through the Ministry of Education. However, those who are finally awarded scholarships are done so on academic and professional consideration. I have the whole list and I am going to table it here. It shows the countries and the number of scholarships awarded. If one can tell where a particular person comes from, then I will leave it to the House.

(Mr. Kamotho laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister confirm or deny that the reason he is unable to give the names of the beneficiaries is because majority of them come from Rift Valley?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a very unfair allegation by the hon. Member. In any case, I have tabled the list of all the beneficiaries from those scholarships.

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know for sure that Mombasa District for the last two years has never received any scholarships for studies overseas despite the fact that a number of scholarships had come from Moslem countries to be given to Moslems. Could he now confirm or deny that there was nobody from Kakamega District given scholarships in the one or two years?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will neither confirm nor deny that. The list is there and it speaks for itself. Let anybody come out with names out of that list.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member is deliberately misleading the House. He was required to tell us how many students from Kakamega District have benefited from scholarships awarded through the Government to study overseas. Surely, if in the process of filing an application forms students indicate where they come from, is the Minister telling the House that he was unable to find out this information from his office or is he deliberately misleading the House or refusing to answer the Question?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless anybody produces evidence that we interview students for these foreign scholarships given through the Ministry on the basis of districts or communities, I strongly deny that we have such information.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order to mislead this House by continuously arguing that there is no bias in the recruitment of students to get these scholarships when on the basis of the list he has just Tabled before the House, 100 per cent of all the students who get scholarships to go to Poland are Kalenjins?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what about the other countries listed there?

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister to ask a question? Have you ever heard of that? The Minister has been asked a question and is he in order to ask another question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the Minister was not really asking a question in the ordinary sense. He was countering the statement. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No. 095

POLICY ON CHARCOAL TRADE

Mr. Ruhii asked the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources what the Government's policy on charcoal trade in this country is.

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Sambu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Government's policy is to encourage trade in alternative sources of energy like hydrocarbons, electricity, animal residue, solar, wood biomass and businesses that have minimal environmental degradation and encourage sustainable development. Since charcoal production is not environmentally healthy, its production is discouraged though not banned.

Mr. Ruhiu: Thank you for the answer, Mr. Minister. I was given a very graphic story by the Chairman of Charcoal Traders Association in Kenya regarding the plight of charcoal traders. From Mtito Andei to Nairobi, it costs a charcoal trader to transport one tract of eight tonnes between Kshs11,000 and Kshs15,000 in bribery on every road block along the route. From Kajiado, it costs a charcoal trader between Kshs9,000 and Kshs10,000 on bribery on every road block. Now, when the truck gets to Nairobi, then the poor trader is again confronted by Traffic Police and Administration Police. By the time the charcoal arrives here the price of one bag of charcoal will have rocketed to about Kshs300 to Kshs400 and this is the source of energy for the only working class man in this country. Now, since you have stated categorically that this trade is not banned by the Government, could you tell me why the policemen *en route* have to syphon so much money out of a poor charcoal trader when this charcoal is going to be used commonly by an ordinary working class man? Could you tell us why this is so?

Mr. Sambu: It is unfortunate that whoever told that story to the hon. Member confirmed that they give bribes. The hon. Member should have assisted the police to get whoever is giving bribes because it is illegal to give bribes.

Mr. Ruhiu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can you expect me to assist the police who receive bribes?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both the giver and the receiver of these bribes commit crime.

Prof. Ouma: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as can be foreseen, charcoal and fuel wood will remain stable sources of energy for cooking in this country. First of all, the Assistant Minister should know that the fuel wood crisis in Africa including coal recycled is the major cause of desertification in this continent. Can the Minister tell us, in the light of these two statements, what specific Government policy exists and what prospects exist for its implementation to ensure that charcoal is not going to cause desertification in this country, alternatively, what is the Government doing specifically to encourage, promote and to install the use of alternative sources of energy appropriate to the ordinary man?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree that cutting down of wood is one of the many causes that lead to desertification and its effect. The Government is encouraging wood fuel planting by farmers; agro-forestry. Agro-forestry is a major policy of my Ministry. The Ministry of Energy also encourages development of biogas units in farms so that farmers can use it instead of wood.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister answering this Question, as a saw-miller, should know that uncontrolled wood milling is at least as hazardous to sustainable forestry as uncontrolled charcoal burning. What measures does his Minister have in place to ensure that saw-millers and charcoal burners who are irresponsible in the way they mow public forests are contained?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not a saw-miller. The issue of licensing of saw mills is controlled.

Mr. Wamalwa: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for the Minister to mislead this House that he is not a saw-miller when we know that he is and given a chance I can produce evidence in this House tomorrow that he is a saw-miller?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not mind the hon. Member producing evidence that John Sambu is a saw-miller.

Question No. 077

BITUMENIZATION OF ROAD

Mr. Obwocha asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the Nyamira-Nyamaiya-Centre Road is in deplorable state; and,
- (b) what plans the Ministry has to have to tarmac the road to bitumen standard.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of The Minister for Public Works and Housing, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the road in Question is in a deplorable state, but I am aware that the gravel surface is worn out in some sections of the road.

(b) There are no immediate plans to tarmac the road due to lack of funds. However, grading, spot-patching and other routine works will be continued to keep the road motorable.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the Minister says that he is not aware that the road is deplorable and, in the same breath, he goes ahead and says that the murrum is deplorable. This is road leads to Nyamira District Headquarters and, in fact, last Monday buses which were going to Nyamira, including the Akamba bus, were unable to use it. Can the Minister tell this House how much they have set aside to murrum this road in accordance with his reply?

Mr. Masinde: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I still maintain that the road is not in a deplorable state. There are certain sections which are not good but these sections are being looked after.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister is taking this House for a ride! If the murrum is worn out, then it will follow logically then the road is in a deplorable state. What does he describe as being deplorable?

Mr. Masinde: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to engage myself in English terminologies, but what I am saying is a fact. Now, this Nyamira/Nyamaiya Road is about 19 kilometres and is composed of three classified roads, which have already been attended to. For example, Konate/Nyamira/Nyamaiya, E199, was graded in November, 1994. Nyamaiya/ Bonyunyu, B222, was last graded in November, 1994 and Bonyunyu/Miruka, B221, was graded in December, 1994. Miruka Centre, which is part of D221, was, in fact, graded in April, 1995 and, therefore, is quite good. The road in question was recommended for tarmacking by the local district development committee (DDC) in 1993, but due to lack of funds the project was not recommended. However, we can more or less promise that we will continue to maintain or patch whichever areas require that sort of attention.

Mr. Aluoch: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House is always being treated to the phrase; there are no funds available, whenever a Question is asked, and yet, last we passed the Petroleum Levy Bill here and money is being collected. Can the Minister tell the House how this money is being used district by district?

Mr. Masinde: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while allocation of funds district by district is a completely different question, I would like to state as follows. Parliament will approve collection and manner of expenditure of collected money, but has to come in before it is spent and only the bit that comes in can be spent. The fact that Parliament approves collection of money does not necessarily mean that, that the particular amount of money approved for collection will be available to be spent accordingly.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Arising from the answer the Minister has just given, what does he have to say on the fact that this money which has been collected by the Government from wananchi is not being used on road maintenance but is now being diverted to build a Kshs3.7 billion airport at Eldoret? In fact, that is why some of the donor communities are refusing to grant further finances to the Kenya Government!

Mr. Masinde: I am not sure whether that is a point of order. The money is being used well. I have already stated here that the parts of the road in question were murrumed in November, December and even last month.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the President came to Nyamira he told me categorically that no projects would be undertaken in my constituency if I do not defect to KANU and that all I would continue to be told is that "no funds are available!". Is this Minister confirming that position?

Mr. Masinde: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has been told that projects in his areas have been handled as late as last month!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will go back to hon. Otieno-Kopiyo's Question for the second time.

Question No. 121

TOP MANAGERS OF BANK

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo asked the Minister for Finance whether he could provide a list of names of the top management of Kenya Commercial Bank Limited as at 10th March, 1995.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to apologise for coming late and after the Question had earlier been asked.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

I have a list of some 68 or so names and since the list is long, I would be quite happy to put it on the Table for hon. Members to have a look at.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Just lay it on the Table.

Mr. Wamae: On a point order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to fail to read out

even the first 20 names in the list?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think this is a public document and the Assistant Minister has been so generous as to give the House the whole picture of the management at the bank.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the Assistant Minister for the information that he has provided to me. But, in keeping with the culture of unaccountability and lack of transparency, the list does not even provide the designations of the people involved. It is a just list of names like Messrs Kaminchia, Alexander Thuraira, arap Bii, Elijah Kipng'eno, James Kiromo, Joseph arap Kiprono and so on. The main idea is to hide this information from the public because he knows that some of the people, for example, Mr. arap Bii, were promoted over and above all the qualified officers who were there before him for many years, some for as many as 20 years when he came from River Road Branch to become the General Manager of the bank. Further to that, the bank is frustrating officers and managers, particularly those who happen to come from the Luo community. We are being treated as if we are second-class citizens in this nation. Our people are sacked, transferred and demoted so that some Kalenjins can take over, while Mr. Kamotho is busy in Homa Bay telling Luos that they should return to KANU so as to be promoted. Could the Assistant Minister explain to the House why Luos are being targeted for discrimination in the Bank?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Questioner asks the Minister to provide the list of names of the top management of the Kenya Commercial Bank. The positions were not asked for and, therefore, I did not prepare for that.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House, when the Questioner asked for the names of the top management of the Bank? The word "top" here refers to position, beginning with Chairman, and so on and so forth.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have answered the Question to the best of my understanding of it. If you should rule that the positions are required, I will provide them, but I have answered the Question the way it was asked and I am confident that I have answered it adequately. Secondly, with regard to hon. Otieno-Kopiyo's allegation that the Luos are being

victimised and sacked, if he has any specific people or names, he can take that up specifically with the management. It is not right that this House should become the management of any parastatal or institution and decide promotions or sacking on the Floor of this House. That will be the day of shame for this House, when we start to discuss promotions and sacking here. That is a matter for the management of the Bank.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Assistant Minister in order to underrate the integrity and importance of this House in dealing with important matters of this country by saying that it will be a shame if this House was to so decide to look into matters affecting hon. Members of this House?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as I am aware, there is no Member of this House who is an employee of the Kenya Commercial Bank.

