

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 26th February, 2003

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:-

INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENT BUDGET OFFICE BILL

THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament entitled the Parliament Budget Office Bill to establish a Budget office in the National Assembly to provide Members of the Assembly with information to facilitate their participation in the making of the Budget and in the monitoring, evaluation and the implementation of public expenditure and programmes, so as to strengthen the role of Parliament in the budgetary process, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE YALA SWAMP PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS

THAT, whereas the National Assembly approved a resolution calling on the Government to reclaim the Yala Swamp and to implement irrigated farming in the area, and being aware that the Government has published a national food policy to produce enough food for Kenya and surplus for export; this House urges the Government to set up a technical committee of experts to investigate and report on the financial status of this project, the extent of its implementation and to recommend an action plan and how the project can be revitalised and

expanded, and further the report of the findings of the technical Committee be tabled in the House within six months.

INTRODUCTION OF KENYA POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL

THAT, taking into account that commercial banks have been unable to expand banking operations to many towns in Kenya, and aware that the spread of banking operations is key to developing all parts of the country, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Kenya Post Office Savings Bank Act, Cap.493B, laws of Kenya, in order to allow the Post Bank of Kenya to lend up to a maximum of Kshs200,000.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament entitled the "Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Bill" to establish a Truth and Reconciliation

Commission to investigate the causes and the effects of political violence and gross violation of human rights in Kenya since 1965, and to recommend just and permanent solutions that will promote and enhance peace and national unity and reconciliation and rapid socio-economic development, and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

A BILL TO AMEND THE NSSF ACT

THAT, in view of the fact that many Kenyans who are over 60 years of age are unable to work due to unavailability of employment, old age or sickness, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament to amend the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Act, Cap.258, Laws of Kenya in order to convert the Fund into a state pension Fund where every working Kenyan shall contribute a percentage of his or her earnings in order to enable all senior citizens who are 60 years old and above to get a token monthly live pension.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

HARASSMENT OF KENYAN FISHERMEN BY UGANDA OFFICERS

(Dr. Oburu) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that security officers from Uganda seized boats and confiscated fish of great value on 18th December, 2002, on the shores of Usenge Beach in Lake Victoria?

(b) Is he further aware that Kenya security officers who recovered the fish from Uganda sold the said fish and pocketed the money and the matter was reported to Usenge Police Station and no action was taken?

(c) What measures is he taking to secure Kenyan waters and fishermen against attacks and harassment by Ugandan security personnel?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry Dr. Oburu is out of the country. I will defer the Question. Mr. Minister, I would like to agree on an appropriate date with you as to when this Question should be brought before the House. Can I defer the Question to Wednesday, next week?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister, I beg to request that the Question be deferred to next week.

Mr. Speaker: I have deferred the Question to Wednesday, next week.

(Question deferred)

LOSSES INCURRED BY PUBLIC HOSPITALS

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

(a) Could the Minister inform the House how much loss has been incurred by the following public hospitals as a result of her directive on release of securities surrendered by patients in lieu of unpaid hospital bills: Eldoret Referral Hospital, Coast General Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital, Nyanza General Hospital and Voi Hospital?

(b) Could the Minister assure the House that services in public hospitals will not be compromised as a result of this directive?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister for Health is not here! This is unbelievable! Mr. Ojode, where is the Minister for Health?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to seek the indulgence of the Chair to have this Question deferred until the Minister comes. We should move to the next Question and by the time we will be through with it, the Minister will be here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojode! You know the rule. We do not do that with Questions by Private Notice.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that the Ministry of Health is a very busy Ministry. We want to request the President to appoint more Assistant Ministers to that Ministry so that, at least, one of them will be in the House at any one time.

The Ministry of Health will face a lot of Questions in this House. The Ministry covers public health and medical services issues among others. Could the President appoint an extra Assistant Minister to this Ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Maj. Madoka, could I defer the Question to tomorrow afternoon?

Maj. Madoka: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Angwenyi! How do you address me like that? Mr. Angwenyi, if you want to address me you must either catch my eye or you stand on a point of order.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You will notice that this is a maiden Question by Maj. Madoka. If it is not answered today, we will have contravened the House requirement on maiden speeches and Questions.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Well, Mr. Angwenyi, you have made our day.

Next Question!

Mr. Muiruri: (Mr. Muiruri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received a written answer to my Question.

MANUFACTURE OF UNHYGIENIC BREWS

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Kiroche Industries, situated in Naivasha, is manufacturing and selling various types of unhygienic brews which are poisonous and contain a very high percentage of alcohol?

(b) Could the Minister take urgent action to close down the factory and prosecute the management?

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have been in the Opposition for the last five years. Some people, both in the Opposition and on this side were tortured by a Mr. Miriti at Nyayo House. Could the Assistant Minister tell us whether he is the Mr. Miriti who worked at Nyayo House?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wanjala, what are you talking about? Proceed, Mr. Assistant Minister!

(Loud consultations)

Could we listen to the Assistant Minister? He is giving his maiden reply; but you will be questioned nevertheless.

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after scrutinising the Question, I realised that the matters in question fall under the Ministry of Health. So, I redirected the Question to the Minister for Health this afternoon.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have all read this Question which seeks the closure of a factory. Is the Assistant Minister telling this House that it is the Ministry of Health which licenses and not the Ministry of Trade and Industry?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Miriti, who licenses factories?

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Trade and Industry is empowered under Section 14 of the Trade Licensing Act to issue trade licences to manufacturers and traders who apply and meet the qualifications for the specific field of trade. The licence pertaining to this particular factory was issued by the Minister for Finance.

The Member for Sirisia (Mr. Wetangula): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is this Assistant Minister in order to first tell the House that he has passed over the Question to the Ministry of Health and then shortly thereafter rise up and say that it is the Ministry of Finance which is supposed to answer it? Does he know what he is saying?

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, part "a" of the Question asked whether the Minister is aware that Kiroche Industries, situated in Naivasha, is manufacturing and selling various types of unhygienic brews which are poisonous and contain very high percentages of alcohol. It is the responsibility of the Minister for Health to check in every factory whether the brew is unhygienic or poisonous. The Government Chemist falls under the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Speaker: If I may wonder loudly and, Mr. Assistant Minister you may wish to respond to my wonder, under whose docket does the Kenya Bureau of Standards fall?

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Bureau of Standards falls under my docket. But the issue at hand could be---

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Why do we allow the hon. Member, who is consumed by his past acts, to take our time to explain to us---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Angwenyi, what have you said?

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said his mind is pre-occupied with past acts.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! I am sure that every hon. Member has a past of some kind. This will not be the place to investigate that past, particularly, if there is no Motion against that particular Member. I wish, at this very early stage, to bring to the attention of the House that for good conduct of business of the House, let us keep personality out of it unless it is absolutely necessary. If the Assistant Minister strongly feels that he is not properly suited to answer the Question, shall I ask the Questioner whether he can have it transferred?

Mr. Muiruri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This factory is known. If you remember, on 1st July, 1998, this Parliament passed a law here banning all these illicit brews and especially the ones manufactured by Kiroche Industries in Naivasha. I have five analyses---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muiruri! I will give you the time when we have settled on who answers the Question.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Could you now respect the Chair? Those are facts which will come to the Minister in charge. I would like to know from the hon. Assistant Minister whether he feels that this Question does not fall under his docket and then we can get the other Minister to answer it.

(Eng. Toro stood up in his place)

This is not a Question on roads, Eng. Toro!

The Assistant Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing (Eng. Toro): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Although the Assistant Minister has said that this Question falls under the docket of the Ministry of Health, some certificates showing that the brews are fit for consumption have been issued by the Kenya Bureau of Standards, which falls under his docket.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I will make the following order, and you should have actually whispered to him because you are in the same Government. There is something called "collective responsibility". You can actually take the file away from him if you know how to answer the Question, go to the Dispatch Box and answer it. Anyway, could we have the Question answered tomorrow? Mr. Miriti, your very good Samaritan, Eng. Toro and the Minister for Health, could you re-organise yourselves in the course of the day? The Question will appear on the Order Paper tomorrow. Are you okay with that Mr. Miriti?

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that will be done.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also satisfied as long as he comes here with an answer saying that he will close down that factory.

(Mr. Muiruri pointed a finger at Mr. Miriti)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Muiruri, you are not a new Member. How dare you, in my full view, make those threatening gestures to the Assistant Minister? Please, threaten me now! Make those gestures towards me!

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is because this factory is killing an average of three people in my constituency per day. That is why I am a bit angry.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Muiruri, withdraw those gestures.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I withdraw and apologise.

ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that on 7th December, 2002, cattle in Mogotio Constituency were immunized against foot and mouth disease and that two months later the disease has hit the area again?

(b) What action is the Minister taking to ensure that the disease is wiped out?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Mr. Osundwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the benefit of the new Members, my name is Wycliff Osundwa, MP for Mumias and an Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development.

I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that vaccination was carried out against foot and mouth disease on 7th December, last year, following an outbreak of the same. I am further aware that there is a mild outbreak at the moment.

(b) To ensure that the disease is wiped out, the following measures have been taken by my Ministry. Quarantine has been imposed to prevent further spread of the disease. It is important to note that the quarantine is fully observed. Samples have been taken to identify the type of the foot and mouth strain; arrangements to carry out vaccination once results are out are in place; there is sensitisation to the livestock owners on the importance of presenting their cattle for vaccination. There is also sensitisation on the need to observe quarantine restrictions; the need for community involvement in reporting the outbreaks and, lastly, this information has been passed through public barazas, churches, schools and other public fora.

Mr. Korir: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister explain what went wrong with the first vaccination which made the disease to resurface?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the hon. Member repeat his question?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Osundwa, the hon. Member has asked you the following question: The cattle were vaccinated against foot and mouth disease. In spite of that vaccination, two months thereafter, the cattle were infected with the very foot and mouth disease. What went wrong?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the vaccination which was carried out in December was against type "O" of the disease. The equivalent vaccine AOSAT2 was used. At the moment, the mild outbreak has been detected in three farms and, according to the Livestock Improvement Centre, Mogotio, in Lembus Location, the number of animals affected is 12, but no deaths have been reported. The present outbreak was reported on 20th February this year and samples collected on 21st February and sent to the Foot and Mouth Disease Reference and Diagnostic Laboratory in Embakasi for classification and confirmation. The results are expected tomorrow the Thursday, 27th and then we shall know why there was a second outbreak.

(An hon. Member stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: An Assistant Minister wants to ask a question! Who are you?

(Laughter)

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the foot and mouth disease is very widespread in this country and it does affect our beef exports. What measures is the Ministry undertaking to wipe out this disease in our country?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned that the samples have been taken and they are being analysed. The results will be out tomorrow and then we shall know which course of action to take.

Dr. Ali: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to refuse answering hon. Angwenyi's question? He was asked: What action are you taking to eradicate foot and mouth disease in this country because we are losing a lot of money in the beef export market? Why did you not answer the question?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are known cases of cattle developing immunity and that is why we are testing the samples. Once the results are out we will know what to do to eradicate this disease.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, the question you are being asked is not localised to Mogotio Constituency or 12 cows. You are being asked about what steps you are taking, as a Ministry, to ensure that you eradicate or control foot and mouth disease Kenyawise?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg the indulgence of the House. The Question was localised and if the Questioner wanted a policy statement on it, he should re-frame his Question and I will be glad to bring the

Ministry's policy on the eradication of this disease here.

Dr. Wekesa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to the Assistant Minister, he has completely failed to answer that very important Question. I think it needs a more comprehensive answer because it touches on the economy of this country. For many years now, we have been unable to export our meat to the European Union (EU) just because of this disease. In the light of that, could we, perhaps, give him more time to get an appropriate answer?

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: I think so. Mr. Assistant Minister, I think you had better go and re-address the whole issue of disease control particularly foot and mouth Kenyawise. I will give you good time up to Wednesday next week to do so.

Mr. Osundwa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I undertake to bring a more comprehensive answer here.

Mr. Ogur: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Realising this problem is affecting the whole Republic, what do we do with the *nyama choma* exercise?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! Hon. Ogur, are you directing that question to the Assistant Minister or the Chair?

Mr. Ogur: Mr. Speaker, Sir, but the Assistant Minister should say something about this because the foot and mouth disease is affecting the meat eating exercise; *Nyama Choma!*

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Osundwa, do you have any comments?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any comment on that but I would want to say something about lack of meat for export to the world market. Many Members on the KANU side grabbed livestock holding grounds in Athi River where we used to vaccinate the animals before they are ready for export.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House when in the morning I tabled a Question specifically asking those who grabbed the holding grounds to be named? Is he in order to now mislead the House and yet he was here in the morning and he refused to name them?

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you! Order! I wish to address the whole House. Matters coming to [Mr. Speaker]

this House in respect of problems faced by Kenyans are, by their very nature, serious issues and we should not trivialise or make them parochial. I am sure the House will agree with the Chair that cattle in Kenya do not live on holding grounds alone. In fact, they do not. They live in ranches and farms and that is where they get the diseases. I think the question being put is serious and the hon. Assistant Minister must take it so seriously because there is lack of control of foot and mouth disease. So, address that issue since I have given you the time. Please, do not trivialise it. Let us not localise it. Foot and mouth disease has no political party.

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am seeking your guidance on this issue. When the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) was grabbed Kenyans were told who grabbed it, but when Kenyans want to know who grabbed KMC land the Government does not want to tell us. Could you guide us on that? Why is the law being applied selectively?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I do not know whether Mr. Wanjala is diverting the House's attention from the issue before it. The issue before us is about foot and mouth disease.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Sambu is misleading this House that the names of those who grabbed the holding grounds were not tabled. In fact, in the morning the Government tabled the names of those who were allocated the holding grounds. Is it in order for him to mislead the House when the Government tabled the names here in the morning?

