

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 28th July, 2004

The House met at 9.00 a.m

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Poghisio) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.555

ALLOCATION OF ALRMP FUND TO MANDERA DISTRICT PROJECTS

Mr. M.A. Haji asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) how much money was allocated to Mandera District from Phase One of the Arid Land Resource Management Programme Fund; and,
- (b) how many projects benefitted from the Fund in Mandera West Constituency.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg the indulgence of the House because we did not co-ordinate with Dr. Machage on this particular Question. May we give him some more time?

Mr. M.A. Haji: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not sure what the Assistant Minister has asked for.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): I do not know whether the Assistant Minister means that we have to wait for Dr. Machage.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was begging the indulgence of the House. Maybe he is coming later on. The Question does not fall under my docket.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): That is fine. We will come back to the Question at the end.

Next Question, Mr. Ethuro!

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not received a written answer to the Question. I find it difficult to proceed without an answer.

Question No.652

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' ATTACK ON WANANCHI AT LODWAR AIRSTRIP

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

- (a) whether he is aware that Mr. Mohammed Amin Ali and two other accomplices

fired five bullets at a large crowd that was waiting for the NARC Summit Team at the Lodwar Airstrip on 23rd December, 2002;

(b) whether he is further aware that after the incident, Mr. Mohammed and his accomplices went into hiding at the District Commissioner's residence; and,

(c) what disciplinary action the Minister has taken against the then District Commissioner, Deputy Officer Commanding Police Division and the District Criminal Investigations Officer, who aided and abetted the crime.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can confirm that we have signed the written answer. Maybe it is being distributed.

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

Mr. Khamasi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We have raised the issue of written answers before in this House. The Members of the Front-Bench are taking us for granted. We have a specific procedure under which written answers have to be delivered to hon. Members. I wonder what the Chair is doing to make sure that Members of the Front-Bench or the Clerk of the National Assembly ensure that hon. Members get the written answers on time to prepare supplementary questions.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Assistant Minister, we need to understand what happened. The hon. Member is supposed to have the written answer. Are you saying that it is being signed or that you signed it?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I signed it.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Today?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, and probably it will get to him in the course of the day.

Dr. Galgallo: On a point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think this Question has been overtaken by events because we no longer have a NARC Summit. So, what is the relevance of this Question to the House?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have two issues to raise. First, this Question is very important and I would have liked to see the written answer before it is answered. Secondly, with regard to Dr. Galgallo's point of order, the Question refers to a specific time when the NARC Summit existed. This was on 23rd December, 2002.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, both of you! The Question is before the House and I expect the Assistant Minister to answer it.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware---

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have heard Mr. Khamasi's point of order. I am completely disadvantaged without the written answer. This is a grave matter.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Ethuro, you have already asked the Question and once you ask it, it just has to be answered. The Assistant Minister is here.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Why can you not engage the Assistant Minister in supplementary questions? It is important that I make this very clear. In our system, Questions are answered orally, but we give written answers because it is important for hon. Members to follow up. The Assistant Minister has been told that he should not bring the written answer the morning the Question is being asked. The hon. Questioner is supposed to have the

written answer in his hands. It is also important for all of us to have copies of the written answer when the Question is being asked. I do not even have the written answer.

However, the Question has been asked. When the Assistant Minister rises to answer it, then you can raise subsequent questions and other issues, but he has to answer the Question.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of my submission that this is an important issue, may I ask for your indulgence. Since the Assistant Minister has a written answer and I would like to look at it first, this Question should be answered at the end. Is that too much to ask?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Yes, it is, Mr. Ethuro because you have already asked the Question. This Question is no longer in your possession. It is already in the possession of the House. It is now going to be answered.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to apologise to Mr. Ethuro for that.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that Mr. James Muiruri was arrested on 14th March, 2004.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It seems the Assistant Minister is not ready to answer this Question. Why does he not answer it after he has answered Mr. Muiruri's Question?

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

(a) I am aware that Mr. Mohammed Amin Ali and other accomplices shot four rounds of ammunition at a NARC crowd at the Lodwar Airstrip on 23rd December, 2002.

(b) I am not aware that the then District Commissioner gave refuge to the suspect and his accomplices.

(c) There is no disciplinary action that has been taken or is being contemplated against the said officers, since during the investigations, nobody volunteered any information to the effect that Government officers were involved in aiding or abetting the crime.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about a general election. I am also talking about interfering with Kenyans in exercising their democratic right. The Assistant Minister has said that he is not aware that the then DC gave refuge to the suspect and his accomplices, and nobody volunteered information to the effect that Government officers were involved in abetting the crime. Could I volunteer the information to him now? This is because after the shooting incident, the police escorted the culprits to the residence of the DC. Now that the Assistant Minister is aware of that, what action will he take against Government officers who commit such crimes?

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government officers as far as our investigations are concerned were not involved in protecting that "criminal". But the person who fired ammunition at the crowd was, in fact, charged later on with the offence at the Lodwar Court, Case No.822/51/03 and Court File No.97/2003. He was charged with the offence of using firearm with intent to commit criminal offence contrary to Section 34(1) of the Firearms Act. He was also charged with three counts of intimidation, contrary to Section 238(2) as read with Section 238(1) of the Penal Code. The Government officers, as far as the investigations were concerned, were not involved. The person who was involved has been charged and the case is still going on in court.