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I, through the Chair, request that the Assistant Minister does provide the designations of these top managers because, according to me, the word "top management" contemplates positions to qualify as top. It is already a qualitative description. May I, therefore, request through you, Sir, that the Assistant Minister be asked to table a fresh list showing the designations of the top managers of Kenya Commercial Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, I think it is a legitimate expectation that when the Question was asked, you would indicate the designations.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so be it. There it is!

(Mr. Keah laid the list on the Table)

(Applause)

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This now confirms my earlier assertions that certain people, particularly those emanating from the Luo community, are being targeted for discrimination. I will give you an example. Tobias Muga Ongalo who was the Company Secretary for the Bank has now been re-designated as a Manager, Credit Remedial Unit. He has now been demoted to the position of a manager of a small unit, from the post of Company Secretary. If that is not demotion, I do not know what type of language KANU uses.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if hon. Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo had a specific employee in mind, he

should have brought here a Question relating to that particular employee. I do not know who Mr. Ongalo is and I cannot answer that question because that question has not been given due notice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question No.1 by Private Notice!

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MERIDIAN BIAO BANK ACCOUNTS

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

In view of the fact that the account holders with Meridian Biao Bank are facing serious financial problems, and are unable to meet their basic financial commitments, in particular, remittance of fees for their children in overseas universities and stopping the imminent auctioning of their properties, will the Minister urgently direct that all depositors with less than two hundred thousand shillings be paid forthwith?

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

I do greatly sympathise with the depositors whose funds were at the Meridian Biao Bank which has collapsed. However, it is not possible for me at this moment in time to authorize any depositors to be paid since I am still studying the affairs of the bank with a view to taking the necessary action.

Mr. Gichuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Assistant Minister, in his answer, says that he sympathises with the depositors. Education has become very rare, especially overseas education and the parents are investing heavily by mortgaging their property in order to educate their children overseas. We are also aware of the fact that the Meridian Biao Bank took the deposits from the depositors and remitted that money overseas to the international company that owns Meridian Biao. In view of that, could the Assistant Minister be specific and tell this House when he is going to make a conclusion of the study so that the said depositors are paid their money and are, therefore, able to educate their children and do other things?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not possible for me, at this juncture, to give a specific time frame. These matters do take some considerable time because there is a lot of investigative work that needs to be done. What we have done at the moment is that we have placed the bank under the management of a statutory manager appointed by the Central Bank, in accordance with Section 34 of the Banking Act. This manager is now in the process of ascertaining the financial status of the institution with a view to preparing a statement of affairs, which would assist the Central Bank to determine the course of action to be taken regarding the future operations of the bank in so far as the depositors are concerned. The manager, at this point in time, has declared a moratorium on all payments to depositors which shall remain in force until he is satisfied that the institution has got adequate funds. The problem about paying the funds at the moment is that the manager is not even sure that if he starts paying, there will be adequate funds to pay all the depositors, even within the range of Kshs200,000 that the hon. Member is talking about. I would like to assure the hon. Member as well as this august House that everything possible is being done to expedite the exercise because we are conscious of the great suffering that the depositors are going through.

Prof. Ouma: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few years ago, hundreds of depositors in this country suffered great losses through an epidemic of collapsing banks. Now and again, we still hear about banks, including the Meridian Biao Bank in the state of desperation. Can the Assistant Minister tell this House the specific steps that they have taken to ensure that the repetition of this epidemic is not in the offing again and that in the future, people could deposit their money in the banks in this country with confidence?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the specific steps relates to the amendment of the Banking Act which was deliberated upon at length in this House during the last Session and which gives more powers to the bank as well as the Ministry of Finance in the supervisory aspect of banks and financial institutions. That is one sure step. Besides this, the banking industry is, at the moment, part and parcel of the economic reforms that the Government has embarked upon and is implementing. For example, we have already merged certain banks and we have already given financial institutions the option to become banks. We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that we have a strong banking industry in our economy.

I would like to assure hon. Prof. Ouma that we, as a Government, very much alert and we are absolutely on the ball so that we can ensure that people can bank comfortably without any fear of their monies getting lost.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House why the Government has been able to resuscitate some of the collapsed banks and save the account holders in those banks,

while in others like Thabiti, nothing has been done? Could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that Meridian Biao in Kenya has had the same problems as Meridian Biao in Tanzania and other countries? Why has it been possible for the Meridian Biao in Tanzania to get a new buyer who has saved their account holders there and not Meridian Biao in Kenya?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first part of his double-worded question is an unfair supplementary question and not really part of this Question. Let him bring it later; we will answer it. With regard to the second part relating to Meridian Biao, we are in the process of studying the affairs. It is not fair for me to report to this House at this juncture that we shall get a buyer tomorrow unless we know the statement of affairs.

AID CUT BY GERMANY

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Finance the following Question by Private Notice:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that a Kshs3.0 billion in German aid to Kenya seriously compromises Kenya's development efforts?

(b) What steps is the Government taking to ensure that the money is secured and that no such thing occurs in future?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the House to give us a little more time to answer this Question.

An hon. Member: Aah!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Keah, when are you proposing to come back to the House with the answer since you know that it is a Question by Private Notice?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate that it is a Question by Private Notice. We have been trying to get the statistics, but if we are given up to Thursday afternoon---

An hon. Member: Tomorrow afternoon? !

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Is it tomorrow?

An hon. Member: Yes!

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need at least two days to get a thorough answer to this Question and I would ask that it comes during the next session after adjournment.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Wamae! The Chair would not want to give directives on this matter, but if a Question has been approved by the Speaker's Office as a legitimate Private Member's Question, I think you have to have very good reasons for not being able to answer it by the time it has been put on the Order Paper, otherwise that defeats the purpose and in the circumstances surrounding the Question, I take into account the problems you are facing. I think it is fair to say that I direct that the Question be put on the Order Paper tomorrow. You can give whatever answers you will be having in your possession. Then if it is necessary to come back later on with additional information, that is fine. I think for the moment, the furthest indulgence I can give is up to tomorrow afternoon.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a fair ruling.

MOTIONS

COMPLETION OF ROAD C21

THAT, in view of the importance of the Kisii-Ting'a-Kebirigo-Ikonge-Chemosit Road (C21) to the development of agriculture and business in Kisii, Nyamira and Kericho districts, and since the road has stalled for a long time since 1965 due to shortage of funds, this House urges the Government to allocate sufficient funds in the 1995/96 financial year for the completion of the road.

(Mr. Anyona on 24.04.95)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 24.04.95)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Obwocha, were you on the Floor last time?

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, I was on the Floor on this Kisii-Ting'a-Kebirigo-Ikonge-Chemosit Road. Since I have only five minutes, I would like to say that this is the most important road in Kisii district. We would like to warn that if the Ministry of Public Works and Housing does not repair the Kipsinoi bridge, popularly known as Ingoina bridge, this country is going to witness another Ngai Ndeithya. That bridge is in very bad condition; it was made over 100 years ago and yet the Ministry has failed or not heeded to repair that kind of bridge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kisii is rich agriculturally. As we know currently in Nyamira we are producing 12 million kilogrammes of tea leaves and if this road cannot be repaired to reach potential areas where coffee, passion fruit, maize, beans and bananas are produced, then it is really terrible. I would like to say that there is a lot of corruption in paying the contractors who repair our roads. In fact, I was, indeed, shocked to hear the President of this country saying that internal auditors should be removed and amalgamated with the Department of the Controller and Auditor-General. This is like throwing this country into the dogs. I say so because, if you do not have the internal auditors, who then are going to check these vouchers? As we know, the Controller and Auditor-General does his work at the end of the year. This is a leeway for the DCs and everybody to start stealing in this country. We cannot allow this kind of thing because internal audit systems are there to check what is being paid before the Controller and Auditor-General comes in. How can this kind of thing be done? These are the people who are misleading the President of this country. I do not know whether people know the seriousness of this thing.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can you stop the hon. Member from banging the Table?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: He has got the message.

(Applause)

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was trying to draw the attention of this House to an announcement that has been made by the Head of State without taking into consideration the repercussions that will come. He says that the Internal and External Audit Departments should be amalgamated with the Department of the Controller and Auditor-General. As we know, this is the system that checks all the vouchers that are paid and if this is not going to be taken seriously, then something wrong is going to happen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing should tell us where the money they are collecting from the fuel levy is going, if they are not ready to complete this road. This road is a headache. Within a period of two years and six months we have had six district commissioners in Nyamira District. We started with Peter Saisi, Mbuo Waganagwa, Barrack Aduwo, William Kerario, John Nandasaba and now we have John Gakuo. What kind of turn-over is this, where district commissioners cannot stay in a district for some time?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to warn my colleagues from Kisii who are in KANU, and I can see mzee Sagini looking at me, that if this road will not have been tarmacked by 1997, there will be no votes for them.

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

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the hon. Member tell us whether he will come back to KANU if the road is tarmacked?

An hon. Member: Is it a condition for defection?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have two points to make in so far as this Motion is concerned.

An hon. Member: Are you replying?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): I am not replying on behalf of the Minister for Public Works and Housing; I am making my personal contribution to the Motion which I find to be a very good Motion indeed. This is because the development of infrastructure in this country is absolutely essential for the development of Kenya. I therefore would like to lend support to the spirit and content of this Motion. There are many roads similar to C21. I wish hon. Anyona and hon. Obwocha good luck in the allocation of funds.

Let me also take this opportunity to say that with all the good intentions of our development efforts, we have one constraining factor and that is the availability of finances. It is all very well for this House to debate and to say this road must be tarmacked. I agree that this project must be completed because it is fundamental and

basic in so far as the development of this Republic is concerned. But we must also appreciate that there is also this constraining factor which is the availability of finances. When I talk about the availability of finance, I want to agree with hon. Obwocha about the usage of money accountably and responsibly by the officers.