Mr. Speaker: Order all of you now! The long and short of it is that everybody is trying to avoid this issue of foot and mouth disease. It will come here on Wednesday.

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

Mr. Speaker: Out of order everybody now! That matter is over! Wait until Wednesday next week. So, anybody who has any question about the foot and mouth disease should wait until Wednesday next week to ask it.

Question deferred!

(Question deferred)

(Maj. Madoka stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Why are you standing?

Maj. Madoka: I want you to notice me, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I am honestly in a very good mood to teach new Members, but old ones, no. It may just be because Maj. Madoka has never been a Back bencher since he ever entered this House. Maybe, that is why he does not know how to stand on a point of order. For your benefit, Maj. Madoka, and any other Member who is disoriented, if you want to stand on a point of order, stand in your place and shout: "On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir". Then I will recognise you. Can you now try?

(Laughter)

Maj. Madoka: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well!

Maj. Madoka: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I just wanted to plead with the Assistant Minister, when he does come next time to address this issue, that he particularly addresses health issues in as far as foot and mouth disease is concerned. As we know, many animals were slaughtered in the United Kingdom (UK) because of the foot and mouth disease as it affects our health.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Cattle were slaughtered in the UK because of mad cow disease and not because of foot and mouth disease.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I encourage hon. Members to stand up in the House to make a contribution when they actually know what they are talking about. But if you do not know what you are talking about, consult your neighbour or stay tight seated.

Mr. Speaker: Next Order!

POINT OF ORDER

ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STAFF MEMBER BY HON. MEMBER

Mr. Wamwere: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Jana jioni taarifa katika kituo cha Kenya Television Network (KTN) ilidai kwamba kumekuwa na jaribio la kumnajisi msichana mfanyakazi wa Bunge hili katika ofisi za Wabunge katika Jumba la Continental. Taarifa hiyo iliendelea kusema kwamba kwa sababu ya kisa hiki, raia wa kike huenda wakahitaji ulinzi wanapoenda kuwaona waheshimiwa Wabunge, ninaamini wale wa kiume. Tendo hili limehujumu heshima ya Bunge zima.

(Applause)

Bw. Spika, ninakuomba ueleze nchi nzima kwamba si haki wala sawa kuwahusisha waheshimiwa Wabunge wote na tuhuma dhidi ya Mbunge mmoja. Pia unaweza kuelezea kwamba hakuna haja ya raia wa kike kupewa ulinzi wanapokuja kuwaona waheshimiwa Wabunge kana kwamba kosa la mmoja laweza kuwa kosa la wote. Vile vile ninakusihii uzime uvumi unaoendelezwa kuwa msichana aliyehusika kwa muda huu ameachishwa kazi na usalama wake anapata vitisho.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order, hon. Members! I will begin with the last allegation that the girl in question has been sacked. I want to assure the House that nothing of the sort has happened. But to come to

the whole issue, I have been informed that there were allegations that a female staff member was sexually harassed in Continental Building. This matter has been referred to the police to deal with it in the normal criminal manner. I wish to advise this House that there is and has been a wrong notion, and I do not know where it ever came from, that Members within Parliament Buildings are immune from criminal prosecutions if they commit a crime. I wish to disabuse that notion; that no Member is immune from any criminal action. Mark the word "action". I am aware of the provisions of the Powers and Privileges Act which give immunity to Members of Parliament for what they say in the Chamber. Again, mark the words "what you say" and not what you do. So, it is what you say in this Chamber that is immune from the criminal law and not what you do.

To make it appear so clear, so that this notion gets out of everybody's mind, let me give you a straightforward illustration. Suppose Eng. Toro and hon. Ojode were seated as they are and Eng. Toro decided to shoot hon. Ojode and he died, is anybody going to tell me or this country that this hon. Member would be immune from prosecution? Certainly, not. So, I wish to tell every hon. Member that the Penal Code applies for whatever you do everywhere and not what you say in the Chamber. So, hon. Members, I hope it is clear now. Those who are under the mistaken belief that they are immune to harass sexually or otherwise, either members of staff or even yourselves, be warned that the law will be unleashed with its full rigour. I wish to agree with Mr. Wamwere, I do not think there was ever a collective intention or even action by the House in its totality to ever molest anybody. If it was done because the matter is now under active police investigation, it was done by an individual Member and not the whole House.

I wish to assure the public that it is very safe to come to Parliament, both male and female. I will instruct all the security agents of Parliament to be on extra vigilance to ensure that Members are safe against themselves, that members of staff are safe from hon. Members and that the public at large is safe when it does come here. It is a disgrace that we must bear but it is isolated. It is an individual act. So, can we let that matter rest there. Let the police take action. They are already actively involved.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would it be in order to request that, that horrible hon. Member be identified so that we take precautionary measures?

Mr. Speaker: Order! The matter is under police investigation. I understand that this morning that matter made entry hear and an hon. Member talked about it. I also understand that there was a Press conference. Why do you want the Speaker to be the villain?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reason why I am asking the indulgence of the Chair to identify the horrible hon. Member is because we want to know whether we are safe. This is just a precautionary measure. We have female colleagues here.

Mr. Speaker: Order! For those of you who do not know the history of the Speakership, you noticed that when I was brought here last time, there was resistance, Speakers have lost their heads, actually beheaded, because they refused to police hon. Members. I have instructed the security arm of Parliament which also includes the police. We have a fullyfledged police station in Parliament and I have instructed them to do thorough investigations according to the law and take necessary action. Beyond that, it is not my job.

Mr. Ogur: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. What is there to investigate? What is it?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Ogur, were you present? You are asking me "what is there to investigate?" Were you present?

An hon. Member: He is the one!

Mr. Speaker: Are you the one?

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs (Dr. Machage): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. If we cannot be able to name this individual, at least, may we know from which party he belongs?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Dr. Machage, just a few minutes ago when you were seated there, I told Mr. Osundwa that disease knows no parties. In the same breath, crime knows no party, and it was not a party crime; it is an individual crime. So, may the matter rest there?

(Several hon. Members stood up)

in their places)

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): Are we safe? This thing was done at 11.00 o'clock, and that was too late!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, all of you! Mr. Ojode keeps on interrupting while standing here and asking whether we are safe as a totality and as individuals. What do you want me to say when I have already made that assurance? In any case, having known Mr. Ojode for the last ten years and taking into account his stature and size, I think it would be very foolhardy for any hon. Member to try to molest him.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Angwenyi, you know we are taking all our time because it is a juicy issue. But it is serious and I have already instructed the police to do what they have to do, and that is enough.

The Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development (Mr. Kenneth): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it, Mr. Kenneth?

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think there is---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Angwenyi why do you think in your estimation that you do have overriding rights over Mr. Kenneth?

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are you only concentrating on the other side of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Dr. Ali, relax! Relax! Proceed, Mr. Kenneth!

The Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development (Mr. Kenneth): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your opening statement on this issue, you said that the victim or the girl has been sacked. Is it in order---

Hon. Members: No! No! He denied!

An hon. Member: You were asleep!

The Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development (Mr. Kenneth): Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe I did not hear correctly, but according to what Mr. Wamwere said, the same report from KTN alluded to the Chief Whip of the party of that hon. Member saying that they were undertaking the necessary investigations. I would also like you to assure this House that after the investigations, you will give us a full report on the issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think we should get this thing right. An issue of that gravity is not going to be an in-house matter. If it is true, it is criminal and the usual criminal law applies. I have already said that nobody has an immunity. What else do you want me to say?

An hon. Member: Identify the culprit!

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of procedure, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Obwocha, I have been in this Chair for sometime and I have never come across any single Standing Order that says that you can rise "on a point of procedure". Either you rise on a point of order or you do not.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if certain things are not happening the way they should be, it is normal for hon. Members to bring this to the attention of the Speaker. I thought this is provided for in the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: But I have already disposed of it!

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not touching on that issue which you have already made a ruling on, but I am just wondering whether the ruling you have given, which I have no quarrel with at all--- Under the Powers and Privileges Act, even if an hon. Member commits a crime in this House the procedure - I would like you to clarify - is that the orderlies of Parliament are the ones to arrest the culprit and do the investigation on what he has done. It is not the police. I hope we are not going back to 1976 when police came and arrested hon. Members in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Let me repeat this and I will say it with a very straight face. If you proceed now to Continental Building and molest a lady, you will be arrested by the police and you will go to prison. Every Member must get that right. Nobody is immune from criminal prosecution. That must be understood. Every Member here must at all times behave in a manner that will not invite any criminal prosecution. I hope that is understood. The criminal law of this land is not blind to a class of people. It is actually totally blind to your stature, colour, wealth, station in life and whatever else. If you are really jittery about this, please just be on the safe side of the law and you will have no problem.

Next Order!

(Loud consultations)

Order, hon. Members! I will not have a short-cut or a linear way of dealing with this matter. If you are inviting me to deal with it in-house instead of using the law of the land, I kindly decline. We will let the full force of the law apply. That is how it ought to be. If the Member is proved innocent; he will be innocent. If he is found guilty, **[Mr. Speaker]**

he will be dealt with according to the law. That is it.

Next Order!

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! You should sit down now. I think there should be an end to everything. The end has now come and so I decree.

Next Order!

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday 18th February, 2003.

(The Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction on 19.2.2003)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 26.2.2003)

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor this morning? I am informed that Mr. Akaranga has finished.

Mr. Angwenyi!

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this important Motion. First, I would like to commend the President for giving a lucid and clear statement on the affairs of this country. The statement showed the vast experience that the President has over the matters of this country. I would like to comment on certain issues raised in the statement by the President. First, is the fact that the Government has now admitted that our economy is in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). We were told by one of the Ministers in 1998 that our economy was in ICU and we never admitted it until now.

Our economy is in ICU mainly because of corruption, what happened during the Goldenberg debacle, what has happened in the Judiciary and in all our sectors of the Government. The only way we can turn round our economy is for us to get together and accept--

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, can I have your protection?

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members!

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you can spare me---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Angwenyi! You seek my intervention to restore order and you become disorderly! Now, you must be orderly, Mr. Angwenyi, otherwise I will deal with you immediately. Now be orderly! Proceed.

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I always ask for your defence.

I was saying that in order to turn round the economy of this country, the NARC Government should implement all the pledges they made. They have started implementing some of the pledges. For example they have provided free education and that is commendable. We would like them to extend that to pre-primary school education. We would like our nursery school teachers to be paid their salaries by the Government.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Who is that lady? Order, hon. Members! We are contributing and we would like to

have orderly business. I am sure there are a lot of hon. Members who would like to hear Mr. Angwenyi. Please give them a chance. If you want to consult please go ahead, but do it in a quiet manner. Mr. Angwenyi, you must also create interest.

(Laughter)

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will go ahead and create interest. First, this Government must grapple with the problem of the Goldenberg scandal. All the names of the people who have been mentioned in the Parliamentary Report on Goldenberg must be tabled here in Parliament and those who are in the Government or in positions of influence must be forced to resign. The Tribunal which has been set up to investigate the Goldenberg issue cannot do its work if some of the suspects in that issue are still holding influential positions in our Government.

I do know that the President is a man of integrity, but let him not assume that everybody in his Government is a man of integrity because there are those---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Angwenyi! At tribunal means that it will be open to receive evidence from everybody, including you. So, please do not turn this debate into a tribunal. You have commented enough. Now go to other issues.

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I hope that some of the tribunals being set up are not meant to gag our contributions in this House. As we grapple with that problem, we should remember that this country lost Kshs68 billion through the Goldenberg scandal. This money is enough to do all our infrastructure, increase supply of our energy by 50 per cent and create the 500,000 employment opportunities promised by the NARC Government in five years. This money is enough to employ 10 million Kenyans. So, a commission cannot stop me from talking about this issue---

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am rising on a point of order to plead with the Chair that if it is possible, the Chair should allow its eye to be caught by the Member for Mt. Elgon so that when he is contributing, maybe, he may have something useful to say.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think you are eating unnecessarily into Mr. Angwenyi's time.

Proceed!

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know this country's economy has been damaged seriously because of insecurity in our villages and towns. We would like the Government to ensure that security is restored in this country. Recently, the Newzealand cricket team was not able to come to this country because they feared for their safety. Instead of making arguments in international fora about our security, let us restore security and be seen to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second thing I want to talk about is on the Ministry of Local Government. The Minister for Local Government has done a very commendable job, and I would like him to continue with that job, even if he makes decisions in his toilet, or in the air! That man is reviving our Local Government in this country. What hon. Maitha and his colleagues; Mr. Raila, Dr. Kituyi, Dr. Kulundu, and Mrs. Ngilu are doing is commendable. If we remove some of these cobwebs, I am sure this country will restore its lost glory and we will move our economy forward.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is only one fear that I want to express, that Kenyans gave too much support to NARC that there is fear, there might be no Opposition by the end of this Parliament! When I listened to hon. Maalim Mohamed's contribution in this House, he said that his people made a mistake by voting for NARC and, therefore, they would vote for NARC during the 2007 General Elections. I realised that they may not have KANU by the end of this Parliament.