This leads me to my next point which touches on the implementing officers of our budgetary system. Many times we have seen funds allocated to projects being spent on projects other than those particular projects. It is not just mere embezzlement of cash as such but it includes many other things. Someone drives along and claims payment of night allowance without actually implementing the project. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon Kenyans to be accountable, transparent and responsible enough to ensure that we do what we are supposed to do. Many a time we do not do this; many a time we all abrogate our responsibilities. It is not KANU or the Government that is to blame. Indeed, the disease is even more widespread than we in this House tend to think. The disease is countrywide and there is no one individual who is responsible for this; no party can be said to be responsible for this. For example, when Members of the Opposition tell our donors "Do not give aid to KANU; do not give money to this Government to implement projects" who suffers? It is the people of Kenya who suffer. This is why it is very important for all of us to understand and fully appreciate that we have a responsibility for this nation. We have a responsibility---

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this country by saying that it is the Opposition which is telling the donor community to stop giving aid to this country when the donor community has the ability to assess the performance of the Government and make decisions irrespective of whether there is an Opposition or not? The pressure that started mounting in 1991---

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member is just taking my time. What is his point of order? Instead of raising a point of order, he is just taking my time. He is misleading this country.

I want to utilise my remaining two minutes to talk about Road C107 from Mariakani through Kaloleni to Kilifi. That road is the hypotenuse--- When you come from Nairobi you go to Mombasa and then from there to Kilifi. This road should also be tarmacked.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

On behalf of the Minister for Public Works and Housing, I want to state categorically that the Government recognises the importance of having good roads not only in Kisii but in the country as a whole. We appreciate that Kisii-Ting'a-Kebirigo-Ikonge Chemosit Road (C21) is a very important road. We also appreciate that if this road is tarmacked, it will definitely open up the market, not only in Kisii but in all other parts of the country. We are further aware that the completion of this road will make the residents of Kisii and other traders move their goods easily; not only within Kisii but also to other parts of the country where they will get better markets for their goods. If the road is in a good condition, there will be quite a substantial saving in the wear and tear of the vehicles using that road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all realise and I hope the hon. Members are aware that the construction materials and equipment for road construction are very expensive. In view of this, the Government will do its best to maintain roads in Kisii as well as other roads within the country to bring them up to the best level possible in accordance with whatever funds that will be available. We appreciate that this is very important not only for the economic, but the general development of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to confirm the seriousness of the Government we have been informed and we are aware that this road had already started and it stalled at a certain stage. Now, by the very fact that the Government had started tarmacking this road it is a sign in itself that the Government is committed. However, hon. Member Obwocha has mentioned something about corruption. Well, a lot of people talk about corruption and corruption is within our own people and until and unless our people check up on the seriousness of corruption and what the corruption does to the wananchi, there is no use in talking about the Government being corrupted when it is the individuals---

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead this House that, indeed, I said that corruption is a two-way traffic when, in fact, I said that the Government is condoning corruption when they abolish the internal audit section and amalgamate with it with Office of the Controller and Auditor-General who normally comes in at the end of the year? This is one way of condoning corruption. Is he not misleading this House?

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon Member misunderstood me. I am supporting him rather than misquoting him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I am saying is that, corruption is a two way traffic and it is for everybody to help the Government to eliminate corruption. On the issue of the internal audit, I do not think His Excellency the President removed the services of the internal auditors at all. The internal auditors will have to continue doing their job in the way they have been doing. The only thing is that they will report to a different person from where they have been reporting before. That is the fact of the matter.

Mr. Achieng'-Oneko: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. When we refer to corruption or matters concerning the construction of road, we are fully aware that sometimes the people implementing or the workers on the road do private jobs on the roads and this is one of the reason why even in my area, Luanda-Kotieno-Ndori Road has stalled because of corruption. The people working on the road are misusing funds which were voted for the construction of that particular road. We are very, very much concerned because as at now you cannot reach my area; we are marooned and business has stalled.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no quarrel with the hon. Member. In fact, I agree. All I am saying is that, it depends on the efforts of everyone of us to make sure that corruption is eliminated. So, we should not leave it to the Government alone. The hon. Member is, in fact, stating that people steal some materials, the diesel, the stones, they do private jobs using the tractors which should be working on the road they are supposed to work on. Yes, true, but it is up to every one of us who observes these sort of mistakes to report to the authorities concerned and make sure that the situation is corrected. I agree. When this is done, I think we shall be a better society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of that, I also want to inform the hon. Members that to complete this road we will need about Kshs326 million. If we can get that money obviously, we shall continue with job and make sure that the road is brought to proper use in order to help the wananchi as a whole. We appreciate and consider that this road, if properly done, will open up a lot of business, bearing in mind that is passing through a very high potential agricultural area, through the Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, Bomet and spilling over to other areas of the country. In view of this, although we had thought of proposing a small amendment, I think and it is the view of the Government that we will accept the Motion as presented to the House because we feel it is in the interest of the whole country and not only Kisii.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the Mover stands up, there is still some time. Order!

Mr. Sagini: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kisii C12 was started in 1965 when hon. Shikuku had no grey hair; now he has grey hair. Those who were here were Mr. Achieng'-Oneko, Lawrence Sagini, and Mzee Moi, who is not here, but is somewhere because he is the Head of State. Now, another one was---

An hon. Member: Hon. Osogo.

Mr. Sagini: Yes, hon. Osogo!

An hon. Member: But he has no grey hair.

Mr. Sagini: No, he has done something about it.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the late Tom Mboya, who was the Minister for Economic Planning, had planned that the road would serve South Nyanza. South Nyanza is no longer known by such a name. We have Homa Bay District, Migori District, Kuria District, which is inhabited by the people you mistakenly call Watende.

This was a big road which would go through the middle of Kisii, and shorten distances and serve all those districts. For example, in Kuria area, people grow tobacco, in bulk. We have a lot of rains in Kisii. It rains very heavily with thunderstorms and then causes floods. The Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA's) trucks in Kisii use chains which spoil our roads. So, in our factories, we lose a lot of bonus money. We do not get what we should get because of very many overheads. Chains also spoil the tyres of trucks and are too expensive. The Kisii people have a wonderful land, but the population is enormous. Luos who have been laughing at us are now having a population problem. So, they are mobile in search of business. Their Matatus do not last because of potholes. Their roads are indeed rough. Our population is very huge. Indeed, in Kisii Town, people are many like flies. So, they got to be mobile in order to earn a living. When I went to Brazil, I met boys from Kisii and some Kikuyus as usual.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these days, we must educate our young people up to the university level and this is not an easy task for parents. So, the Government must come up to assist the parents because, after all, parents are paying a lot of tax. Today, our people are paying very high taxes because their per capita income is relatively higher than in other places in Kenya. I happen to be the oldest of the Members of Parliament from Kisii District

and people from my area ask me where funds that are raised by this Government go. They ask me why they are being treated this way by the Government? I must say that they are very much disappointed by the Ministry of Works and they say things about this particular Ministry, which I would not like to say here. Today, farmers in my place cannot transport their produce and passion fruit to the market, particularly after the passion fruit factory was moved to Thika in Central Province. They talk about these things with a lot of bitterness but unfortunately, nobody responds to their questions. Today, everybody wants to survive; the Luo want to survive, the Turkana, the Boran and so on all want to survive. The Kisii people too want to survive and, therefore, they should be built roads, and so on. We as leaders must ensure that we work hard to improve the quality of life of our people and one way of doing this is by improving this road which is very important to us as the Motion suggests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not be bragging if I said that Kisii is a very rich district. We grow coffee, tea, bananas, carrots, soya beans and so on. I was surprised to note that Kisii bananas in Nairobi are costing Kshs5 per single banana but in Kisii Kshs5 can buy many bananas. So, the Ministry of Works should think about improving this road so that our farm produce can reach the market. One way of doing so is by looking for a suitable donor to assist us with funds to tarmac this road. The Minister who is a very honest person has said that there are no funds and we do believe what he is saying, but let him get a suitable donor to get this road constructed. If he did that, all the Kisii people would be very happy and be thankful to this Government.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said when I was moving this Motion lives of the people of Nyamira and Kisii District are being affected by the matter being raised under this Motion. Given the current heavy rains in the country, the roads in Nyamira District are totally impassable right now. All the survey work in the district has had to be suspended because of the heavy rain. I talked to the Public Works Officer yesterday and he told me that everything there is at a standstill. Right now, Nyamira District is entirely cut off from the rest of the country and the people there are actually marooned. All business and agricultural production in the district is also at a standstill. Given these grim circumstances, there is need for an emergency operation to rehabilitate the road in Nyamira District so that the operations in the district can come back to normal. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand that from the Petroleum Levy, every district is entitled to Kshs5 million per year. We would like to know whether Nyamira and Kisii Districts have had their share of the Kshs5 million or whatever the figure may be. However, I am glad that the Government has responded positively to this Motion. The Government should know that this Motion marks the last opportunity for this Government to demonstrate goodwill towards the people of Kisii and Nyamira Districts. As I did say at the beginning, we have been given many broken promises and we do not need any more of these promises. We would like to believe that the promise that has been made by the Government in this Motion will be honoured and demonstrated in the completion of this road.

Having said, that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank hon. Members from both sides of the House for having very strongly and effectively supported this Motion. I would like to commend the Government for accepting this Motion without amendment. This is yet another good example in the co-operation between the Government and the Opposition in the best interest of the people of this country. We are here not to propagate our own interests between the Government and the Opposition, but to represent the interests of the people who have brought us to this House. Parliament must, therefore, be the arbiter of the national interests and should not address itself to personal, partisan or ethnical interest. If we have to articulate these interests, then this must be done very far away from this National Assembly. I am saying this because if we do not have a National Assembly that is truly a National Assembly, then this would be the beginning of the chaos that we witness today in both the African continent and the rest of the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we must do everything else in this country, let us not lose this Parliament because if we did so, to bring it back to what it is, bad as it may be, will be very difficult. I was a student in Uganda during those days when it had one of the most effective Parliaments in Africa. However, although they have been trying to the past nine years to restore their Parliament after it was destroyed, but they have not been able to restore the same status of parliamentary democracy in that country as they used to have. Therefore, the national interests must override all other interests, be they personal, partisan, ethnic, and so on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Parliament is described in Kiswahili as "*Baraza la Taifa*". *Baraza la Taifa*, is not a forum where people meet to discuss petty matters. I personally feel that the Kiswahili description of Parliament is a much more fitting description of Parliament than the National Assembly. I am saying this because in our own tradition values, we know what a baraza is: it is a gathering of the most respected elders in a community who meet to adjudicate the best interest of that community. This is what this Parliament ought to be and that is what it must remain to be from now onwards. This Parliament, therefore, must guarantee and preserve national harmony, integrity and development. This is why we are talking about road development. This Parliament must be the concept of the national unity. Let the word "national unity" be used as a mere slogan, but let it indicate a commitment by all of us who have had the honour of being national leaders in this

country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Parliament must equally guarantee accountability and transparency because there is no way in which this country can move forward if we do not have accountability or transparency. The time when things were done in the dark has gone. However, the fundamental problems that we are facing in this country today are due to that omission. This Parliament must guarantee good governance. However, we cannot have good governance if as hon. Members of Parliament, we are not committed to good governance or if we do not understand what this is all about. This Government must know that good governance is not the business of KANU but of this National Assembly.

We all have a responsibility to make sure that the resources of this nation are utilised in the best interest of the country. Let us not sit here and blame the other side or blame one another and Kenyans get nowhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Parliament must also address the most urgent and serious problems to this nation. Those problems are efficient communications and transport. That is what we have been talking about in respect to these roads; telephones, postal systems, railway lines and so on. Right now, we have talked about postal charges and there is controversy about that. It is not possible to do business with these type of rates. We are saying that let there be a rational systematic way of raising those rates. But occasionally also, let us hear some news of reductions of those rates and not always hear of "rises".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we must address the issue of affordable education system in the country.

If our children cannot go to school and the children of the poor of Kenyans who are the majority cannot go to school, then there is no stability in the country. There must be a comprehensive health system in this country. Our people today cannot afford medicine or medical treatment. People are dying in the countryside like flies and it is a shame. It is such a crisis and so serious that I do not know what we are going to do as a nation. I do not know really what is killing our people. Is it that our medical services or hospitals are not able to deal with this problem? What has happened?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we must also deal with the problem of unemployment because, if we do not do that and our young people feel that there is no future for them, then they will have no commitment to the stability and welfare of this nation. I think we must address all issues of basic necessities like water, food, clothing, shelter and so on. These are not academic issues, but very basic fundamental matters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, this Parliament must guarantee constitutional reforms, economic recovery and national reconciliation. On that final note, I want to say that we must be very careful as national leaders and not to play about with the unity of this nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while we are tearing ourselves apart within our parties in the Opposition and between the Opposition and KANU, let us remember that this nation is not our property. This nation belongs to Kenyans and it was put there by the Almighty God for the welfare of all Kenyans, and that we are merely agents to bring about greater happiness to the people of Kenya. I feel very offended these days that we attach more importance to our parties and personal interests than national interests.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order. Next Motion.

QUORUM

Prof. Mzee: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House at the moment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, if that is the case, I direct that the Division Bell be rung.

(The Division Bell was rung)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, we have a quorum now.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion.

THAT, while noting with appreciation the Government's effort in providing milk to primary school children in the country under "School Milk Feeding Programme", and considering the heavy burden of cost sharing the parents are facing towards education of their children, this House urges the Government to allow schools through their respective District Development Committees (DDCs) and District Education Boards (DEBs) choose whether or not they prefer milk, and those schools that do not prefer milk, be given money instead, which will enable them to purchase school equipment and construct new classrooms and workshops. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very good Motion and this House should look into it carefully and understand the problems facing this country. We know what the Government is doing for the country, but where we are unable, let us admit that honestly we are not able to do certain things. It is not a shame for the Government to admit where it has failed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever we ask the Ministry of Education to provide certain facilities to primary or secondary schools, we are always told that the Government does not have enough funds to cater for such facilities. It is very difficult nowadays for parents to pay school fees, buy desks, chalks, build schools and, at the same time, meet other normal domestic expenses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during our school days, we never used to be given milk and the standard of education in this country then was far much better than it is today. The former standard eight pupil was far much better than even a university graduate today. This is due to the poor quality of education we have in this country. I do not see why sometimes we refrain from accepting our mistakes whenever we go wrong. Even as I am talking today, right from 1993 to date, Bungoma District has not received a drop of milk in schools. No milk has been provided to any school and yet whenever we come here during the Budget Day, we are told that we should budget for school milk. I do not know whether we are being sidelined because we are in the Opposition zone or what.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the School Milk Feeding Programme is of no benefit to Bungoma District and, therefore, we prefer the Government to give us funds so that they can be distributed to various schools within our district. This is an outcry throughout our district. I am urging the Minister for Education to look into this issue very carefully and make it optional to all districts in the country. Those districts that will prefer to continue getting this milk should get it while those that will prefer getting funds get funds. These funds will assist various schools to purchase desks and to construct new classrooms. If the funds for this project are budgeted for by this House, I do not see why one should force certain communities to accept milk instead of being given an option to choose between milk and funds. Even in Bukusiland, we do not take milk. All we need is better facilities like classrooms, desks *etcetera*. During our old days, we could just take "uji" in the morning or even eat "ugali" in the morning. I still eat "ugali" in the morning. Children from Bungoma District are so bright and strong than those who feed on milk from morning to evening.

We are aware that Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) has not been able to pay the farmers who supply that milk. Now, where will the Minister for Education get milk to supply to various schools? Milk farmers throughout the country are crying because they have not been paid their dues for years and years. KCC owes over Kshs. 4 billion to farmers. If you allow this programme to continue, where is the Government going to get money to offset the outstanding amount which is owed to the farmers in order for KCC to continue supplying milk to various schools? Therefore, it is not a shame for us to say that instead of providing milk and in view of the fact that KCC which is not even under the Ministry of Education, but under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, we provide funds to these schools. It was a very good programme in the past, but later on it turned out not to be viable to this country. Even some teachers have been suspended and others sacked for having consumed school milk. What is the purpose of providing milk to schools and yet the same child who is supposed to be provided with this milk has been sent home for two months or so for failing to pay building funds, activity fee or to buy a desk? Now, after being sent away the child stays at home for two weeks or one month. I have never seen any school that takes milk that was meant for that particular student to his parents at all. Therefore, I am appealing to this House to consider seriously this particular issue. In my view, the Government is completely unable to handle this particular programme and it should give it up the way it gave up the Pre-University National Youth Service Training Programme some years back. The Minister for Education should

look into this issue very carefully and at least understand the wishes of the majority of the people from Bungoma District.

With these few remarks, I will ask hon. Munyasia to second this Motion. Thank you.

Mr. Munyasia: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to second this Motion. The Motion recognises the seriousness with which the Government takes the feeding of its people. The Government recognises that many of the families are poor and they cannot provide a good diet and that is why, I think, they decided that those children who happen to go to school must be given some milk to improve their diet. But for a healthy nation, it must be recognised that it is not only the school going children who require milk or a balanced diet, it is all the children more especially, those who have not reached school-going age. It is sad that no attention is given to the feeding of those children. The question that the Government should ask itself in this situation is whether to give the children the fish or to give their parents the hooks because, if you gave the parents the hooks, then they will be able to provide the fish to their children. That is an important consideration. There should be efforts made to make families improve their income and the rest will follow. So, I have no doubt that if this was the approach the school-age going children and even other children, would get the milk. In any case, there are many families in this country that can afford giving milk to their children and so it would not be necessary to force it upon them. Some of the children from some areas might be taking too much milk and I do not know whether that would not be dangerous for them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk of education, there are components that we cannot ignore. For instance there are teachers, books and classrooms. When we are talking about teachers, we should be told about both their quality and quantity. Many of our teachers are burdened with huge classes. Many of the poor schools in rural areas have as many as 60 or even 70 children in one class. No one who can afford will want to have his child in such a class. This is because it will not be easy for the teacher to give individual attention to a child. Many times when you go to a school and you want to find out from a teacher how your child is performing it is unlikely that he will even know who your child is. So, he will not even know whether your child is bright or not. Some of the teachers are only testing at the end of the term. That is why we should be giving serious attention to the question of class sizes. Those who can afford will take their children to private schools where classes are 15 or 20 pupils in a class. When you go to such schools you will be told whether your child has a problem or not, and he has it, what you should do to rectify the situation.

Some time last year, I asked about the provision of school equipment for the 8-4-4 technical programme and I was told that out of the 32 items that had been provided to schools at first only about four of them were functioning. That must be a sad situation! If we are serious about providing 8-4-4- technical programme and then out of the 32 items that are required for it only four are operational, we should be taking steps to ensure that the remaining 28 items also become functional. We are not giving attention to that and this is a sorry state of affairs!

Now, if you want to call an institution a school, there must be books for reading. I have been to many rural schools and I have seen that in many of them there are no books at all. When it comes to, say, English, and the teacher wants to give some passage for comprehension he must write it out on the blackboard. He will do so in the 30 minutes set aside for that particular lesson. He might take 20 minutes writing out the passage, there will be 10 minutes for reading it and hardly anything left for comprehension. When it comes to mathematics the situation is even worse. This is because the teacher will want to set an example, explain it and at the end of it, he is supposed to ask the children to carry on with a certain exercise, which he cannot do because the children do not have books. So, he will ask them to come back to the classroom some time later so that he writes the exercise on the blackboard. Children in rural areas do not have access to books. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is why it is necessary that this Government, if it wants to provide our children with education, takes a serious view of the issue of provision of books.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reality of the situation is this, that even the milk that is supposed to be provided is not regular. In the 1993/94 financial year, the Government set aside K£10,200,000 for the school milk feeding programme. In the following financial year, 1994/95, this amount was reduced to only K£6,500,000.

If that was not admission that the Government could not undertake that gigantic exercise, what was it? We expect that school age going children in 1994/95 must have been more than those of the previous year and yet we were voting less money for that programme than before. To me, that was an admission that this exercise was too big for us.