(Applause)

There is fear, if it were to come true, that we will not have Opposition by the end of this Parliament, the work that was done by our gallant people, like the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, the late Muliro, hon. Matiba, hon. Rubia, hon. Anyona; and all hon. Members who have suffered; some of them are on that side of the House,

like hon. Koigi wa Wamwere; would have come to a nought because they were struggling to have multipartyism in this country. How do we avoid that situation of a single-party? We need to devise ways of supporting and encouraging these people! They are really fearing being in the Opposition. Hon. Members in KANU, are really in fear, and we need to encourage them, maybe, to pay them some other allowances so that they can work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fear that, if we went back to a single-party---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Angwenyi, are you suggesting that I give them "hardship allowance"?

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, they should get some "hardship allowance." We have realised that even the Leader of Official Opposition has not been in this House. He fears being seen here! So, it is a serious matter! Those people who have fought for multipartyism in this country and they are in the Government side, must find ways of strengthening the Opposition.

The Member for Mosop (Mr. Sambu): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not want to waste the hon. Member's time, but is he in order to impute improper motives that an hon. Member is afraid to be in this House, without bringing a substantive motion?

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is among the few who were strong on that side.

The other thing that I wanted to talk about is that, we are liberalising our country and we are opening our markets to everybody in the world. In the process, we are destroying our industries. So, we would like to have a Select Committee of the House that deals with international treaties regarding trade and agriculture. We do not want to have one person signing for our country, like Mr. Biwott has been doing in the previous Government. We would like Parliament to be involved in these treaties, so that they can take care of the interests of Kenyans.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Nakuru Town (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my names are Mirugi Kariuki, Member of Parliament for Nakuru Town.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my sympathies with the victim who is alleged to have been harassed by an hon. Member of this august House. She has my sympathies, and I extend my legal services if she so needs.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House consists of men and women of honour, and that is why we are called hon. Members. The moment we cease to conduct ourselves in an honourable manner, we have no business being in this House. We lead by example, and if we fail to lead by example, I think we should bow out and look for something else to do. I am feeling embarrassed; the Chair has explained that it is an individual matter, but I must say that we enjoy a corporate image, when we sit here as hon. Members of this House. If one hon. Member is going to taint the corporate image of this House, I think it is our concern to know who that person is, and what we can do to distant ourselves from that bad image.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was just by the way. First of all, I would like to thank my constituents for having elected me to this House. I think it is a singular honour for me to be in this House. My journey to this House has been a long and a difficulty one. It has taken me 22 years to reach here. The only reason why it has taken me that long is because I have been straining against the tide of dictatorship in this country, the one-party rule, and that is why it has taken me that long.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning, I was trying to retrace my foot steps; and, in the company of the hon. Minister Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, Prof. Wangari Maathai and hon. Mwandawiro Mghanga, we went to the torture dungeons at Nyayo House to see where I spent my 24 days in the torture chambers. It is very sad! The same people who designed those torture chambers are the ones who are now trying to assume a high moral ground to tell us how to run this country.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the great lesson of the time is that we have to continue to work for our successful and sustainable democracy, and to cultivate a culture of democracy, if we are going to avoid similar pitfalls in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mood in this country is one of great expectations, as one writer, Charles Dickens, puts it in his book. It is great expectations because people are coming from the dark days and they are looking forward. Their hopes are very high and they look forward to great changes in this country.

The philosophy of the African medicinemen is that, if you are sick, the medicineman looks at the seriousness of the pain and the suffering, and decides how much and how bitter a medicine you can receive. I believe the Presidential Speech is in a manner of a prescription to try and prescribe how to handle the ailments that have faced this country for the last 40 years. Whether we are going to succeed or not, depends on how much determination we have.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to commend the President for what he did yesterday. I am a great believer in the right to life. It is a fundamental right of every citizen to be alive. It was pleasant news for me to read that 200 prisoners had their death sentences commuted to life sentence. However, I would like to say this: The right to life is not merely to be alive. The right to life must mean the right to the means of livelihood. If somebody has no means of livelihood, then his right to life becomes hollow.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know we have 2,800 prisoners on the deathrow; and the modern jurisprudence today says that, if you keep a deathrow prisoner for six months before you execute sentence; which is an involving jurisprudence, then you are already committing an abuse of another person's fundamental right, because you are subjecting him to degrading and inhuman treatment. What I would propose to the Government at this point in time is that, the 2,800 prisoners on deathrow should have their death sentences commuted because the previous Government had already offended their fundamental rights to dignity and by subjecting them to inhuman and degrading punishment. So, I would like to urge that we move a step further and ensure that all cases of people on the deathrow sentence are commuted. Where persons have served prison for more than 15 years, they should get immediate release.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from a constituency where we have many workers. In the last week of the month of January, we had about 24 strikes in the industries in Nakuru Town, and it is important to note here that--- Yesterday, I was having a look at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). That Act says, among other things, that people who want to benefit from the USA's special facility on export should, first, observe human rights, and; secondly, observe the workers' rights. Now, with regard to the workers' rights, we do not seem to have something like that in our Constitution.

So, I am mindful that, in this country, we have not signed Article 87 of the International Labour Organisation Convention. Article 87 says that every worker shall have a right to belong and to form a trade union. That is in Section 8 of the Constitution. During the strikes that engulfed this country, two issues came up; that employers in this country have no respect for workers and they have not allowed workers to form trade unions. Consequently, it has not been possible to have an arbitration or agreement machinery with the employer. I would like the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development to take this into account; that it is not enough to blame workers. If investors have to come to this country, they must come on certain agreed terms. One is that they must respect the dignity of our people. They must respect the workers' rights to form trade unions. Secondly, workers must have job security. They cannot have job security when an employer has to keep an employee for 40 years as a casual. I thought the law was clear on this, that after three months, one becomes permanent and pensionable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do urge that in looking at the question of investors, first, we must look at the fundamental rights of our people to be treated decently as workers in this economy.

Maj. Madoka: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Maj. Madoka, are you interrupting a new Member when he is making his maiden speech?

The Member for Nakuru (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I enjoy immunity. I seek your protection.

Mr. Speaker: Your immunity continues for a very short time!

The Member for Nakuru (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about the Judicial reforms. It is was an anti-climax when Justice Chunga resigned yesterday. That means that the trial of the Chief Justice by the Tribunal will not proceed. However, the problem with the Judiciary was not Justice Chunga alone. The problem with the Judiciary is the manner of appointment of Judges. We have Judges who are incompetent and corrupt. The struggle to reform the Judiciary must proceed, with or without Justice Chunga. I am mindful about the independence of the Judiciary. However, the independence of the Judiciary does not exist on paper; it depends on the character of an individual. In this regard, to be able to ensure that we have credible Judges who command independence, there is need for a vetting system through which they can be vetted in terms of moral stature and professional competence before they can be appointed to the Bench. I hope the reform in the Judiciary will proceed. I do urge the Minister in charge of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to use the issue of grabbing of public property. Most Judges in this country have benefited from acquisition of public houses and land. If we were to ask each one of them who has unlawfully acquired a house or land, to resign, we will be able to offload

two-thirds of the Judges currently holding offices in the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was elected by hawkers, among other people. One thing they have asked me to do is to speak about their rights. As much as possible, hawkers should be part of the formal sector. They need protection from harassment because they are part of our citizens and they need to have a means of livelihood. I hope the Minister for Local Government will take a more serious view of this matter. It is a matter which requires planning and strategising in terms of putting this informal sector into the formal sector and being able to regulate it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, my people in Nakuru have water shortages. I hope that in the fullness of time, the Government will appreciate there is a pipe that runs through the town into a farm called Kabarak. One individual has been consuming water at the expense of the entire town. I hope the Minister for Water Resources Management and Development will put her foot down and ensure that, that six-inch pipe which goes to Kabarak Farm is diverted to Nakuru Town for our people to consume water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last point is that I would like to disassociate myself from hon. Members who purported to speak on behalf of the people of Rift Valley. I stay in the capital of Rift Valley and I am not a part of those tribal jingoists.

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

Mr. Speaker: Who is that Member at the very last corner there? Is that Mr. Poghisio? Sometimes, it is advantageous to sit very far away from the Speaker, but often time, it is not. So, proceed, Mr. Poghisio!

The Member for Kacheliba (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute. I would like to begin by congratulating my colleagues on both sides of the House for being elected to this House. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, for your election as the Speaker of this august House. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker. This is a good opportunity for hon. Members of the Ninth Parliament to think about what this Parliament should look like. Every Parliament is unique. The second Parliament was different from the first Parliament. The Seventh and the Eighth Parliaments were different. What will be the difference of the Ninth Parliament is what we should be talking about.

My disappointment is that sycophancy is hereditary. Previously, it was KANU that had the sycophants, but today, it is the other side. You cannot say anything about the NARC Government. You cannot criticise it. Let us come out of it. Let us see the difference and tolerance in the NARC

Government. A lot of things have been said about KANU. Some people think they can heap blame on KANU and get away with crime. I would like to ask that we all think about the Ninth Parliament and what kind of qualities will characterise it so that it is different from the other Parliaments we have had. In 1992, Members of the ruling party and the Opposition could not even see eye to eye or talk to each other. The situation improved in 1997 when more tolerance was created. In the year 2003, we must see the difference. Let us move out of these phobias and fears that we used to have of each other and let us embrace each other for the sake of development.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty God who has sustained all of us. I remember hon. Members on the other side were all horrified when there was an airplane crash. The hon. Members on this side felt as much sympathy as them. God sustained all of us. It touches me that sometimes we have no regard for God or things that will bring us together. God sustained those hon. Ministers apart from Mr. Khalif who lost his life. We were very sorry for him. We are brothers and sisters and we care for one another. We share a number of things. A lot of us are partners in many ways. Many here are partners in business with hon. Members on that side of House. They share some legal and even illegal business. Some of them have grabbed the same property and they share it together. Nothing changes just because you have crossed the Floor. The pre-supposition we have is that you cannot become clean just by joining the NARC Government. You cannot change the human nature. The spots in you are inside. They are not outside. We are judged by our character. I think that is the character we want to develop.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Kacheliba Constituency. Those are great people. They made the right choices, especially the choice to elect me as their Member of Parliament. I would like to congratulate them for sticking with me during the last general elections.

I speak like this because I am a product of the Sixth Parliament. This was the one party Parliament.

I stand out as one person who made some kind of history at that time. Although I was elected for a five-year term, I served for only a few months, and then I was expelled from the ruling party, Kenya African National Union (KANU). Consequently, I lost my parliamentary seat. I am still consulting with myself, my lawyer and constituents to see whether I can seek redress on that issue. That is something which I would like to continue looking into. During that time, we stood for some principles and lost our seats. It is possible that we remain Members of Parliament sitting on both sides of the House.

My other appeal is that we do not have to work very hard to try and destroy the Official Opposition party.

If today you tell me that you desire that we go back to the one-party system of the Sixth Parliament, I do not think that, that will auger well for us. I would like to see more support given to the Official Opposition party, and the entire Opposition of this House. The Government should not do things in order to destroy the Official Opposition. Some of the things we have talked about were meant to destroy the Official Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for the way you have handled and run the affairs of this House. We pray that this time round you are going to guide us to be very tolerant to each other, and at the same time develop a unique character of this House.

I come from a place that is known for, again, another type of uniqueness. Kacheliba Constituency is arid and is inhabited by pastoralists. The sensitivity of the Government in helping pastoralists is, to say the least, absent. Even the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government has to review its policy about free education.

The Pokot people of Kacheliba Constituency, or wherever they are, are not enjoying free education. So, what do you want them to do? Do you want them to remain out there and continue herding their cows and, therefore, never get to catch up, and then you only recognise them when they share their cattle wealth with their neighbours?

Statements which have been emanating from the Government side of the House have been very discouraging. Government Ministers are on firing sprees, and some of them have some kind of vendetta. I was not amused when a Minister fired an officer on the streets, condemning him for having a doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree. What is wrong with having a PhD? If you have a quarrel with PhDs, you had better find one, and you may realise that it is useful to you. Some of the statements that come from that side of the House need to be weighed. I was watching a senior member of the Government say that members of the current Government should never shake hands with hon. Members who were formerly with the Kenya National Union (KANU). Shame on them!

If such statements are not a recipe for chaos in this country---

Mr. Khamasi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have heard Mr. Poghismo say that a Minister actually sacked an officer for having a PhD. I have never heard of such an incident. Could the hon. Member, please, substantiate the allegation?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Poghismo, under Standing Order No.69, you are responsible for the utterance you have made. So, could you proceed and substantiate it?

The Member for Kacheliba (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I meant to say that the Minister sacked an officer and condemned him for having a PhD. In fact, the Minister for Local Government said: "Nimemfukuza daktari pamoja na PhD yake." He said that at a marketplace. How was the PhD related to the sacking of the officer? I think there is an issue with that.

Some hon. Members on the Government side have made some irresponsible utterances. For instance, the hon. Member who said that people should not shake hands with hon. Members who were previously with KANU has done more than shaking hands with people who were also in KANU. The good thing about NARC is that more than half of its hon. Members were actually in KANU. We have donated some manpower to that side of the House.

I would like to end my contribution by appealing to the Government for famine relief food. As of now, the nomadic people are starving. Starvation should not be used to hit at people. The Government should act fast and send relief food supplies to those people because they do not have any food. Since last November, we have had no rains; livestock and the people in that area are starving.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, because of the apparent high population, I will be giving chances to two hon. Members on the Government side, and then one to the Opposition side. The Opposition side is sparsely populated, while the Government side is densely populated.

Dr. Wekesa, you may have the Floor.