If we have to be realistic, it will not be the first time a scheme started by the Government will have been dropped. Some time back we thought erroneously that before joining universities students must have national service. We were not even decided on whether this would only involve drills, or whether it should be a military kind of national service as it is in many other countries to demystify the gun, or what it was supposed to be. Yet

we went ahead to spend huge amounts of money on it. I think we thought that by that exercise we would instil discipline in students. However, when it came out that we were not instilling any discipline and that, in fact, those who had national service experience were even more unruly than those who had not had it we dropped that particular scheme; and there was no shame in doing that.

What we are saying is that this particular school milk programme has also failed and that we should be honest enough to admit it. Let people not come over here and say, "Since this particular scheme was started by the President we cannot do anything else but support it". I think it is high time we were honest, courageous and sincere enough to even tell the President that this and that scheme cannot be implemented, or that it is not going to be good for the nation. We are not educating our children at all because they do not have books. We in Bungoma cannot hold Harambee because we do not get donations from anywhere! So, if we were given a choice between the milk and books, we would go for the books. I have worked it out and found that if two children combined and decided to forego the milk for three weeks, they would get a text book between them. If this was to continue by the end of the year, these two children would be having quite a number of books to share between them.

With those few remarks, I wish to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I oppose this Motion in its entirety. I am opposing this Motion because it is insular and very limited to Bungoma. In its approach, it is little---

Mr. Sifuna: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wonder whether the hon. Assistant Minister reads clearly or not. Is he in order to say that the Motion is limited to Bungoma when I have not mentioned Bungoma anywhere in the Motion?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is just because the Mover and the Seconder come from Bungoma. But be that as it may, may I please proceed and give my reasons why I am opposing---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir. Is the Assistant Minister on the Floor of the House in order to just try and read something in the Motion which is not there and then go further and say because both the Mover and the Seconder are from Bungoma, then the Motion must be for Bungoma? Is he in order to mislead this House? We are not here "on Bungoma", we are Members of the National Assembly!

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): I appreciate the fact that this is a national Motion because it has been brought to this House. Because it has been brought to this House, it is here for debate by all the Members of Parliament. So, it is a national Motion. Let me give the reasons why I am opposing this Motion. Before I give those reasons, let me agree on the need for equipment, workshops and text books, among other things, for all the schools. This is imperative for a sound education. I would urge the Minister to find it possible to assist the entire education system and schools, in conjunction with the rest of the Government, to ensure that textbooks, equipment, workshops, *et cetera*, are provided and, that the cost sharing with the parents is equitably looked into. That point, I grant in so far as this Motion is concerned. However, I would add that we should look elsewhere for this kind of assistance. For example, assistance can be acquired from the Ministry, donations, and by exhorting parents to accept the responsibility of providing equipment and other materials needed by their schools.

As for the choice which this Motion wants the District Education Board (DEB) to have, it would fundamentally be wrong when we have a national policy of a School Feeding Programme or School Milk Programme, to give a choice to some schools whether they like it or not. From a budgetary point of view, this would be almost impossible and impracticable to administer. Money voted for school milk should be used for that purpose. Money voted for textbooks and other materials should be utilised for buying textbooks, equipment, *et cetera*, otherwise, we would be giving the Public Accounts Committee extra work in sorting out how much money voted for milk was utilised on equipment. I am opposing this Motion because of the manner in which it has been constructed. I would have supported it if the hon. Mover had urged the Minister for Education to vote more and more money towards equipment, textbooks, and so forth. I am opposing it because I know that some children have actually benefited from this school milk programme. They have become more healthier and you can see that they now have bright faces. If you go to some of the remote areas where there was no milk before, you will be surprised. Some of the schools in my own constituency have been beneficiaries of this school milk and, therefore, I would like to see the school milk programme continuing.

Besides this, my next point is that the School Milk Feeding Programme is complementary to the School Feeding Programme. The School Feeding Programme is supplemented by the World Food Programme ---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister not misleading the House by insisting that the School Milk Programme is supplementary to the School Feeding Programme when we know that the School feeding Programme is not spread to all districts in the country? I know that we do not have the School Feeding Programme in Bungoma, so the School Milk Programme cannot be supplementary.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Well, he is talking about Bungoma which I earlier alluded to and, therefore, confirming my earlier fears. Be that as it may, even if it is partial and not countrywide, indeed, not every school gets the milk. I still insist that the School Milk Programme is complementary where there is the School Feeding Programme. The World Food Programme is donor funded and they are complementing one another. There are certain obvious conditions that the schools must meet, one of which is that as long as the School Milk Programme goes on, the World Food Programme also continues its programmes. So, you cannot really divorce these two. To kill one of these in a particular area, be it Kilifi or Bungoma, would not really augur well in so far as the World Food Programme and the School Feeding Programme are concerned.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other point is that the School Milk Feeding Programme is, in fact, providing a ready market for the milk farmers. If it was not for the School Milk Programme, some of the milk would probably go bad somewhere in Bungoma or elsewhere where, I understand there is a lot of milk. So, I would like my colleague who has moved this Motion to know that the way the Motion is structured is defective and not conducive to us accepting it here because it does leave some bad taste in its content and spirit.

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

Mr. Achieng'-Oneko: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I know, and we do accept one thing, that the Schools Milk Programme was the brain-child of His Excellency the President. He has been around promoting the idea of the School Milk Feeding Programme, but it must be accepted that the programme has failed. The number of children has increased whereas, in our Budget, the amount of funds estimated for this programme has gone down. That raises the question: why? With the population of children in schools going up, there should be adequate funds provided for this milk. Instead, the budgetary provision is going down. It means that the Government is not capable of carrying out this heavy task.

Secondly, the implementation of the milk programme to schools has failed. It has been very difficult to even transport milk to certain schools, and more particularly in my area where we are not communicable and we are out of reach. Children have to carry milk on their heads when it rains.

Mr. G.G. Kariuki: Why?

Mr. Achieng'-Oneko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. G.G. Kariuki should know why, because he is one of the people who are responsible for the implementation of development on an uneven national level. Mr. G.G. Kariuki in those days had a very strong backing. Therefore, whatever failed in the past lies squarely on his shoulders.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the implementation of this programme has failed. Even if I was asked what we should do about the milk programme, I would suggest that instead of transporting milk from Kitale to Rarieda, fish should be transported instead as it will be easy to transport. This fish would be given to the schools around on the shore of Lake Victoria instead of incurring such huge expenses on transport all the way from Kitale to Rarieda. Though I am aware that the Government is not ready to accept to amendments here, or accept the Motion as it is, but the programme is going to fail in the long run because the Government is not going to take full responsibility of budgeting for milk in all our areas. Although it is also a source for marketing, but a source for marketing and encouraging the farmers should be conducted in a different way. If the milk meant for school children sometimes end up in shops rather than going to the children and sometimes in teachers houses while some transporters get bonus for that work. It is better to accept the Motion as it is instead of rejecting it as it is impossible for the Government to implement it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mover here has suggested that school equipment should be bought with the funds set aside for the milk. It is important to have school equipment in schools rather than to buy milk that cannot reach children that need it so badly.

Transportation element is also important here. Areas like Rarieda cannot be reached during the rainy season, then what do we do with the milk? Do we leave it on the roadside for it to get spoilt before the children can collect it? This is what I have witnessed on several occasions. Right now, we have no proper communication network in our area as Luanda Kotieno-Ndori road is impassable. All the bridges have fallen and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is doing nothing about the carrying out the repairs of the bridges and

roads. What are we going to do with that milk? It is going to stay in somebody's shop and may even be stolen or taken for free. The Motion is simply asking the Government to lessen its burden of transporting milk which does not reach schools. I would like to plead with the Ministry of Education that it should take these things very seriously. It is true that the children need milk, but there is something else which can be provided or supplied instead of milk. I know that the President is very keen on this milk programme because it was his brain-child. When it started, we felt it was well intended, but later on it proved a failure.

I would also like to appeal here that the Ministry concerned should carry out repairs on roads. We in Rarieda are in a very bad situation where nothing can move and business has come to a halt because the roads are impassable during the rainy season.

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

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to this Motion which I stand to oppose.

If we were to go by the fact that not all villages have accessible roads, then it would be true that we shall soon be saying that drugs and other essential commodities should not go to certain areas because the roads are impassable. It is not a convincing argument that School Milk Feeding Programme should be done away with just because there are no roads. If we were to seek the opinion of the school children themselves whether they support this Motion, I am sure all the children in Kenya, including those in Bungoma, would say a big "NO". As far as I am aware, the School Milk Feeding Programme---

Mr. Sifuna: On a point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Sifuna, I do not need it. Mr. Morogo, this is not a Bungoma Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Alright, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We cannot help it, but I do not want to defy your ruling. Although in their contributions you heard about what they said.

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to quote hon. Oneko who referred only to Rarieda and which is not in Bungoma?

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to waste my time on that particular point.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Morogo, I do not think that Bungoma is an issue in this Motion. Just debate the Motion as it is.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I abide by your ruling.

The supply of milk to school children is among the many good things that this Government has done to its citizens and today we should be discussing the modalities on how the milk should reach all the schools. We should give our ideas on how we can get extra funds in case the Government has run short of funds. As we know, not all parents can afford a balanced diet. This is a fact which all of us know. This particular milk programme is just one way of assisting those families to at least move towards getting a balanced diet. As hon. Munyasia puts it, the Government should go a step further and provide milk to all children irrespective of whether they are going to school or not. I am sure that the Government would wish to do that, but since it cannot, it would be better that it supplies milk only to schools. In any case, children will, at one point or another, go through the school and this is what the Government is aiming at.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think what we should do is to urge the Government to perhaps look into the management of the programme itself. We should urge the Government to ensure that the milk is supplied as regularly as possible. This is because it is important that the milk should reach the schools in good time and regularly so that it is given to children whose parents are unable to feed them well. Also the question of milk transportation should be looked into. This is because in some areas the school milk gets to the District Education Officers' offices and it takes quite a while for the same milk to be transported to various schools in the various districts. So, we should ask the Ministry to be more strict with regard to the management and supply of this milk so that once the milk reaches the DEO's office it should not be delayed there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, we should oppose this Motion in its entirety because it is not a good Motion. It is not a Motion that should be propagated by any leader.

An hon. Member: Aaah!