The Member for Kwanza (Dr. Wekesa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to share my views with my colleagues. First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Noah Mahalang'ang'a Wekesa. My constituency is Kwanza. It borders Kapenguria, Saboti and Cherengany Constituencies and Uganda. I was first elected the Member of Parliament for Kwanza in 1988. However, because of the tribal clashes of 1991/92, I was bundled out of this House. I came back in the year 2000, through a by-election, following the death of the late George Kapten. I am grateful that the people of Kwanza have elected me to represent them in this House for the third time, and I am here to share this historical period with my colleagues. I will not forget to congratulate Members of Parliament, who have been elected to this historic Parliament, when our country has experienced a transition, from a Government which had been in power for 40 years, to a new Government being led by His Excellency the President, Mwai Kibaki.

I will, straightaway, congratulate the President for his wonderful Address, which was focused and very brief. During the electioneering period, I accompanied the President to most of the rallies. So, what I can tell my colleagues here is that what is contained in this Address are virtually the same things he was saying at every campaign venue we visited. Kenyans out there have heard the contents of this Address repeated several times in the rallies that we had.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say that I am lucky to be here with you, experiencing a historic happening. There was a tremendous need for change. As you can see, more than half of the Members of Parliament of the Eighth Parliament did not make it back to this House, because Kenyans had decided that they had, had enough of the previous Government, which had been in power for 40 years. However, I have one misgiving. I was at Uhuru Park when former President Moi was handing over power to President Kibaki. I do not know who to blame for the confusion that prevailed during that function. Those of you who were there with me will agree that we, in the NARC Government, were a bit over-zealous. I do not approve the heckling that President Moi got. I do not think I approved to see President Museveni looking for a chair for his wife! I literally saw the President of Uganda rising from his chair and asking one of the Kenyans to move away from his chair saying: "This is my wife! Could you let her sit down?" Being a Kenyan, and him being my age group, I really did not think that was good enough. I do not know who to blame because, actually, at that point in time, we had not taken over the Government.

The Member for Gwasi (Mr. Syongo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member of Parliament to insinuate that NARC might have been responsible and yet, the entire process and ceremony was organised and managed by the outgoing Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order! May I advise the new Member! In this House, Members have a right to their opinions. That is his opinion. You are telling him yours. The problem is: You want to impose yours on him and that is not acceptable! But because you are new, you will get away with it. But I have now noticed you! So, you will not be new again to me!

The Member for Gwasi (Mr. Syongo): Is that a threat?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a threat!

The Member for Kwanza (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if my honourable colleague had given me time, I was just going to say exactly that. I said that I was sitting there and I was not sure that in fact, it was KANU which was responsible for the diplomatic arrangements that we had on that day. Quite honestly, President Moi was quite magnanimous and during his speech, there was heckling from youths that sat very close to the dais.

The Government of the day should have been more focused in making the security arrangements. But I want to say that for the first time in this part of the world, we had a very smooth transition. I think for that, we must be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, Kenyans overwhelmingly gave us support. I want to give credit to the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK). There was not much rigging of the elections that we saw. The counting of votes at the polling stations cut out a lot of the rigging that we have been used to. So, we must commend the ECK for having done a good job. I think what we need next time, and I hope Mr. Speaker and my colleagues will agree with me, the nominations both in KANU and NARC were not quite smooth. I would like to see a situation where we have complete transparency in the nominations at the party level. Definitely, in my party, there was quite a bit of confusion and with a bit of luck, I made it here. But we hope we will work on that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to share the view of the Member from Nakuru. I do come from the Rift Valley and I was not amused in the last one week to hear some of the sentiments of my colleagues on the other side of the House. You remember that in 1991, a group of Members of Parliament from Rift Valley went to a place called Kapkatet somewhere in Kericho. They had a meeting where tribal sentiments were expressed and following that meeting, there were tribal clashes that caused many deaths in this country. My constituency still reels from the ills of those tribal clashes. Many people were killed and others lost their land. I also want to share my sentiments with the honourable Member for Kacheliba that, at this point in time, we should try as much as possible to minimise tribalism. The utterances of my colleagues in the Rift Valley do not augur well for minimising tribalism. Tribalism has been used by the former regime to give out jobs, land and favours of various kinds. I do not think Kenyans want to see that. We would like to work together.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to Members of Parliament on both sides of the House that we are going to need our friends in the Opposition. We have so many Bills that are coming to this House that will need a lot of support. For NARC to be able to do what we have planned to do, we need to work together. We need to minimise tribalism. We must learn how to work together.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Yatta (Mr. J.P. Mutiso): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A few minutes ago, you recognised that the Government side is densely populated while the Opposition side is sparsely populated. Could you exercise your powers and annex the lower side of the House and append it to the Government side for convenience sake and then remove these funny looking chairs from this side?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I was worried that you thought that I had not kept my word. Take it from me that I always keep my word. I have called Dr. Mwiria to speak, but you are asking me to annex. I will not annex because the whole House belongs to me. So, all I can do is give certain directions. If it does appear to me at any occasion that one side of the House is so populated that you cannot have enough air to breathe and one side is not populated, I will just direct that you can move to the other side; you can move there and sit there for the duration of that period. But for the time being, it does look like you have a good representation here on my right, but there are so many empty seats; unless for some strange reasons you want to occupy a whole bench to yourself!

Proceed, Dr. Mwiria!

The Member for Yatta (Mr. J.P. Mutiso): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is space---

Mr. Speaker: Order! If that one is too crowded, could you sit next to the honourable lady seated over there. There are three seats there that are not occupied!

Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My names are Dr. Kilemi Mwiria, Member of Parliament for Tigania West. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Tigania West for ensuring that my trip to Parliament was not as long as that of Mr. Mirugi Kariuki! Secondly, I would like to touch on the point that Mr. Poghiso made about Mr. Maitha expelling or firing people with PHDs. It reminded me of 1987 when Mr. Kenneth Matiba was completely frustrated by what KANU was doing; imposing Dr. Gikonyo Kiano on the people! He referred to Dr. Gikonyo Kiano's PHD as "Permanent Head Damage". Maybe, that is what Mr. Maitha had in mind!

I would like to contribute four main points. The first one is the need for meritocracy in our educational institutions. It is one thing to have the right qualifications and another thing to have the right people in Government institutions. If our education systems do not respect merit, then the people who can be used later on to protect those benefits will not be there. I am saying this because it is becoming increasingly clear that it is no longer the top students who are admitted to our best schools.

The rich people are increasingly buying places that are meant for children from poor families in our national and provincial secondary schools. We know that for one to be admitted to tertiary institutions, for example, the Kenya Utalii College and medical training colleges, which are the most corrupt institutions, you have to buy the admission. We also know that it is no longer enough for one to have the required physical qualifications to join the police force or the armed forces. You will have to pay money in order to be given such jobs.

To ensure that we promote merit, a number of measures will have to be taken. First, we should ensure that only the best students join the best institutions as it used to be the case in the 1970s and 1980s. Secondly, bright Kenyans should not be prevented from joining national or provincial secondary schools because they cannot afford to pay schools fees. We know that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology receives about Kshs100 million for bursaries for students from poor backgrounds.

Thirdly, it is important for tertiary institutions to ensure that their system of recruitment is centralised just as is the case with public universities. Once recruitment has been done to tertiary institutions and secondary schools, names of the students who have been admitted should be published in newspapers so that there is no room for corruption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also have to change our attitudes. It is us in the Government who ensure that those who have not merited are admitted to these institutions. In this regard, I would like to plead with the Opposition to ensure that it checks the Government so that it does not engage itself in excessive practices. KANU Members of Parliament are familiar with Government excesses through experience. Absolute power corrupted some of them completely.

Secondly, I would like to talk about good governance. The reason why we are all scrambling for the few places available at Alliance High School, Mangu High and Precious Blood, Kilungu, is because the previous regime destroyed our education system. When I joined secondary school, I did not have to go to Alliance Secondary School to compete with the students there. There were many other secondary schools in the country that performed as well as Alliance and Mangu Secondary Schools. What has happened is that today a lot of people who are running these institutions do not have the right qualifications, and so many of the institutions that used to perform well are no longer worth their names. So, it is important for us to review the system of promotions and the existing positions in our education system, to ensure that only the most qualified people run these institutions.

Secondly, it will be useful to strengthen our boards of governors and school committees, so that parents can question much more effectively the excesses that take place because of poor administrators. It is important to ensure that once we have reviewed our system, future promotions are based on nothing but merit.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about the Government's commitment to the implementation of free and compulsory primary education programme. I want to assure hon. Members that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is also concerned about the provision of quality education.

It is not enough to send children to school if provision of quality education is not ensured. Appropriate measures are being taken in that regard. The Ministry is also aware that you cannot provide free and compulsory primary education without thinking about post-primary school opportunities. We have read in newspapers about overcrowded schools, especially in Nairobi. One of the reasons why these schools are overcrowded is that there are only a few good schools. Furthermore, there are few schools in the City and in bigger towns such as Mombasa and Nakuru.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you went to school during the colonial days. During those days, the colonial masters did not favour Africans, and Europeans and Indians had the best opportunities. The same whiteman who did not like us at Independence left some space for us in towns for the construction of additional schools. One of the promises that the KANU Government made at Independence was that it would increase educational opportunities for the disadvantaged Africans. But when KANU came to power, it grabbed the school grounds that were set aside by the whiteman who did not like us. It is important that, as Mr. Maitha and the Minister for Lands and Settlement begin to look out for the people who have grabbed prime land in this country, we should also come up with a catalogue of the educational institutions' land that has been grabbed. We should put measures in place to ensure that such land is repossessed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, fourthly, I would like us to acknowledge the contribution of those who set the table for us as we waited to come to this House. For example, Mr. Mirugi Kariuki, Mr. Koigi Wa Wamwere, Mr. Raila Odinga and others who fought in the 1970s and 1980s to make it possible for us to be here today. It is not just enough to recognise them. Some of these people, for example, Mr. Wamwere and Mr. Raila are hon. Members of this House; others are out of this country because they lost their jobs and others died in the course of the struggle. It is important for us to rehabilitate those who are not part of the mainstream. It is not enough to rebury the remains of the late J.M. Kariuki or the remains of the Mau Mau heroes. The Government should set aside a foundation for the children of the Kenyans who died in the course of the struggle for Independence of this country, so that those children will know that their parents did not die in vain.

Finally, I would like to ask two questions. Whenever hon. Members from North Eastern Province speak, they complain about having been condemned to the dustbin by the former KANU regime. They are hoping that the situation will be redressed, yet they were the greatest supporters of KANU. What is wrong with them? When you read stories about looting and grabbing in this country, you wonder whether some of the people who were running this country were human beings or animals.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Wundanyi (Mr. Mwandawiro): Bw. Spika, hii ni mara yangu ya kwanza kuchaguliwa kama Mbunge. Kwa hivyo, ninachukua nafasi hii kuwashukuru watu wa eneo la Wundanyi kwa kunichagua kama Mbunge wao. Kulikuwa na upepo mkubwa sana uliovuma kutoka pande zote mbili. Jina langu ni mhe. Mwandawiro Mghanga, Mbunge wa Wundanyi. Nilichaguliwa kwa tikiti ya FORD(P). Ninawashukuru watu wa eneo la Wundanyi kwa kunichagua.

Sisi Wakenya tumechukua hatua kubwa sana ya demokrasia. Ninaomba Serikali ya National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), ambayo iko mamlakani ieneze demokrasia katika nchi yetu. Serikali inafaa kuwahakikishia wananchi wa Kenya popote walipo kuwa wao ni wananchi wa Kenya bila kujali ni wa chama gani. Serikali ikitoa nafasi za kazi au ikitekeleza sera za maendeleo, ni lazima izingatie kwamba Wakenya wana haki ya kuchagua chama chochote ambacho wanakitaka.

Bw. Spika, baada ya kusema hayo, ningependa kuchukua nafasi hii kuchangia kidogo Hotuba ambayo Rais wetu alitoa hapa. Kwa jumla, Hotuba hiyo ilikuwa inajaribu kueleza sera za chama cha NARC, kwa mfano, maendeleo, ardhi, maji na haki za kibinadamu. Pia, Hotuba ya Rais iligusia sera mbali mbali za kuendeleza nchi yetu. Kwa jumla, ninaweza kusema kwamba hii inaonyesha mwelekeo mzuri wa kujaribu kufanya mambo upya. Hii inaonyesha ari ya watu ambao wanazungumza kwa maneno halisi kuhakikisha kwamba Kenya iko na sura mpya ya maendeleo tofauti na ile iliyokuwa hapo awali. Kwa moyo huo ambao umedhihirika katika Hotuba hiyo, ninaipongeza.

Vile vile Hotuba hiyo ya Rais inamlika ari iliyoko kwa Mawaziri wa NARC kwa kujaribu kufanya mambo upya. Ukiangalia katika Wizara ya Serikali za Mitaa, Wizara ya Barabara, Ujenzi na Nyumba, Wizara ya Mazingira, Wizara ya Afya, Wizara ya Haki na Wizara zingine, utaona juhudi kubwa ambazo zinafanywa

kujaribu kubadilisha mambo na kuboresha maisha katika nchi yetu. Ningependa kuwaomba Mawaziri hao waendeleo na moyo huo. Ari hiyo ikiendelea, baada ya mwaka mmoja au miwili, nchi yetu itaimarika sana. Hofu yangu ni kwamba labda hali hii itaishia njiani. Kwa hivyo, ninawaomba Mawaziri waendeleo na moyo huo.

Baada ya kusema hayo, ningependa kuchangia kuhusu falsafa ambayo imejitokeza katika Hotuba ambayo Rais alitoa hapa. Ikiwa tutalinda Uhuru wa nchi hii, na tuhakikishe kwamba kuna sera tofauti za kiuchumi na maendeleo ambazo zitabuni kazi na kubadilisha maisha ya Wakenya, ni lazima sera hizo zizingatie hali halisi ya historia ya nchi yetu, kiuchumi, kijamii na kitamaduni. Pia, ni sharti sera hizo zizingatie matarajio na matakwa yetu sisi Wakenya. Ikiwa sera hizo zitasukumwa nje, basi tutapotea na hatutakuwa tofauti na wale watu wengine.

Bw. Spika, ninaomba kutofautiana na wale Wabunge ambao wanasema kwamba nchi yetu isipate misaada. Ningependa kuomba misaada itolewe kwa wingi ili isaidie kuimarisha maisha ya Wakenya. Lakini, sisi tukiwa Wakenya, tukumbuke kwamba jukumu la kuendeleza na kuleta mabadiliko katika nchi yetu litatoka kwetu. Ningependa kusema kwamba ile misaada ambayo itatolewa kwa nchi hii, itolewe kwa misingi hiyo hiyo.

Katika Hotuba ya Rais, niliona falsafa ambayo imetawala; ni ile falsafa ya kusifu ubinafsishaji wa uchumi katika nchi ya Kenya. Ingawa ninakubali kwamba sekta ya kibinafsi ni muhimu katika kuendeleza uchumi wa nchi yetu, inahitaji kusaidiwa na kuendelezwa sana. Kitu ambacho kinanitia hofu ni yale mawazo ambayo yanajitokeza, kwamba umma si muhimu. Hotuba ya Rais iligusia kidogo umma au mashirika ya Serikali. Ningependa kupendekeza kwamba ikiwa tutaongeza ajira ili watu wapate kazi katika nchi hii na maendeleo yapatikane, ni lazima tufanyie uchunguzi mashirika ya Serikali ili tufahamu ni kwa nini yalifilisika.

Bw. Spika, ningependa kuipongeza Serikali kwa kutoa elimu ya bure katika shule za msingi. Hili ni jambo la kuunga mkono. Lakini kama tunaweza kusaidia ili elimu hii iwe ya kujiendeleza, ni lazima tufufue Kenya School Equipment Scheme na Jomo Kenyatta Foundation. Tukifunga Kenya School Equipment Scheme au Jomo Kenyatta Foundation halafu tutoe pesa kutoka kwa Wizara ya Fedha na kuwapatia watu binafsi waendeleo kutajirika, hatutabuni nafasi za kazi, na mradi huo au sera ya kutoa elimu ya bure na lazima katika shule za msingi haitafaulu.

Katika Hotuba ya Rais, swala za haki za kibinadamu liliguswa. Mengi yamesemwa kuhusu swala hili, na sitarudia. La muhimu kusisitiza ni kuwaomba wale wenzetu ambao walikuwa katika Serikali ya KANU wawaombe msamaha Wakenya kwa yale mambo mabaya ambayo yalifanyika. Mambo ambayo yamedhihirika sasa hivi ni mambo ya aibu sana. Inachukuwa miaka mingapi kuwa na Waziri wa Serikali mpya ambaye anaweza kujitolea kutembelea magereza yetu na atambue kwamba watu wamekaa hapo kwa zaidi ya miaka 25; na atambue kwamba hukumu ya kifo inastahili kujadiliwa na kuangaliwa upya?

Ningependa kumpongeza Waziri anayehusika na Mambo ya Ndani ya Nchi kwa kutembelea magereza yetu. Pia, ningependa kumpongeza Rais kwa kuwaachilia huru wafungwa ambao walikuwa wamehukumiwa kifo.

Pia, ninawapongeza kwa kumlika ndani ya magereza yetu.

Ningependa kusema kwamba haki za kibinadamu zimevunjwa kwa miaka mingi sana katika magereza mpaka huo ukawa utamaduni, na si rahisi kuutupilia mbali utamaduni huo. Ikiwa tutafanya mambo tofauti, basi tuwapeleke maofisa wapya kufanya kazi katika magereza yetu. Kuna watu wengi sana ambao walikuwa wamefungwa muda mrefu sana. Wengine wao walikuwa huko Nyayo House wakiandamana. Watu hao ni wazalendo, wana ujuzi, elimu na nia ya kulinda haki za kibinadamu. Watu kama hao wakipeleka kufanya kazi katika magereza yetu, watalinda haki za kibinadamu.

Jambo lingine ambalo ningependa kuchangia ni kuhusu watu wa Wilaya ya Taita-Taveta. Mambo hayo yalitajwa hata katika ule muhtasari wa mwongozo wa Katiba mpya ambayo tunafikiria kuitekeleza. Inasemekana kwamba kama kuna watu ambao wamenyanyaswa, wameporwa rasilimali zao, hasa ardhi, basi ni wale watu wa Taita-Taveta. Kama kuna pahali ambapo kuna rasilimali nyingi sana ambazo zinafaa kutumiwa vizuri kuchangia katika maendeleo ya nchi yetu, na vile vile kuchangia katika maendeleo ya watu ambao wanatoka sehemu hiyo, ni katika Wilaya ya Taita-Taveta. Kama vile unavyofahamu Tsavo National Park inapatikana sehemu hiyo. Pia madini mengi ambayo yametajirisha watu wengi sana yanapatikana katika wilaya hiyo.

Nominated Member (Dr. Ojiambo): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to also contribute to this very important debate. I want to congratulate you and your deputy for being elected to those very important offices which are going to guide the deliberations of this House.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to add my voice to the many that have

congratulated His Excellency the President on his excellent exposition of public policy to this House and nation at large. The President was very bold, clear and decisive on several issues of very significant influence on the lives of Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Members have already contributed on the area of corruption. I just want to say that Kenyans had come to realise and believe under the past regime that corruption would never be wiped out of this country. Indeed, the former President used to talk about it as if it was something his government could not tackle. We are very happy that Kenyans have an opportunity to talk about corruption at all levels. We are also very happy that His Excellency the President has gone full speed to find measures of helping Kenyans to tackle this very bad cancer of all times that has eaten into our system and caused Kenyans to suffer the way they have suffered up to December 27th last year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this cancer has caused Kenyans a lot of sufferings under the past regime. The consumer goods are too expensive. When you think of those poor people in the countryside who have continuously voted KANU into power, you will remember that they could not eat. They were terrified and they could not stay in their homes because if they talked about not being able to find service, they would not even sleep in their own houses. Electricity was too expensive because there was no money left in the Government coffers. You then wonder why the former Managing Director of Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) at Stima House was talking of there being no money when everyday we were being made to pay so much for electricity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are certain areas even in Nairobi where consumers are made to pay exorbitantly because it is a zone. Charges are just made arbitrarily. I hope that the Minister for Energy will look into some of these issues and find out why certain people just have to be given a bill at the end of the month based on the area he or she lives, and based on somebody's arbitrary estimation and yet there are certain people in the same area who are paying nothing. We hope that this is going to be looked into.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, telephone bills are just too expensive and then you expect the poor people who are in the countryside and who are maintaining this country's economy to communicate with Government offices here. They are unable to do so because to telephone Nairobi from Busia is too expensive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the same applies to transport, medicine, housing, water and education. Kenyans are very happy today that these issues are being tackled by the NARC Government. One wonders why certain people are making noise when measures to bring back money into the Government so that these services can be given to people are taking place. These are the people who never wished Kenyans a comfortable life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the children would not go to school and yet we heard during elections time that the NARC promise to offer free education to the children of Kenya was false and imaginary. Today, Kenyan children are all in school. What can we say to this? It was sheer lack of consideration from the party of the regime that has just been ousted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one can go on to say why are people making noise when President Kibaki's Government is trying to return money into the coffers so that Kenyans can have these services restored to them. The people who took the money know very well that they have enjoyed the best patronage of Kenyan youth and women because they have given them free and even unsolicited votes to return them to power every time they have wanted it. We know that regimes that have done this have gone out they way KANU went out and we are very happy that Kenyans realised that they had been exploited to a point of no return, and it had to happen. We thank the voters for voting NARC into the Government and ensure them that things are going to improve.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to appeal to Kenyans to realise that the NARC Government has got a lot of work to do, to return money into the coffers so that the Ministers can offer jobs. I want to say that those who are even inciting the workers to go on strike are doing us a lot of disfavour as Kenyans because these same workers who are being caused to run around are the ones who have brought this Government into power and changes into Kenya that we are all going to enjoy. They have hardly had time to sit down and even listen to what their Ministers are doing and what the civil service is going to do to create jobs for them and they are being made to run around.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just would like to take this opportunity to call on Kenyans, particularly the workers, to give the Government a little time because it is for them that President Kibaki has cracked down on corruption so that money can be made available, and when money is made available and no more scandals like the Goldenberg are heard of, money is going to be available and, therefore, the jobs are going to be created. That is not going to happen until the money that is being held by those who grabbed it from the Government coffers are removed and the money is once more made available.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that there are a lot of things that we Kenyans can do. I am very happy that Kenyans are doing very good things like catching the traffic police on the roads who ask for bribes because that is a way of showing others that corruption must end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to request the Office of the President to help the transport industry. There was commission headed by Justice Cockar on insurance. There is a report that was written and handed over to the former President and we know that in that report there were lots of measures that would have helped the transport industry in this country to work better, and also to reduce those middle activities between the police and the transport industry, particularly the *matatu* drivers who are harassed over licences and so on. That report has never been implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that report is somewhere and I would be very happy if President Kibaki can release it out so that it is implemented. It will also help in very many ways the Kenyans who are involved in accidents and have to go to their lawyers; you hear a lot of issues where lawyers just decide that they are going to get so much money from insurance companies and then that money hardly reaches the beneficiaries. A lot to do with that issue was covered in that report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to emphasise that this report would add to the other measures that are being put in place to control corruption in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on education, there are some people---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your time is up!

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. First, I would like to thank the Almighty God for having spared my life in the Busia airplane crash. My name is Robinson Njeru Githae and I represent Ndia Constituency in Kirinyaga District. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Busia for the way in which they rescued us from the plane. The way they were so committed and endangered their lives trying to rescue us was unbelievable because there was danger of the plane exploding. For that, I will forever be very grateful to the people of Busia and to all those who rescued us. I tell you it is good to be alive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the President's Speech. Those who have read the President's Speech will see that it dwelt more on corruption. Corruption is what has brought our country to its knees and it has been practised everywhere. Our rice farmers in Ndia have been unable to sell their rice because some economic hyenas have imported rice duty-free into this country. I would like to appeal to the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development to ban any importation of rice until the rice that is grown in this country has been sold. It is the same story with sugar. Due to corruption in the sugar industry, again, a lot of economic hyenas have imported sugar duty-free into this country and the people of Western Province are also unable to sell their sugar. I would like to appeal to the Minister also to ban any further importation of sugar until the sugar produced in Western Province has been sold. It is the same story in our dispensaries. There is no medicine, again, because of the economic hyenas who have been raiding medicine our stores.

The same case applies to the roads. Our roads are dilapidated. In fact, we have no roads to speak of, again, because of what the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing calls "cowboy contractors". There are roads in my constituency known as Kagio-Baricho-Kerugoya and Njega-Baricho-Kibirigwi which were tarmacked for only three kilometres and the job ended there. I understand that, as far as the records of the Ministry are concerned, they show that those two roads were tarmacked. This is a big shame to the former Government for tarmacking a road and not completing it, and then in their books, they indicate that it is completed. I intend to take up this matter with the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were elected on a NARC ticket because we promised teachers that we were going to look into their salaries. I would like to assure them that we have not forgotten them. As soon as these economic hyenas start paying tax, we are definitely going to keep our promise. It is not only the teachers; even the other sectors in the Government. They gave us a lot of support and we are not going to forget them. We also said that we were going to create 500,000 jobs a year, but they are not going to come from the Government. They are going to come from the private sector and, therefore, it is important for the private sector to be given an enabling environment so that they can create these 500,000 jobs a year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is ridiculous that our electricity cost is the highest in Africa, and yet God does not charge us for the water that we use in our dams. How come that the cost of our electricity is the highest in Africa? There is no way our industries can compete against other industries in other countries unless we reduce the cost of electricity. By the same token, telephone services are very expensive. You cannot do business without a telephone. A telephone is not a luxury, but a necessity. Therefore, we need to reduce the cost of telephone services. Unless we do that, we shall not be able to create the 500,000 jobs.

I am appealing to hon. Members of the former Government who have stashed money in foreign banks to the tune of Kshs60 billion to return it back. I understand it is stashed somewhere in Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and Isle of Man. I am appealing to my colleagues on the opposite side of the House to, please, bring that money back to the country. It will help this country a lot. If you keep it outside, you are only benefiting those

countries. I am also appealing to my friends on the opposite side of the House to start paying their tax arrears so that the Government can get some money to implement its programmes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we were elected on a NARC ticket, we promised to provide free primary school education, which we have done. We would like to do even more, but we cannot do this unless the Government receives taxes. I am appealing to everybody to start paying taxes and I can assure you that this time round, the taxes will be properly utilised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we have to create the 500,000 jobs, we should give businessmen an enabling environment to do their businesses. Like now, many small-scale businesses are collapsing because the big businessmen are not paying their invoices and their bills. I am appealing to all the big companies to start paying the small-scale businesses so that they can get revenue and not collapse.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, I wish to assure this House that the NARC Government will follow the law in all aspects. We are not going to condone the "Bulls of Auckland", "Bulls of Continental House" and the "Bulls of Mt. Elgon". The rule of the law will be followed.

Many companies and individuals have issued a lot of bouncing cheques and that is why people are saying that there is no money in the country. There is nobody who has taken the money, but there are so many dud cheques circulating all over. We should stop this bad habit. If need be, a law will be brought here so that the issuance of bad cheques will be a criminal offence. Unless we do that, this economy will not be revived.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we saw the Nyayo House dungeons and those who tortured people there will be prosecuted for it is against the law and the Constitution.