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Do not say "Aaah"; I am expressing my opinion. You may not like it but it is still my opinion. If the children were to be asked whether they would like this programme to stop or to continue, I am sure their answer would make the hon. Member

change his mind.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Si, finally, equipment is very important to schools. I think hon. Sifuna should have brought a Motion to this House calling upon the Government to look for ways and means of providing equipment to schools. He should not have brought this Motion here urging us to do away with the School Milk Feeding Programme. Milk is very important to these children. It is as important as equipment. If the any Member brings a Motion here urging the Government to provide equipment to schools, subject to availability of funds, definitely I will support that Motion. If hon. Munyasia brings such a Motion here I can assure him of my support for the Motion. Equipment is needed in schools but it cannot take the place of milk; milk is equally important.

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

Mr. Shikuku: I thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. First and foremost, let us look into the history of this milk business. In the beginning, it was thought that children should have milk but as time went by the whole milk programme started deteriorating. In my own constituency, the issue of school milk is something that people do not know about. That milk never comes at all, yet money is voted for buying the school milk. Everything has got its own time. What you did in 1932 may not be applicable in 1995. Time for milk is gone. Let us look at the whole exercise. Do we really need this milk? Will our children not be able to learn because they have not been given milk? I had no milk when I was going to school. The hon. Minister for Education here was never given milk but today he is the Minister for Education. He was never given any free milk in primary school but he made it without milk and he is now the Minister for Education. Why do you not look at the whole exercise afresh? Why can you not use this money to buy books for school children so that they can improve their academic performance?

I know that if children are not given milk they will not die. Will children die if they are not given milk? They will not die. They will still be able to learn. Even today with that milk which is not being supplied, they are still passing their examinations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that those who are opposing this Motion are doing so for political convenience. They think that if the School Milk Feeding Programme is scrapped, they will be letting the President down. That is not true. The President is a very reasonable man. He will see the sense of buying books instead of milk. But some people here must appear to be defending this programme and, therefore, look big and very committed to the cause of "Bwana Mkubwa" but "Bwana Mkubwa" is capable of seeing beyond them.

So, with the change of time, I am sure that he would not object to having this programme done away with so that the funds are used to purchase books for school children and enable them to pass examinations. This is because milk alone cannot make you pass examinations if you have no books and equipment. No doctor has ever told us milk makes one pass examinations. If that was true then all Maasais would be in the university. If milk makes one pass examinations then all Samburus would have gone to the university because they start drinking milk from the day they are born up to the day they go to their graves. So, let us be logical. It is not fair to label this Motion as a "Bungoma Motion." That is a very poor point of debate.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! I have already ruled that out of order.

Mr. Shikuku: I am trying to reply to those Members who have been trying to do away with this Motion just because it happens to come from--- But the Motion must come from somewhere. Once you get into this Parliament you become a Member of the National Assembly. I am a Member of this National Assembly and, therefore, I require the support of other people from other corners of this Republic to have my Motion go through. Even in local authorities you must have somebody to second your Motion otherwise it will not be debated. So, let us look at this national issue. These primary schools are normally in the locality. The children can go to school and come back home and take milk. Those who have no milk can take uji, maize, beans and groundnuts which are very nutritious and they go back to school. Books are the most important items to school children. This has proved to be very effective; where there are books and equipment the children do very well in examinations. That does not happen where there is milk. Maasais take a lot of milk but they do not lead in the examinations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been told that we should improve the supply of milk. After all these years, have they not perfected their supply? The truth is that this milk never reaches the children; it finds its way into other people's mouths. The children do not drink this milk. Must we continue to pretend that it does not happen? Those who do not want the truth must belong to Satan. Some of us do not want to be associated with Satan. The truth is that the milk never reaches the children; the truth is that the milk finds its way into shops where it is sold. That is the truth and those who deny that truth can only belong to Satan.

We have tried, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, but this Government never agrees with anything; it denies everything and one cannot help believing that these Ministers may be bishops or clergymen of satan because they do not want the truth. They are allergic to truth. So, let us stop pretending; just as we are

pretending in Kenya today that we do not have tribalism, we are united and let us be this and that, but that is not the truth. The truth is that, there is tribalism. Let us accept it, then say, "okay, since there is tribalism, and that is the truth, let us see how we can organise it and play it down; and share whatever we have" and then the unity will come later on. However, we do not want to accept that. The truth is that, this milk does not reach the schools and have been reasons given. That milk cannot reach the schools because the roads are very bad and the lorries can not even reach schools. So, these children have been doing without milk anyway.

So, all we are doing in this Motion, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is to ask that this money which we are spending on this milk, to be converted into books and other school equipments that will enhance our education standards. It can also be established that without milk you can still live. Most of us do not have milk anyway. I do not think Kikuyu here in Central Province are the biggest cattle-keepers that each and every family takes milk every day. The answer is no. In Butere, we do not keep cattle. As a matter of fact, we are so congested that we do not have a space for one cow, yet we pass examinations. In Butere we are very congested. In Maragoliland people cannot even keep cattle, yet we have got doctors, professors and, lecturers from that end without milk. So, let us, please, because this money comes from the taxpayers, convert it into school equipment. Those who do not want to do this, are not only being dishonest to themselves, but they are not interested in the truth.

Let us now at this time and age convert this money into equipment and books for our children. Those who are committed to opposing this Motion are doing so because they want to look good before somebody else. But that somebody knows them better than that. Therefore, let us have books and equipment.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to make my contribution and also state the Government position on this matter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is indisputable that this programme is the brain child of His Excellency the President. It is also indisputable that when the President started this programme in 1979, he meant well. Also I think every hon. Member in this House should know that the School Milk Feeding Programme was meant to improve the nutrition status and health status of the children of this country through schools. This in itself, is a major achievement for this country. As a result of the School Milk Feeding Programme, the enrolment of children in primary schools, particularly in arid and semi-arid districts, has increased tremendously. Additionally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the attendance of children in schools in areas increased and we have enough statistics to prove that in these particular arid and semi-arid areas, academic performance also improved as a result of the School Milk Feeding Programme.

An hon. Member: Tell hon. Shikuku!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a well-known fact that children throughout this land today do not suffer from Kwashiorkor. Whenever you went round this country, you could only see a lot of children with red hair, which was a sign of nutritional deficiency.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead the House that this particular milk is making children not have Kwashiorkor, when he is aware that it is not actually being given to the children today?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a fact. My friend Dr. Lwali-Oyondi is a veterinary doctor; he is not a human doctor and therefore, he would not know much about human health. Secondly, the hon. Member, comes from Nakuru, an urban area surrounded by very high potential land where milk production is very high and, therefore, most of the children have access to milk even in their own homes. There are many districts of this country where children have no access to adequate nutritional foods. Therefore, it was good that His Excellency the President, through his own wisdom, found it necessary to start the School Milk Feeding Programme. Even now, we will be asking this House---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the record, the Minister said, milk stops children from having Kwashiorkor.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): He did not say that.

Mr. Shikuku: He has said that milk helps them not to get Kwashiorkor.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): He said it has reduced cases of Kwashiorkor.

Mr. Shikuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, but in Maasai land there is Kwashiorkor and they take milk.

(Laughter)

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Maasai do not suffer from Kwashiorkor any more.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, as one of my colleague said earlier, the School Milk Programme is complimentary to the existing School Food Feeding Programme. As one Member said earlier some of the Members here are only speaking about their own homes which are high potential areas. We have about 22 districts in this country which do not get enough nutritious foods. Even we know that in some of the urban areas which are regarded as the pockets of poverty, some of the children who get the school milk--**Mr. Sifuna:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wonder whether the hon. Minister is conversant with the Motion or not because the Motion is asking for option. We are not forcing the entire country; we are saying that any district that does not want milk be given money; and, if you want milk, you can continue getting it. So, let him be concerned with that one.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are a national Government; we deal with national public policies and we cannot discriminate one area from another. This is a national programme and as one hon. Member said here earlier also, I would like to urge my hon. colleague to give us more money for equipment, books, chalks and not to touch the School Milk Feeding Programme, because soon we will be asking for more money to enhance the School Milk Feeding Programme. This is because the School Milk Feeding Programme has served this country well.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members want me to give them statistics from 1979 up to now.

If I did give them these statistics, they would indicate what has happened. In 1978, the enrolment of primary schools in this country, was 2,994,991 pupils. In 1979 when the School Milk Feeding Programme started, the number rose by almost one million.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order to mislead this House and the entire country deliberately, when we know that the population of this country has been growing even faster than this Government can provide education to our children? Hon. Makau will bear me witness that in Makueni District, the population growth has been high, but the school milk never reaches primary schools in this area.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is hon. Mulusya who is misleading this House and the entire nation. From 1975 to 1978, the number of primary school children was more or less static from 2.8 million to 2.9 million. However, from 1979 onwards, the number of school-going children increased from 2.8 to 5.7 million today. When we go through these figures, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, the number increased much faster than in the high potential districts. The increase in the number of children was due to the establishment of the School Milk Feeding Programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, performance in the national examinations also shot up. Previously, districts where children were doing badly in national examinations came up very well and we know now that the School Milk Feeding Programme and the School Feeding Programme are a contributing factor. The other great achievement, as I said earlier, is the improved health and nutritional status of our own children. It is wrong for hon. Members to make misleading statements and allegations in this House that some of the milk ends up in teachers houses or in shops. Perhaps this happens in places like Butere, Rarieda, and Bungoma. However, nobody from the rest of Kenya has ever seen school milk being sold in shops. What happens in some areas, children who come from very poor families carry school milk home and give it to their mothers, brothers or sisters who can then make a cup of tea. So, this milk has also assisted in uplifting the living standards of some of our people in some of the areas in this country both in urban, arid and semi-arid areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must know that it is very unfair for people from Central Province, Western Province, or some parts of Nyanza, which are areas of very high potential, to think that food or milk is always readily available to other families in other parts of this country. Even in urban areas, there is poverty. In some of these areas, a family cannot afford a kilo of posho meal to prepare ugali. So, the School Milk Feeding Programme has done very well. I agree with hon. Members when they say that there is need to increase allocation for books, equipment, chalk and so on in schools but not to discontinue with the School Milk Feeding Programme.