I support the President's Speech.

The Member for Nyaribari Masaba (Dr. Manduku): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to address this august House on this important Motion on the Presidential Speech during the opening of Parliament on 18th February.

The President's Speech was so inspiring and very transparent. As all my colleagues have already noted, the key word here is corruption. Corruption is what has killed the economy of this country. When he said that he does not tolerate corruption, we support him and very strongly so. The previous Government had mismanaged this country due to its corrupt activities until everybody in this country is so poor that they cannot even manage to buy reasonable clothing. In fact, it was last week when we went round in our constituencies in Kisii and we discovered that our people in the villages are literally walking naked, save for those wearing *mitumba* clothing. Every other person is wearing *mitumba* clothing.

If you may ask in this House you will find that quite a number of hon. Members of Parliament are wearing *mitumba* shirts. They are not buying shirts from the shops, not because they are better, but because they cannot afford to buy shirts from the shops. If hon. Members of Parliament cannot afford good shirts, imagine what is happening to mothers in the villages. This situation was created by the previous Government. They knew that they had killed all our textile industries and substituted them with the importation of *mitumba* clothing. They knew definitely that they were going to import them duty-free. Those who were importing these *mitumba* clothing were those who were very close to the State House. Some of them were sons of prominent people in that Government. They did not pay any duty. They made sure that in order to continue doing this lucrative business, they had to kill our textile industry and introduce *mitumba* clothing. *Mitumba* clothing has degraded Kenyans. We should not be *mitumba* Kenyans. We should now get back to being real Kenyans. Other countries are getting revenue from us when we buy *mitumba* clothing from their countries. The best advice would be to help the cotton farmers and other farmers so that we can be able to produce enough and revive our textile industries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we commend what the Government has come up with on primary education. Indeed, Kenya, as a country, had made a very good step forward by educating its people. But because of poverty, so many children remained home because their parents could not afford to take them to school. You realised that when the President and the Minister for Education, Science and Technology announced free primary education, there was an influx of children to primary schools. This shows how low the poverty levels had got to in the country. I would like to request that while the Minister for Education, Science and Technology is reforming the education sector, he should also look into the provision of facilities. The children may be going to school, but have no facilities. They may also not have enough teachers to teach the poor kids who have rushed to school. It is important to look into this issue. There are also very many teachers who had been trained in readiness to educate our children only to find that poverty had risen and the Government had stopped employing teachers. In fact, it was retrenching teachers. These trained teachers are all over the country. I would like to ask the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to see a way of getting these trained teachers get employed so that they can educate the poor children who have gone to school.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty has also been brought by unemployment. Many people have been retrenched. Many of our students who have completed university education are not getting employment. I sympathise with a situation whereby we have trained very many doctors - I am a doctor by profession - engineers and computer engineers, but after they qualify, instead of going to educate, treat and serve our people, they run into the neighbouring countries. You can imagine Kenyans are migrating to Rwanda because they think Rwanda pays better. Now that we are creating jobs for our people, we should create better facilities and pay them better salaries so that they do not migrate to other countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also another big problem in this country which I would like to ask the NARC Government to address. They are addressing it already, although it is not being well addressed. That is the problem of HIV/AIDS which is a killer. It is like a time bomb which has been put in this country. Those of us who go to hospitals every other day wonder how serious this problem is. It is killing many of our potential people. It is also killing children. It has no sympathy for any person, and yet there is no cure for it. There could be a few suggestions on what the Government could do. For example, in developed countries, once somebody has been diagnosed to be having HIV/AIDS, it is not like here where we give him a death sentence. Here, we just decide that being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS is similar to being given a death sentence.

In developed countries these people can live as long as they want to live because this disease can be managed. There are drugs that they can take and continue surviving without getting serious attacks or dying. These are anti-retroviral drugs which are available and affordable in some of these countries. This country can also make them affordable. I know that very many good people can afford these drugs, but because the price is exaggerated, nobody can afford them.

We read in the newspapers today that the National AIDS Control Council will receive billions of Kenya shillings. Some of this money should be used to buy anti-retroviral drugs for our hospitals so that we can save the lives of some people who are not very seriously affected by the disease. We should also import these drugs at affordable prices into chemists and Government hospitals because this is a disease which we need to fight. We must put all our resources in it. We should not condemn the people who have been attacked by AIDS. It is not completely curable, but life can be extended.

I want to sympathise with professional doctors and nurses because they are in contact with these patients all the time, on daily basis and they have no means of protection. The Government should make sure that they are at least given some compensation or better pay so that they can have the motivation to tackle their duties. Imagine a HIV/AIDS patient who has diarrhoea 24 times in an hour, and the nurse is supposed to clean him up. We clean with our gloves until they become worn out, but we never give up and sometimes we are forced to clean with our own bare hands. You can imagine them working in this kind of a situation and yet they are paid like any other labourer.

I think the Government should look into this issue very seriously because doctors and nurses are exposed to all sorts of infections. For that matter, surgeons end up taking a patient to the theatre without knowing his HIV/AIDS status. As such, a surgeon might prick his finger while stitching up that patient and end up being infected with the virus. Can you imagine how serious that situation is? That is why we are saying they should be paid better salaries. They should also have access to these anti-retroviral drugs so that they can be treated in case they are infected and continue offering their services. A doctor's service is humane. We would not want to be forced into a situation where we have to strike. If doctors strike, many patients will die. I would like to ask the Ministry of Health to look into the issue of improving remuneration for the doctors.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Makadara (Mr. Ndolo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a great honour to stand before this House, first of all, to thank my people of Makadara who voted for me. At the same time I would like to deliberate on the Presidential Speech.

Indeed, as it has been said by a major section of my fellow legislators, the Speech was one of its kind. I am standing here to contribute, not as a Minister for Sports, but also as a sportsman and a Member of Parliament for Makadara. Among us leaders of today are prominent sportsmen. To begin at the top, our own President is a golfer. Our hon. Minister of Roads and Public Works is a striker. Mr. David Mwenje is a prominent rally driver. Mr. Angwenyi is a good rugby player, while I am a professional boxer.

I strongly feel that we need to take sports very seriously just like any other sector of the economy. How do we go about it? Let us go back to the days when we were young in primary school. The reason I am saying that is that our NARC Government is offering free primary education, but if you go to these primary schools right now, it is very sad to find that they do not even have balls. When we talk about equipping our primary schools, our children who are there definitely should have a very good way of living and also a very strong foundation, mentally and physically.

The other issue that I want to touch on is that we need to set up a sports development and revival programme. If we go back to the early 1980s, a country like Senegal performed very badly during the Africa Cup of Nations and the African Championships. They did have a revival programme and that is why you can see now that Senegal is performing very well. As I said, most of us Members of Parliament here are sportsmen. We also need to contribute to the parliamentary sports kitty.

As I pointed out last month, we, Members of Parliament, should contribute to this kitty from our salaries. For example, Mr. Nyachae is a big fan of Shabana while Mr. Raila is a big fan of Gor Mahia. The Vice-President, Mr. Wamalwa, is also a fan of AFC. These leaders can serve as an example to other Members of Parliament by donating to these teams.

There is a tendency nowadays that when these teams go to ask for sponsorship, they are told that they are tribal teams, which is not right. Without these three teams I do not think the standard of football will reach the level that everybody would like to see in this country.

As you know, I represent Makadara Constituency and that is where you will find a lot of factories in this country. However, you will find that most people in Makadara are not even employed in those factories. The NARC Government promised the creation of at least 500,000 jobs in a year. Makadara constituency has more than 1,500 factories.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Makadara Constituency should be given 100,000 jobs because the factories in that constituency contribute about 20 per cent to the economy of this country, if I am not wrong. So, we can be given those 100,000 jobs. It is known that the firm owners come early in the morning to Makadara and go back in the evening to sleep in Westlands, and I can also ask my friend, Mr. Gumo, the Assistant Minister for Education, Science Technology, to be given about 50,000 jobs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying this because there is a lot of corruption which is going on around those factories located in Makadara Constituency. When people from my area go to look for jobs in those factories, they are told that unless they get a letter from an Assistant Minister, they cannot be given a job. I am not saying that because, maybe, I come from Makadara, but I know we are all Kenyans. If we can be paying tax and people from outside get jobs---

I think it is not wrong for me to say that the residents of Makadara Constituency should get jobs in those factories first, before people from other places.

Before I wind up, I will go back to where I started. I started from sports. The Kenya National Sports Council is a supreme body that is supposed to control sports in this country. But as we know, just yesterday, we were talking about football and we realised that, other federations do not regard the Kenya Sports Council as a supreme body, which should run sports activities in this country. I think the patron of that council is our own President. So, if we can give power to Kenya National Sports Council, I think we will not have these wrangles, or problems which our federation is having right now. They do not respect the Kenya National Sports Council because they know they have a lot of money. Majority of them, I am sorry to tell you, are corrupt and that is why they cannot respect that supreme body.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I say that we need to equip our primary schools, it means that our schools should have a lot of ground work. This will help avoid the problem which occurred again this month, when we had a team of under 17 years of age. It is a very big shame, we should be talking about sports and we cannot try and manage our young people in this country.

The Member for Nyeri Town (Mr. Muriithi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to address this august House, for the first time since I was born. I wish to comment on His Excellency's Presidential Address to the country, which touched all areas of our economy, for instance, education, *et cetera*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that in this country we have a number of institutes of technology in six provinces. I would like to call upon the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to elevate some of these institutions so that they can offer degrees on selected disciplines, hence help parents who have been struggling to get their children out of the country, using the much needed foreign currency.

If opportunities are provided in these institutions, then our parents and the community at large will find it easier to educate their children.

Still on education, there is the bursary fund which comes from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Hon. Members do not know how this fund is dispensed when the funds are sent direct to schools. We are not quite comfortable that the actual recipients of such funds are the genuine ones. Therefore, I would like to call upon the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to involve the local leaders to ensure that such bursaries go to the deserving cases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, touching on agriculture, I come from Mt. Kenya region, which is nowadays

becoming popular on agriculture. I would like to call upon the Ministry of Co-operative Development, through the Minister, who said that they are studying cases concerning Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC), Kenya Farmers Association (KFA), coffee and dairy industries--- I would like to ask the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to run a little faster because as they continue studying the cases, our farmers are still losing. We had a lot of milk which we delivered to KCC in the year 2000, and I am aware that, up to now, those farmers have not been paid. Therefore, there is need for the Ministry to establish who are the owners of KCC. It should be determined whether it is owned by the farmers or private individuals, who might have taken it over from the unsuspecting farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to health, the Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction said recently that there will be no more Harambees towards Government-sponsored projects. We had started several dispensaries, particularly in my constituency. I would like to urge the Government to take them over, complete and equip those dispensaries to ease the burden on Nyeri General Hospital.

With regard to water, my constituency has a "ghost" water supply project, commonly know as "JR". Due to the problems facing our farmers, they were unable to pay water bills and the taps were turned off. I would like to call upon the relevant Ministry to turn on the water taps and write off those water bills in order for our farmers to have some water, because they trek long distances to draw untreated water from the rivers, which are as far away as 10 kilometres. If they had good income, and if our coffee was doing well, I am sure they would have paid those bills. Therefore, we urge the Minister in charge to intervene on this matter so that the outstanding bills could be written off and the water allowed to run in those taps.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, touching on finance, recently, one bank told us that they will now charge an interest rate of 10 per cent. I think these English words "base interest rate" are rather confusing. The borrower should know the interest rates charged by a bank. He should be told the lending interest rate is 10 or 15 per cent even before he sees the bank manager. I would like to call upon banks and the Ministry of Finance to make sure that banks do not hide under the phrase "base interest rate". They should come out clearly. Otherwise, the Government should implement the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill or the famous Donde Bill. They should make sure that borrowers know how much they will pay without being subjected to other hidden charges.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, I would like to call upon our NARC Government, because we all claim to be christians and we love one another, to forgive one another. We can solve our problems together. We should avoid witch-hunting because we love one another.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a forest around Mt. Kenya. Part of the Mt. Kenya Forest was cut down and the land grabbed by individuals who went ahead to acquire title deeds. I would like to call upon the Minister for Lands and Settlement to cancel, if possible, those titled deeds. Trees should be planted on that land. I would like to call upon the same Ministry to allow our youths to establish tree nurseries and sell those seedlings to the Government. This will provide job opportunities for our youths. Around the same area, we have Nyayo Tea Zones, particularly in Mt. Kenya area. I feel very strongly that the Government should not engage in the farming business. They should not own any tea zones to compete with the Brooke Bond (K) Ltd. The Nyayo Tea Zones should be subdivided and sold to co-operative societies so that we can create employment for our young people.

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

The Member for Bomachoge (Mr. Onyancha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my names are Joel Onyancha, hon. Member for Bomachoge. I would like to thank you for allowing me to deliver my maiden speech. I have been trying to catch your eye for the last two days, but all in vain. However, I am grateful that this time round, I have caught your eye.

First, may I take the same opportunity to thank the people of Bomachoge for giving me this chance to serve them. I would like to state from the outset that I will do my best in this regard.

On the Presidential Address, I would like to say that hon. Kibaki's Speech was well thought out and it touched on every sphere of our economy. We all know that the security of the people and their property is a cardinal responsibility of the State. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to take stringent measures to protect the Kenyan people from terrorist activities as has happened before in this country. Equally true is the fact that we have had problems in terms of ethnic clashes in this country. We have had clashes in Trans Mara and Gucha districts. I would like to commend the hon. Member for Kilgoris, who is also the Assistant Minister for Health for making it possible for us to discuss peace along the Trans Mara and Gucha borders. My people have suffered greatly because of those flare-ups. The KANU regime did not quite take cognisance of the fact that our people suffered because of the so-called ethnic clashes. I would like to appeal to the Government to settle our people who were displaced during the clashes in Trans Mara and Gucha districts. A few of our friends in the Opposition should stop behaving like they are the first party in the world to lose an election. This talk about

secession is dangerous. It is clearly anti-Kenyan. For the Government to provide adequate security, I think it must address the remuneration of police officers.

The President also talked about education, with specific reference to the free education programme. Having served as a principal of a school for a number of years, I know education even for its own sake, serves a useful purpose in this country. Chinua Achebe, a renowned writer, at one time when discussing about art, said this: "Art for art's sake or what we call phantasmagoria is like a piece of deodorized dog-shit." While the Minister for Education, Science and Technology is struggling to come up with this policy of free and compulsory education, the Government should guard against sacrificing quality for quantity.

While I wish the Ministry well in its endeavour, let us move slowly and make sure we have enough classrooms, desks, books and above everything else, let us have motivated teachers. The NARC Government did promise to look into the plight of the teachers' salaries. The teachers out there are waiting and watching. When I tell teachers in Bomachoge to look at educational standards, they look at me with one eye closed and say: "Hon. Member, you have changed your job group and you have forgotten about us". When the time comes for hon. Members to discuss their salaries and allowances, we shall not be too shy to discuss these issues. The hon. Members, of course, deserve a better pay. But let us also remember that teachers and police officers equally deserve a better pay. There is nothing wrong with improving salaries for civil servants as well.

The President talked of agriculture. He indicated that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. I believe this was not news to hon. Members. Even the Nyayo Government knew this, but did too little to improve the welfare of the farmers. Where I come from, the roads are impassable even during a dry spell like now. Tea cannot leave the buying centres even when there is what is called zoning in the tea industry, particularly in Ogembo Tea Factory. The farmers are crying for the blood of the directors. Recently, in Ogembo Tea Factory, I was shown what farmers refer to as a "morgue" or mortuary where tea cannot be processed and it is only deposited there to rot. Perhaps we should not have privatised the tea industry at the time we did after all! I also know that privatisation does not preclude supervision. I am, therefore, calling up the Minister for Agriculture to move swiftly and find out what is wrong with Ogembo Tea Factory because the shareholders cannot meet to discuss business of the factory. Whenever they want to do this, they are teargassed. Are we in the NARC or in Nyayo Government?

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

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity because for a whole week, I have tried to catch your eye, but all in vain. However, I have finally made it. I know how it feels to sit on the Back Bench. When I used to sit in the Front Bench, I used to catch the Speaker's eye very quickly. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to thank God that two times, Kenyans have gone through peaceful transitions. We witnessed a peaceful Kenyatta-Moi transition. Kenyans and the rest of the world did not believe that Kenya would be a safe country and that the Kenyatta-Moi succession would work. Two months ago, the world did not believe that Kenya could, once again, have a smooth transition from the previous Government to the current one. It is the smooth transition that God has enabled us to have, that I thank Him for. We should not take the smooth political transition that we witnessed for granted. Many African countries have not been able to achieve it; most African countries will never do it. Therefore, I thank all Kenyans who prayed for this nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank His Excellency the President for his Address, which covered almost every aspect we, in the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), promised. As you know, I used to sit with hon. Members on the Opposition side. So, I know them. I feel very sorry for His Excellency the President, Mr. Kibaki. What has he inherited from the former Government, considering what we did with those people? From a security point of view, he has inherited an insecure nation. I thank God for enabling me to move out of the former Government at the right time. Had I not defected to NARC, I would now be seated on the Opposition side, not knowing what to tell Kenyans.

President Kibaki has inherited a Treasury without funds.

An hon. Member: But you were also in the previous Government!

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): I agree that I was in the previous Government. I started my contribution to this debate by thanking God for taking me out of the former Government and putting me into the right party.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, it is Mr. J. Nyagah who has the Floor. So, give him a chance to speak.

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): President Kibaki has inherited a health sector just in name.

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto):--- (inaudible).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Kimeto, if you have any issue to raise, please catch the eye of the Chair rather than heckle. You are an experienced hon. Member.

Mr. J. Nyagah, you may proceed.

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can say the same about the education, agriculture and the industrial sectors, among others. So, all that I can do is to wish His Excellency the President best of luck, because his Government has an almost impossible task of undoing what we did when I was with those hon. Members in the previous Government.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the worst of all the things that prevailed in the previous Government was fear. We could not say what we wanted to say. As you know, when I left the former ruling party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU), I was almost killed. I know that KANU diehards are capable of killing people; I had first hand experience when I was with them.

An hon. Member: Name them!

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that the NARC Government will ensure that fear amongst its ranks does not exist, so that we can say what we want to say and when we want to say it. I hope that when we say what we want to say freely, hon. Members who were in the previous Government will understand. Fear is the worst instinct a human being can have, particularly if he is elected by the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a very lucky person. I was never tortured at Nyayo House. I am very lucky that I do not live in Molo. So, I was never affected by the tribal clashes that rocked that area in the 1990s. I am also very lucky that I do not come from Likoni, Mombasa. I am so lucky that I have not gone through those things. When I saw what was transmitted on television the other day, I was shocked that I worked for that Government. Why should one put other people through what was reported by the Media the other day. Prof. Maathai, I feel very sorry for you. I now understand you fully. I used to mistreat you. Please, accept my apology.

(Applause)

An hon. Member: Sema ukweli!

The Member for Gachoka (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was not aware of most of the things that used to happen in the previous Government.

So, given the seriousness of what has been exhibited to the public in the last few weeks, and given that this country can go to war, and that people can kill each other, we should find a way of maintaining peace. I hope that there will be reconciliation in this country, and that the truth will come out. I have just completed reading a book by Bishop Desmond Tutu and former Apartheid South African President Fredrick de Clerk, which has given the points of view of that country's whites and Africans. The two points of view are very interesting. So, I hope that at the end of what we are going through, Kenya will come up with a truth and reconciliation commission. That is the only way peace can be maintained in this country. I hope that all of us will understand that the formation of such a commission will not necessarily be for the purpose of punishing or witchhunting those who may have committed atrocities in this country, but rather for the purpose of bringing lasting peace to this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country's foreign policy has never been debated by Parliament; it has just been developed and implemented. From now onwards, we must discuss sensitive foreign policies here on behalf of the Kenyan public. For instance, are we going to encourage the United States of America (USA) to go ahead with its war in Iraq or not? Should we have a public debate on the issue or not? Are we afraid of telling our friends in the USA what we think as a nation or not? With regard to the crisis in the Gulf, I believe that we should take the United Nation's (UN) path.

We should not be afraid of holding public debate on matters of sensitive foreign policy. Kenyans have been affected by terrorism. Many of our people have died, but the USA Government never compensated the families of the dead. The new Government must know how to deal with Americans. I was brought up in the USA, and educated there. I also worked there for more than 11 years. I know them very well. If you do not take a strong position against them, they will sit on you. So, Kenyans who were affected by the last terrorism attacks in Kenya,

and those who will be affected by similar incidents in future, must be compensated. The NARC Government must take a strong position so that our people can be compensated. Elsewhere, the USA Government has compensated victims of terror attacks aimed at its interests. However, we Kenyans, are too naive. Once we are promised a few shillings, we take sides with the USA. We must take a strong position in so far as protecting our people is concerned. So, I suggest that sensitive issues of foreign policy be subjected to public debate; they should not be the monopoly of a few people. That way, we can support our very able Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation in dealing with issues of foreign policy.

There are many Kenyans living abroad. Last year, those staying in the USA alone, brought about Kshs500,000,000 in remittances. These are the things that we should encourage. The Government should come up with a system of bringing together the resources of Kenyans living abroad, so that our country can benefit. Kenya must become a centre of the service industry; it should aim at providing good telecommunications and banking services. We should become the Switzerland of Africa.

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

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. E.K. Maitha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me thank you for this opportunity to contribute to His Excellency the President's Address to this House while opening the Ninth Parliament.

I would like to thank the President in particular, for the position he has taken on the fight against corruption. Before I dwell on the President's Address in detail, let me thank Kenyans, who were tired of the previous bad KANU regime, for deciding to get away from problems. They are now liberated. Kenyans have suffered for 40 years. Kenyans demonstrated that fact by giving NARC's President Kibaki more than three million votes. Those votes are sufficient to send the message to the Official Opposition party, KANU, that Kenyans were really tired of its misrule.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me also thank the President for appointing me the Minister for Local Government. It is a really difficult Ministry because it is service-oriented. That is where all the corruption is born. In fact, it is bred there! In fact, that is the area where Members of Parliament in this House should actually support the Ministry. They have lost many opportunities because money is voted by the Government and it is taken by a very few people who are given the mandate to take care of public funds. As you are aware, the people in Kenya pay to the Government taxes in many areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1998, the Government of Kenya, through this Parliament, passed that 2.5 per cent of that tax, which is over Kshs230 billion, should be channelled through the local authorities as the Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF). The money was to be used by the local authorities on service delivery, accountability and financial management and debt reduction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to reveal here in this House that, for the last three years, from 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002, the Government has disbursed Kshs9 billion through the same programme to the local authorities. I am ashamed to report that, as the Minister for Local Government, when I went to that Ministry, I inherited bad reports from the Inspectorate as well as the Controller and Auditor-General. I wish to report that, out of the Kshs9 billion, three quarters of that money has been misappropriated. It has gone to very wrong hands.

It has been taken by responsible people. That money is supposed to be constructing many projects, especially in the constituencies. That is why I am telling my fellow Members of Parliament that they were lucky to be elected back to Parliament. The Kshs9 billion was given to the constituencies and nothing happened.

I have managed to visit most of the councils to inspect how the LATF money has been spent. That is why you see me going to areas and finding the same money being given to individuals. A councillor is paid up to Kshs1 million purporting that he is going to grade a road or construct a dam! When you go to the ground to check the project which was earmarked to be done using the LATF money, it is not there!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on debt reduction, where we authorised the local authorities to use the same money to reduce debts, we have found that companies of very rich and prominent personalities--- There was even a syndicate where they formed companies, waited for the LATF money and were paid for projects which were never implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me give you an example where, the other day, I had to sack a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) who has a PHD. That MOH actually received over Kshs8 million to build a health centre in Mombasa and build toilets for the market. When I asked him about that, he said in confidence: "Mr. Minister, I received the money, but we can talk in my office on how I spent it!" That money was not used properly. The health centre was not there and the toilets which were to cost Kshs2 million were not built. That man has a PHD! What do I do as a Minister? I sacked that person with his PHD and he went home!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we inherited bad things. It is upon you Members of Parliament to know that we inherited bad things, which the last Government was encouraging. How do we have Kshs9 billion meant for

projects and nothing is done? In fact, most Members of Parliament are members of the District Development Committees (DDCs) in their areas. The chairmen and mayors are supposed to be members of the District Executive Committees (DECs). They are supposed to be reporting how that money is spent in their local authorities. Members of Parliament could even point out whether a project has been done.

Recently, as I was accompanied by Members of Parliament from Coast region, I was astonished to have read that in Kwale, a market was built for Kshs3 million. But a Member of Parliament shot up and said: "There is no market like that in my area!" We went to that area and the market was not there. When we asked the officer, he said: "Maybe, it has dissolved!" Then, we wondered if those were the answers we could be getting from the officers--- We get annoyed!

I wish to inform the Members in this House that, since yesterday, I have disbursed over Kshs1.9 billion out of the Kshs3 billion. I will also disburse another Kshs1.2 billion next month. That money is meant for you as Members of Parliament and your councillors. I want you to take charge because most of our councillors, especially those who were elected back, know the avenues where to siphon that money. We have gone to areas where councillors have even been the suppliers; where chief officers are buying personal vehicles using LATF money. They are misusing that money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my humble submission that all Members of Parliament will be responsible for tax money which is paid by the people of Kenya.

The Member for Kitutu Chache (Mr. Angwenyi): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We know that this Minister is working. If it is about toilets, he is working very hard! Could he undertake to give us copies of the LATF money disbursement?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Angwenyi! Overruled!

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. E.K. Maitha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, maybe, he is excited, but I want to promise that, as from tomorrow, I am going to publish all the money we have sent per local authority, so that Members of Parliament can even pick their figures. For example, I have sent over Kshs600 million for Nairobi! The Members of Parliament may sit down with their councillors and agree on what they can do. Actually, the secret is that the bulk of that money goes to the suppliers and it is taken as a debt resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have worked very well, especially on the repossession of public utility facilities. Over 72 local authorities have now submitted the facilities which were grabbed and we are waiting for the others. We also thank the media people for doing a good job by reporting on what the new Government has been doing to fight corruption. There are few media people who are still pro-KANU and are not happy with what we are doing. I read a report in the *East African Standard* yesterday, by one M.S. Mango in Mombasa who accused me of abusing the Mijikendas that they never went to school. In fact, in all my tours, I was accompanied by the local leaders and they never heard of that. But they want to spoil names of some Ministers who are seen to be doing the real job.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have started the rehabilitation programme for street children. Most of the street children are mentioning big names; even names of Members of Parliament have been mentioned as being their fathers! Could they come forward, so that they can give money to support the street children?

With those few remarks, I support.

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to debate on the Presidential Address.