The other point which I would like to make is that from Independence, we accepted the programme of cost-sharing. Without this programme through Harambee, we would not have built the large number of schools which we have built in this country. I would also like to inform hon. Members here that the Government has continued to assist schools in providing equipment whenever it is available. During the last two or three years, we have given equipment to over 900 schools for laboratories and workshops. We are planning as a Government to give another 1,200 secondary schools, laboratory and workshop equipment. As hon. Munyasia said earlier, the

amount of money allocated to this milk programme is about Kshs22 per year per child. That money cannot even buy a book because it is so insignificant. Therefore, the School Milk Feeding Programme---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister not misleading this House when he says that each school child will spend only Kshs22 on school milk for the whole year when we know that the current market price for a litre of milk is between Kshs20 and Kshs30. How much milk is a child expected to take in a whole year?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if hon. Members care to read the budget, they would find that a total sum of money set aside for the School Milk Feeding Programme in 1994/95 was Kshs126,599,028. The number of primary school children was 5,722,926. This is simple mathematics and all you need do is to divide what has been allocated with the number of children. The figure has come down so much that now we are not able to provide enough school milk to schools. Therefore, we will soon be asking this House to increase that figure so that we can take care of more children to ensure that milk reaches schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, additionally, hon. Members, when contributing to the Motion, talked about the poor transportation of the milk. I think it is only fair that hon. Members calls upon the Government to improve the transport system and the management of the school milk instead of asking us to scrap the milk. I am saying this because it is that scheme that has attracted some of the donors like the World Food Programme to enhance our School Feeding Programme which is good for our children. Areas like Makueni District, which is an ASAL area, has for the last three years had no rain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because of the School Milk Feeding Programme, the school rose to number one position in national examination. Why did Bungoma, Kakamega, Kiambu, and so on not rise? The School Milk Feeding Programme and the Famine Relief Programme have done well to improve the academic performance of our children, particularly in arid and semi-arid lands of this country. Therefore, we should not---

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order to continue misleading the House on the examination results when he himself "doctored" them and got out very wrong results which were politically orientated?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): That is not a point of order, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that is very flimsy. Also, that kind of allegation comes only from people who do not think.

We have done a lot of decentralisation in education and the Government is planning to---

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Mulusya! We shall have acceptable standards of behaviour in this august House. I just heard you shout at the Minister that he is "devilish". Can you withdraw and apologise or leave the Chamber?

Mr. Mulusya: It was hon. Shikuku who said it, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Mulusya! As a matter of fact, hon. Shikuku never said such a thing. Can you withdraw and apologise to the House?

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise that hon. Kamotho is "devilish".

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for defending us. Heckling is not the behaviour of hon. Members of Parliament.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is planning to strengthen the Inspectorate and we have already taken action by posting high powered and well-trained Inspectors down to the district levels. This will assist in refining the management and administration of the School Milk Feeding Programme and strengthening of the audit services in the school system.

Additionally, we are also making sure that well-trained and disciplined teachers are distributed evenly to all parts of the country.

Lastly, the Government or the Ministry of Education is serious in improving the transportation and management of the School Milk Feeding Programme. Therefore, I strongly oppose the Motion, as it is, because it does not mean well for this nation.

Mr. Farah: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I did not think I will have a lot to agree with the Minister for Education, but I must say that he has said a lot of things that are factual today in his contribution. It is true that there are very many pockets of abject poverty in this country and the people who are at maximum risk are the growing children. They are the school-going children and the younger children. Children in the arid and semi-arid areas in this country do need to be supported nutritional-wise by the Government on a daily basis. I want to say and emphasise now that the impact of the School Milk Feeding Programme on those

children is minimum or it is almost non-existent. Currently, the children can only get one of those quarter pints of milk once a week. This is the UHT milk which has almost nil value nutritionally.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the UNICEF has carried out a study that indicates that milk can be replaced with CHB, cold soya milk, fortified with multi-vitamins and calcium. That has got nutritional value for the child. Currently, as it is, a child will need 30 cents of Government expenditure per day to give him all the nutritional values that he requires.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also know medically that if a child does not get proper nutritional value, he can have stunted growth or diminished growth both in the brain and body too. Therefore, I support the Motion fully in a sense that we need to redirect those resources in a manner that they are going to have the desired effects.

The other issue is, that in other parts of the country children use these "packets" of milk to play football because they do not need it. In the high potential areas of this country children do not need that milk at all. So, why do we not use it on the areas that are most hard hit so that we can achieve the required results.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, somebody here said that Makueni came in first because they voted KANU. North-Eastern Province also voted KANU except me, but they came last or lowest for the 10 or 15 years.

In fact, the milk never brought about any miracle there! So, being in KANU also did not bring about any miracle there too! So, without making a lot of politics about something that we need to take with a lot of seriousness, we need to redirect that programme and the Government resources so that we can have the required results.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, immunization which is supposed to immunize children against the five very serious diseases, whooping cough, TB and so on, there is need to redirect some of those funds to immunization programme. In some of the school performance, we have had Motions in this House calling on the Government to allocate resources to the pockets of abject poverty in terms of education and so on. For instance, Turkana, North-Eastern and so on, the population is not high due to infant mortality. So, the amount of money that the Government requires to do that is not enormous at all.

We have brought Motions in this House asking the Government to put up infrastructures that are adequate in those areas that did not benefit from the missionaries in the first place or areas that had the misfortune of going through the Shifta war from the time we got Independence up to 1969. Investing a little money here would be considered like a drop in the ocean in terms of our national Budget. I bet a lot more than that goes into other places here and there so that the sector is catered for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, distribution of bursaries is also a very vital sector in education. The Motion before us is about the improvement of education and the burden of the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) in areas where the Minister claims that children ought to take a quarter of a litre of milk for them to use in their homes or to share with the rest of the family to give them a happy life. So, what kind of parents are those? Would he expect those parents to go and contribute towards the construction of physical structures and purchasing of equipment there? Let us not make jokes because even when you use merit as the deciding factor, of course, there are exceptions. We have to take those exceptions into consideration. We have passed a Motion asking for children from those areas and the marginalised areas to be allowed to join faculties in the universities and the Minister comes back to us and says, "The Joint Admissions Board has refused". Do you know who the members of this Board are? These are the people who left this country when they had only standard eight or form four certificates or people who did qualify to join the Makerere University College some 30 years back, but because we got Independence they went on a massive airlift and when they came back, they said that they were going to compromise academic standards of our institutions by refusing to take a child from North-Eastern Province who has got five points less. We know that when we got Independence there was a conspiracy between two major tribes in here and they are the ones who send their children out and these are the same people who say, we will---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): On a point of order, Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really fair for the hon. Member to make such damaging allegations to the academics of our public universities while he cannot prove that those members of the Joint Admissions Board, who are the most senior members of the faculties failed our Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examinations (KCPE) and then went abroad and came back with degrees?

Mr. Farah: With all due respect, the hon. Minister did not qualify for Makerere University. He had to go outside to Russia and then to the United States of America and yet he is our Minister for Education today. He could not make it and who says that academic excellence demands that you cannot be a Minister in this country without education?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! We can take judicial notice of the fact that the Minister is not a member of the Joint Admissions Board. Secondly, you should not personalize debate for no

reason at all.

Mr. Farah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with all due respect, I have no intention to personalise the debate here, but I have to be very explicit on this. It is a fact and we all know in Kenya that so many of our consultant doctors here were just Form Four leavers and they did not even go to as far as A-Level those days. It does not mean that they were not bright but the opportunities were less. They still came back no less better than the ones who went to Makerere University College. Why does he refuse that it was all a plot? You see, you can always get a technical---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, are you satisfied with the allegation being made by the hon. Member? May I make it crystal clear that our five public universities are even a hundred times better than Makerere University today. So, Makerere University is of no significance to this country.

Mr. Farah: I am talking about the past.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Farah, your time is up.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I really wish I had caught your eye immediately the hon. Member for Butere had just spoken because I have discovered one small thing in this House, that if you want a very easy life indeed, you must listen to the hon. Member for Butere. In his conception, there is that life where there is no school milk, no Harambee, but just coming here and talking. There is nothing else. It is a very easy life for hon. Members. They like criticising other tribes.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Shikuku, he has hardly said anything.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Assistant Minister is saying that life in Butere is easy!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): He did not say it!

Mr. Shikuku: He said so and he is treading on dangerous grounds!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very nice philosophy and I appreciate the hon. Member's efforts in the whole of his political career to address the interests of the common man, although sometimes I do not understand whether the hon. Member can see Kenya as a whole---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member not personalising the debate too much with the Member for Butere?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am expressing the ideas of one of our very senior politicians in this country. The hon. Member has talked about school milk and made a remark, which I just want to answer before I proceed, to the effect that one of the reasons why milk is not a very useful thing is that the Maasai would have been graduates today. The Maasai people have been drinking milk since the inception of the tribe but they have not been receiving education. If they had been receiving education, I would challenge the hon. Member to see the relationship between milk and education. Since there was no such a relationship, he cannot come here and say that milk is not a good thing for education---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to misrepresent my views? I said if milk is the only thing which, if you take, you will have everything going your way up to university, then the Maasai would have been successful in education, because they have been taking milk all their lives! I did not say that it is because of milk that one passes examinations!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those of us from Maasailand who were exposed to good education have never failed an examination. I want to tell the hon. Member not to personalise and tribalise the issue. If the Maasai people had benefited from those airlifts today the so called elites of this country would have been Maasais. But because of some clever manoeuvring one whole plane contained people from one particular tribe.

Mr. Farah: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the information of the Assistant Minister, the Maasais never benefited from education because they resisted the colonialists, who in turn made sure that they neglected the Maasai. The White colonialists took education to people who were prepared to immediately be enslaved. The Maasais were never prepared to be enslaved and that is why they never got education.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about two things here, namely first academic requirements to enable a student to perform. These are things like textbooks, chalk and other physical facilities. Secondly, we are also saying that we need a child in

a school. We can put all the books in a school, but if we have no child in it they will not be useful. And what we want is not the number of the children but their quality. There is a direct relationship between academic performance and what a person eats. It is not me who said that "The way to a man's heart, and also to his head, is always through the stomach". You must be able to give a proper nutritional balanced diet to a child in order for that child to perform in school.