I want to thank the President for his visionary Address which touched on how to revive the economy of this country. However, His Excellency the President did not say anything about goods imported into this country. If we continue importing goods, such as vehicles instead of constructing industries here, we will not jump-start the economy of this country. We will not even be able to create 500,000 jobs annually as promised by the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government. Manufacturers should come and manufacture their goods in this country because we are the market for their goods. We should encourage companies such as M/s Toyota Kenya to establish branches in Kenya so that they can assemble their cars here. This will create jobs for our people. We are a good market for these manufacturers, yet they manufacture goods in their countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot raise the level of our education in this country if we do not teach our students technical skills. The Government has started to provide free and compulsory primary education. Free and compulsory primary education used to be provided in the 1960s and 1970s, but it was not lauded as much as it has been lauded today. The free and compulsory primary education programme should be extended to secondary and university levels. If children are provided with free and compulsory primary education, but they cannot afford to pay for the secondary education, they will be completely poor in future. The NARC Government should provide free and compulsory secondary and university education. Disabled persons should be encouraged to take advantage of the free and compulsory primary education. If it is difficult for hon. Members of Parliament to educate their

children, what about the disabled persons? Our education policies should take care of the disabled persons. The NARC Government should provide free and compulsory education to the disabled from primary school to university level.

Kenya is an agricultural country. The former KANU Government failed in one way or another, but the NARC Government should make a difference. Kenya is an agricultural country yet we import a lot of agricultural products. This beats logic. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should set aside funds to assist farmers to produce more maize and wheat. Seed prices should be reduced so that farmers can afford to buy the seeds, and prices for agricultural products should be enhanced. Maize produced locally should be sold at a good price. This would encourage farmers to produce more. I would like to request the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development to help the farmers, so that our country can start exporting maize and other agricultural products instead of importing them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs talk about the judges. Yesterday, we saw the suspended Chief Justice tender his resignation letter. I wonder where we are heading to. The judges will soon become sycophants and they will not be fair in their judgements. If we interfere with the independence of the judges, they will become sycophants so as to keep their jobs. They will not be independent and they will not pass a fair judgement.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Kimeto is talking about the independence of judges being interfered with by Mr. Murungi. Could he substantiate in which area or how Mr. Murungi has interfered with the independence of the judges? If he does not, could he withdraw that insinuation?

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody heard what Mr. Murungi said. If the hon. Member is not aware, let him come to me and I will tell him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Kimeto, instead of arguing with Mr. Mwenje, you have been challenged. Why do you not address the Chair and say what you want to say? Could you now attempt to substantiate what you have been asked to substantiate?

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that Mr. Kiraitu Murungi is a---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Kimeto, can you not even try to call him Mr. or hon. Murungi?

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister Murungi said that some judges would be probed and his utterances provoked debate. I was saying that this should not have come from the Minister himself because he is the topmost person in that Ministry. If he interferes with the Judiciary, then all the other Ministers will soon follow suit.

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

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want these points of order.

The Member for Budalangi (Mr. Wanjala): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We would like to understand what the hon. Member is saying. There are two languages used in this House. Would I be in order to ask Mr. Kimeto to speak in Kiswahili? We do not even know what he is mumbling about. There are two languages which are allowed in this House. He cannot speak good English.

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member should go back to school and learn English.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has accused an hon. Member of this House of interfering with the Judiciary. Would I be in order to ask him to substantiate how an hon. Minister of this House interferes with the Judiciary Department? Let him withdraw or substantiate his remarks.

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me substantiate to enable me to continue because these hon. Members do not understand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, substantiate then!

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not understand the hon. Member's question.

Could he ask it again?

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that I am not very fluent in Kalenjin but let me say this slowly: Could I be in order to ask hon. Kimeto who has accused an hon. Minister of this House of having interfered with the Judiciary to substantiate or withdraw his remarks and apologise?

The Member for Sotik (Mr. Kimeto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me withdraw my remarks and apologise as the hon. Member wants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Then your time is up! Mr. Wanjala!

The Member for Budalangi (Mr. Wanjala): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for having given me a chance to debate on this important Motion on the Presidential Speech. I also join the hon. Members in this House in congratulating Kenyans for the hard work they did in order to change the leadership of this country. The people of Budalangi cannot be left behind in this regard for first of all having re-elected me for the second term. This showed they had faith in me and that is why they gave me a second chance. Secondly, I also congratulate the people of Budalangi for being associated with the Government, having been in the Opposition for the last five years. Today, they are in the Government. They have been with other Kenyans who have struggled to change the leadership of this country for the better. They have also joined the other Kenyans to appreciate what the NARC Government is trying to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also take this opportunity to congratulate hon. Karisa Maitha for the efforts he is making to change the management and the affairs of municipal, county, town and urban councils of this country. This country needs radical changes, and I have seen them come from about three to four serious Ministers. These are: The Minister for Local Government; the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, and the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. These Ministers should be congratulated for the hard work they are doing. I have been observing very carefully and it is now that I have realised that there was corruption in this country. In a week, when you hear of the Kenyans that have been taken to court, the amount of money they pay as bail amounts to about Kshs1 billion or Kshs1-billion plus. If all these monies were used for the development of this country, there would even be a tarmacked road in Budalangi. There would be no floods in Budalangi. This is why Kenyans, and particularly the people of Budalangi, are still suffering. God saw that Kenyans had suffered enough and they needed change.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs must be very serious and act on the Judiciary. The Judiciary was rotten. You would find an old woman or man with a land dispute in court which would take three years to be determined. This is a simple case which can be handled by villager elders within two days. But in Kenyan courts, it takes five years. This woman would be forced to sell the two goats that were left behind by her beloved husband in order to buy justice from the magistrate or judge. So, Kenyans have suffered and that is why they voted out the previous government with emotion. If the former President Moi would have dared to stay for even a single day, those people who were in Uhuru Park on that day would have marched straight to State House and removed him. But it is good he accepted to voluntarily move out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans have appreciated free primary education and many children have gone to school. But the ratio of a teacher to pupils should be 1:42, if we do not want to strain the teachers. I am talking as a teacher. Teaching is not only carrying textbooks to a classroom and lecturing pupils; there is a lot to be done. You need time to attend to individual pupils and you are forced to group them according to their ability to understand. Also, you are supposed to give them some homework to do and then mark their exercise books individually and not to ask them to exchange their exercise books and mark them. In short, I am asking the Government to include the teachers salary in the next Budget.

Two, we must urgently include money to employ more teachers. Part of the money which will be donated to fund free primary education should be used to employ teachers. Kshs3.9 billion is not little money. Today, teachers are overworked. I am asking this Government, because we promised to pay them their salaries, to honour that pledge. I want to tell you that there would be no NARC Government without the support we got from the teachers. There would still be a KANU Government in this country. It is the teachers who educated those old women in the villages because they are everywhere. They are the ones who changed the leadership of this country.

Why do we say that we are going to implement the agreement reached between KANU and the teachers? Year in, year out, KANU had taken teachers for a ride that it would pay them within ten years. But we are saying, as a NARC Government and to appreciate the role teachers played for this country, let us shorten that period from ten to five years and pay teachers what we agreed to pay them. The former Government told teachers that after 15 years they would give them Kshs100,000. What would be Kshs100,000 after 15 years from now? So, when we tell teachers that from July we will start paying them little by little for ten years, what would be Kshs500 or an additional Kshs1,000 to be added to their pay after 10 years? This would be meaningless. So, let us review it, because we know the country was left without money and reduce it to five years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House is a House of hon. Members but not horrible Members. We experienced an instance in the last regime where a Minister raped a lady in his office and then continued to go to court with his flag and security detail. I am surprised that the rape case in Continental House was done sometime

in January, and it seems the leadership has not been sincere. Even to name the person who did it has been a problem, even when they know very well who did it. Kenyans are not sure who did it. When they meet you outside there, they ask whether you are the one who did it. Kenyans should be told that it is hon. John Serut who attempted or raped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! I think this matter was dealt with by the Chair in the afternoon, and I think it was decided that investigations are going on. Did I hear you name someone? Did I hear you right?

The Member for Budalangi (Mr. Wanjala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! That is not in order. Will you proceed with whatever you were saying and not refer to that matter again, because the Chair dealt with the matter this afternoon?

The Member for Budalangi (Mr. Wanjala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to tell the KANU hon. Members that as hon. Members of Parliament they should have dignity and respect themselves. We also have lady hon. Members in this House and I do not think they are safe to be closer to KANU hon. Members of Parliament, because it is always KANU hon. Members who do that. This matter is very serious. And with the HIV/AIDS scourge, we do not know whether the person who is alleged to have raped---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! Proceed, but steer away from that subject.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information (Mrs. Mugo): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Is that point of order directed to the Chair?

Proceed, Mr. Wanjala!

The Member for Budalangi (Mr. Wanjala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fishing community want to have their own Ministry.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Tarus): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to start by thanking the President for the Speech that covered all the sectors that the people of Kenya have been concerned with. We know the economy of this country and how far it has gone. We know the people of Kenya wanted political development in order to live with esteem and enjoy the fruits of Independence. I appreciate the recognition by the President that the last General Election was truly ushering in liberation for the people of Kenya. They have cried for justice for long. They have cried for development and opportunities so that they can participate in the development of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Emgwen Constituency people are tired of poverty. Incidentally, Emgwen is a constituency that is suitable for agricultural and livestock production. At the moment, economic activities in my constituency have ground to a halt. We are happy to have this new reform Government. As we prepare to institute reforms in Kenya, what is important is for all of us leaders to realise that time is not on our side. Kenyans are waiting to see the fruits of our reforms. Farmers are waiting to plant. Dairy farmers are waiting for their pay. They are also waiting to see the KCC returned back to them. Kenyans in search of justice are complaining outside there, wondering what happened to the laws that were abused during the last regime; the grabbing of public utilities and Government houses, including school plots. I think the challenge that this Government faces is truly to deliver what belongs to the people of Kenya.

The President's Speech on the Economic Recovery Programme is a matter that is very important for this particular reform Government. This Economic Recovery Programme should be likened to the Marshall Plan. I hope we will have five-year, 10-year and 15-year economic plans that will map out the road to industrialisation, improvement of infrastructure and electrification of every part of this country so that every Kenyan can take the opportunity to develop this country and generate income to make him or her live a happy life. The free education programme is, indeed, very popular. It has attracted many children and many families have moved to take advantage of this free education. However, there are still families that are unable to send children to school.

At one time there used to be something called socio-dimensions of development. As we develop the programme of economic recovery, I was wondering whether we should not also have this perspective to cater for really vulnerable families so that no child in Kenya can stay out of school. We know our education system has gone through changes since 1963. The experience we have now is that, out of the many students who complete Form Four, perhaps, those who are fortunate to go to the university and enrol for professional courses are just less than 10 per cent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an era of globalisation and information technology. The borders are opening up, and I am wondering whether it is not yet time, as we open up education for every child, for us to consider reforms in the education sector, so that we can accord our children opportunities that are obtainable out of education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must also laud His Excellency the President's initiative and commitment to fight against corruption. The situation in which we are today--- We were brought down to this level by a leadership whose spiritual cause is corruption. There was virtually no leadership. If I was to go by history, people were always asking those leaders we elected whether Kenya is drifting away from its course, or what is happening? The leaders were compromised. It is my prayer that the leadership we have this time round will not be compromised. They will stick to their goals; the calling to develop this country, to sacrifice and fight corruption with zeal.

But as we wage the war against corruption, I see so many of our colleagues running up and down and talking about "some people being finished." With regard to corruption, it is the people of Kenya who are asking: What are you doing? People should not go and start misleading people that they are being targeted. We want to have a country that would be admired. We want a country free of corruption, and as they say: "If you are guilty, own up; there will always be an opportunity for you."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also important for this reformed Government to ensure that we entrench democratic practice in our institutions. We know our civil servants used to have a union, and we know the role of a union for workers. As we think about human rights---

With those remarks, I support the Motion on the President's Speech.

The Member for Ainamoi (Mr. Too): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech and make some observations on the President's Speech.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency the President for being elected the Head of State of this great country. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for being elected to their respective offices. I would also like to congratulate my fellow Members of Parliament for being elected to this august House. I would also like to thank the people of Ainamoi Constituency for electing me to represent them in this House.

The President's Speech was generally good because it touched on almost all pertinent issues affecting wananchi in this country. It was a focused and visionary speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about corruption in his speech. I can only define corruption as a monster and it is extremely difficult to identify it. In my view, the exchange of Kshs100 between a police officer and a conductor is not corruption. Corruption is much more than that. In some cases, we seem to be confusing ordinary theft cases with corruption. Corruption is an animal that must be identified and eliminated altogether. I wish the NARC Government the best of luck in identifying and eliminating this problem altogether.

On security, there are serious problems. We know for a fact that if we have to carry out development projects, then the stability and security of the country is of paramount importance. Unless we improve the salaries and terms and conditions of service of the police force, I am sure this problem will continue.

I have been a victim of robbery several times; two serious ones, and the last one as late as two weeks ago. I was gratified the other day, when the Minister for Internal Security promised to look into terms and conditions of service of the police officers. That is the only way that their morale can be restored.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two parallel police forces in this country. We have the regular and the administration police forces. I thought it would have been prudent to merge the two police forces. We would then structure the combined force properly so that we have double the number of police officers. I have a feeling that the administration police officers are not properly deployed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the agricultural sector is in shambles, especially the sugar industry. Farmers have a lot of problems because they are not paid for the sugar-cane that they deliver. This is simply because sugar factories cannot sell their sugar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Too, you will have five minutes to continue tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 27th February, 2003, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.