When I first went to a biology class, the first thing, I was told is that milk is complete food. You can argue like the hon. Member for Rarieda, which I very much accept, that perhaps one of the basic things a Luo needs is fish. But fish is not a complete food and it would also be necessary for a child who gets fish to also get milk. I want the hon. Member for Butere to also listen to me because I have listened to him while outside this House for very many years. I want to repeat hon. Morogo's words, that the language of the common man is not being spoken by my colleague.

The common man of this country wants milk and it is not right for us to come here and begin to talk an elitist language. You are not able to respond to the needs of the people because you are no longer listening to the people; you are listening to yourself. It is important that we talk the language of the people and address their true needs. One of the true needs of our people is that their children must be fed. I know that many places in this country are so developed that they do not need that milk. Perhaps, in some places like Bungoma and Butere, there is first-class treatment of everything, but where I come from, and where the Member for Lagdera, hon. Mulusya, and his colleagues from Ukambani and other Members from Turkana come from, people require this milk.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Assistant Minister in order to lump me together with those people who come from Makueni while I come from an area which is highly developed and where we have coffee, grade cattle, and what we want is books for our children?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I apologise to the hon. Member for Kangundo. I now remember, that was the constituency of one of our most powerful KANU men and that he is now enjoying the benefits of Kabete, although he represents Kangundo.

I would like to say, therefore, that hon. Members should be able to view this not just as a Motion we are supporting because we are supposed to support, as they are saying, but as a Motion that goes to the crux of the matter, that we, as a Government, would like to continue addressing the true needs of our people, not the ones we read about in books. Yesterday, I listened to the hon. Member for Kisumu Rural, and he was saying, "Mr. Speaker, you know, these people should not choose people from 'a' tribe or 'b' tribe just because they come from there---". If we want to arrive at that type of Kenya, we must build it now and we must accept that in the past, we were not able to build a Kenya where there were 20 Maasai professors, 20 Luo professors, and that now, because all of them come from one cluster or another, therefore, we must collect all our professionals from those clusters. We must build a Kenya that is going to sustain everybody so that today, if I want to get somebody to the Kenya Revenue Board, I am able to get qualified people from every tribe and not just from a few tribes. One of the ways of doing it is to ensure that we live in one Kenya because, it is now apparently clear that some people who live in cosmopolitan, metropolitan or some other 'politian' cities have stopped thinking about those of us who do not live in those type of areas. We should, in fact, address the common man. You do not just address the common man of Marama, you should also address the common man of Maasailand so that you can become a true nationalist. It is really very surprising that in all his 30 years in politics, my colleague has not even visited Maasailand, and yet he is able to stand here and talk about the Maasai---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member says I have not visited Maasailand while I know every nook and crook of Maasailand. I was there when he was still eating potatoes with his mother in the kitchen. Is he in order to tell me that I have not been to Maasailand while I am a Maasai by birth, having been born at Lake Magadi?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that it is only the fish which are born inside Lake Magadi. There was no Maasai either in Lake Magadi; there is only salt in Lake Magadi!

I want to say that the hon. Member for Butere should also be able to address one matter: The question of acquiring school equipment through Harambee. He wants to run away from reality by addressing this House and laughing at Harambee sarcastically when he knows that if you do not want school equipment, then do not go for Harambee. School equipment must be raised through Harambee while school milk must be obtained through the Budget. We need both equipment and school milk. With those few remarks, I beg to strongly oppose the Motion.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Education is one individual who

gives very misleading information in the House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Mulusya, can we hear your contribution?

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of Kenya has been growing tremendously and there is now way that you can compare the enrolment in the primary schools with the School Milk Feeding Programme which to me never existed.

An hon. Member: Tell him!

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, where does the milk go? In Kangundo, there is a very big store which was built by the Government for storing that milk and other school equipment. For the last six years, nothing has entered that store. Where does the milk go or Kangundo has no share of that milk?

An hon. Member: Inauzwa!

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fact of the matter is that this is an avenue of trying to obtain some money through Budgetary means to use for certain people's personal use.

An hon. Member: For the Harambee.

(Applause)

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, only a few cartons of milk are purchased with the money earmarked for the School Milk Feeding Programme and then after that the rest of the money goes towards Harambee. You find the Minister for Education donating Kshs100,000 from his Ministry, yet we did not vote this money for Harambee. This is what they are doing. We do not want to be misled in voting money for the School Milk Feeding Programme when it will be diverted to other purposes.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker. It is absolutely misleading for the hon. Member to make an allegation that the money that we give in Harambee is from the Budget and, therefore, a misuse of the voted money in this House for the Milk Feeding Programme. Does the hon. Member have any proof? I know he is not an auditor himself. We have the Controller and Auditor-General, who should be able to bring a report to this House, but not hon. Mulusya.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my proof is: Can the Minister tell this House from which Vote he gets the money that he contributes frequently in Harambee meetings as contributions from the Ministry of Education? From which Vote does he get the money to contribute?

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Members. This is not Question Time. Can we hear more about this Motion?

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that people of Ukambani also need school equipment and books. The country cannot afford to live on Harambee. It is only those areas with a high powered corruption where you can afford to amass money from Government coffers to buy those equipments through Harambee. This is not possible in other areas.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Sifuna, it is time to respond.

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The only thing that surprised me is that my brothers on KANU side are allergic to truth. Whatever we bring here, so long as it is being brought by the Opposition, they must oppose it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion is very clear. All what we needed was to sincerely---

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member for Kanduyi really in order to say that the Government has been opposing every Motion brought by the Opposition when just today we passed and accepted a Motion that was moved by the Opposition? The Mover should have withdrawn this type of Motion instead of bringing it to us.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Mulusya! You only give information to the speaker on the Floor. The speaker on the Floor was hon. Sunkuli.

Carry on, Mr. Sifuna!

(Mr. Mulusya remained standing)

Mr. Sifuna Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, did not hear the information he wants to give to me?

I need that information.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point of information that I want to give to hon. Sifuna is that this Government can only accept a Motion from the Opposition side but not implement it.

(Applause from the Opposition Members)

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you very much my friend for that kind of information.

Mr. Mulusya: Thank you for your acceptance.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what we need in this country is quality education and not "tumbo quality education." Since the money used to finance this programme is voted by this House---

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

Mr. Sifuna: For the first time, you are now standing on a point of order!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Sifuna!

Rev. Ommani: Could the hon. Member tell us what he means by "tumbo quality education?"

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! That is not a point of order!

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, since the funds for this particular programme are voted by this House, I do not see why children in every district should be forced to take milk; let it be optional. Let people choose whether children in their districts should have milk, fish or textbooks. Honestly, the Pokot and the Turkana do not need milk because they have got plenty of milk. They even use that milk for cooking ugali!

The Assistant Minister for Lands Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Chepkok): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Sifuna to mislead this House by saying that the Turkana cook ugali with milk? Can he prove that?

Mr. Sifuna: It is a well-known fact that the Turkana have a lot of livestock. So, we do not need to give 250 millilitres of milk to a Turkana child or a Pokot or Maasai child. Let us give them textbooks or desks because some of them have hardly seen a desk.

During his reply, the Minister did mention here that in 1979, because of this milk programme, more children were enrolled in Standard One. Is he trying to imply that when you drink a lot of milk you produce too many children? If that is the case, how come we have very few Turkanas and Maasais although they feed on milk throughout their lives?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I really do not see what the war against Turkanas and Maasai is for. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead the House that the fertility of the Turkana and Maasai is low when, in fact, it is due to their responsibility and family planning methods which have contributed to that?

Mr. Sifuna: All we are saying, is that the Minister should allow the various districts to say what they want. Those districts that are in need of milk should be given milk; those districts that do not milk, like Bungoma, should be given funds. You cannot force me to eat what I do not want to eat. From 1983 to this day, no milk has ever been taken to Bungoma District. What have we been feeding on all these years?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, from 1979 and 1983 up to date, no milk has ever been sent to Bungoma. What have we been feeding on?

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The information I would like to give hon. Sifuna is that the fertility rate in Maasailand is so low that they have been conspiring to inflate their numbers by adopting the Kikuyus including people like the Vice-President, and Minister for Planning and National Development!

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has said that the Maasai people have tended to inflate their numbers. This matter has been stated as a matter of fact, which demands substantiation, especially from a hon. Member whose academic credentials are yet to be laid on the Table. Can he substantiate that, in fact, we have inflated our numbers, when during the last census we were not even counted?

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): You are out of order. Mr. Sifuna, carry on.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I was saying, for example---

Mr. Farah: On a point of order Mr. Speaker

Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): What is it hon. Farah?

Mr. Farah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Dr. Kopyo made a very serious allegation. Hon. Dr. Otieno-Kopyo said that the Maasai have inflated their figures and have taken in Kikuyus including our Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development, that is a very serious allegation. Could hon. Dr. Otieno-Kopyo substantiate that or withdraw?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, Dr. Otieno-Kopyo! I did not hear that.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I gave a very good example here that since 1993, Bungoma District has never received any drop of milk for our schools.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): What is it, Prof. Mzee?

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of doubts. We would like it to be clarified if Prof. Saitoti is actually a Maasai or an "adopted" Kikuyu?

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Prof. Mzee! Order, hon. Members. We are in this House, not on account of any tribe. Carry on hon. Sifuna.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling the Minister for Education that during the whole of 1993 and 1994, no drop of milk has been sent to Bungoma schools and, up to now, the Minister is still insisting that the programme should continue. Can he, therefore, make sure that the allocation of funds meant for milk in Bungoma in 1993 to today, is given to us because it is taxpayers money and most of the Luhya community do pay a lot of taxes towards this Programme.

Now, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand why one time the system of sending university students to the National Youth Service was abolished quietly. What happened? Why we cannot continue insisting that the system should continue as we are doing with the School Milk Feeding Programme? Why cannot you try and say; "Okay this programme is going to be implemented selectively in certain areas, but not throughout the entire country".

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

(Question put and negatived)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Members, it is now time for interruption of business and the House is, therefore, adjourned until 2.30 p.m., this afternoon.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.