Dr. Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We remember a similar incident in Kakamega, where a youth by the name Jared Nyagosi was murdered on 7th October, 2002. The officers who committed the crime were under the command of senior police officers. Could the Assistant Minister confirm to this House, that he will enjoin the OCPD who was involved

in the incident in the current Question? The OCPD should be enjoined in the case that, that officer was charged with in court?

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we charge people after investigations have been carried out. What the hon. Member has said is procedurally improper and is not according to the law. That request might be a bit difficult for us to effect.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am completely not satisfied with his answer. I am talking about the lives of the late Vice-President and Dr. Kituyi, who came to campaign---

An hon. Member: Dr. Kituyi is alive!

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said the late Vice-President and Dr. Kituyi and others who came for a campaign rally in Turkana. I am also talking about my own life and the lives of about 5,000 supporters of NARC who were at the airstrip. I urge the Assistant Minister to be sympathetic because he is an Assistant Minister because of the NARC Government. I want him to agree with me that those investigations were not carried out properly because the same officers who were party to the crime were the ones entrusted to undertake the investigations. The Chair has heard the charges. Surely, once you bring a gun and shoot at a crowd, that is attempted murder.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Ask your question, Mr. Ethuro! What is your question?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister re-open investigations because I and many other people in my constituency, are more than ready to volunteer information to him?

(Applause)

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to confirm to the hon. Member that as far as criminal offences are concerned, there is no time limitation. As long as we receive a proper report at the police station, we act on any offence which was committed some years ago. If we get proper information, we shall open that file.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Very well! Let us move on to the next Question by Mr. Salat!

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although I do not have a copy of the written answer, I beg to ask Question No.539.

Question No.539

PROMOTION OF POLICE OFFICERS

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

- (a) how many police officers have been promoted to the rank of Officer Commanding Police Division and Officer Commanding Police Station in the last eight months;
- (b) what their ranks were before they were promoted; and,
- (c) what their names are and their current stations.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): What is wrong with availing copies of written answers?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy

Speaker, Sir, we did sign copies of the written answer, and they were brought to Parliament today.

I beg to answer.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! I am really getting concerned. I think the Front Bench, and especially, the Office of the President should realise that the Chair does not have a copy of the written answer. Even the Questioner does not have a copy of the written answer. You are causing problems to the hon. Members who have asked the Questions. Standing Order No.36(5) says:-

"When Mr. Speaker directs that a Question is in order, the Clerk shall as soon as possible forward the Question to the Minister of whom it is asked, and a Question for oral reply shall be placed on the Order Paper for reply not later than ten days after the day upon which it is so forwarded to the Minister or, if the House is adjourned before the expiry of such period of ten days, within the first four days (or such longer period as Mr. Speaker may allow) during which the House next meets after such adjournment:"

I am reading this Standing Order for the purpose of those who are here. It further states:-

"Provided that, if on any day more than 15 Questions are due to be placed on the Order Paper---"

Now, I will turn over the page and go to paragraph (6). It reads:-

Upon receiving a Question for oral reply, the Minister shall within the period specified in paragraph (5) submit to the Clerk 15 copies of the reply.

It is very clear that, as soon as you receive the Question and have an answer, you should supply 15 copies to the Clerk. That should not be done on the day of answering the Question.

(Applause)

So, it is something that you should keep in mind when you come to answer Questions. You should make sure that answers are sent to the Clerk on time, so that those who would like to ask supplementary questions can do so with the knowledge of what you have said in those answers. I will allow that this time, but let it not be a repeat from the same Ministry!

Mr. Salat: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to beg for the indulgence of the Chair. I feel disadvantaged because when I asked this Question, I did so in order to ask supplementary questions. But now that I do not have a written reply, I am not in a position to ask the Assistant Minister supplementary questions. Would it be in order to defer the Question until I get a written reply?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): I think the written reply is here now! But, Mr. Assistant Minister, where are the copies? I would like to hear your response to that, Mr. Assistant Minister, as you answer the Question. What is your response to that?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise! These replies were signed this morning and brought to Room No.8.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! I do not know whether the copy I have is the original. But, whatever the case, it is not signed!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is the copy of Mr. Mungatana.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Where is the other one?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the signed copy was delivered to Room No.8.

Mr. Rotino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think it is common

knowledge that the Office of the President is making fun of this House. We, therefore, need a ruling and guidance from the Chair. That is because this Question is No.539. It has been in that Ministry for a month or two! Is it in order for the Minister to sign the written answer today, and not even make enough copies to the House? A ruling must be made concerning that Ministry and, especially, this Assistant Minister!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are trying our very level best to answer Questions. It is clear that we get the highest number of Questions from this Parliament, and the process of answering them is complicated. That is because the answers do not originate from us. Hon. Members must understand that we try our level best to answer their Questions.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! I think you are not helping the case. Basically, a mistake has been made and the best way forward is to apologise to the hon. Member and everybody!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have apologised and said that we will try our level best to answer their Questions. We will avail copies of replies a day before a Question comes up in this House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Please, proceed then!

(Prof. Oniang'o gestured at Prof. Kibwana)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Prof. Oniang'o is intimidating me! When Mr. Tarus was in that office, you said you did not want him.

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

(a) The Police Service does not have ranks called Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD) and Officer Commanding Police Station (OCS).

(b) OCPD is an office which is normally under an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) or Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), depending on the volume of work and location of the office.

The OCS is also an office normally under an Inspector or Chief Inspector of Police.

(c) As stated in my response to (a) above, what is referred to as ranks are titles to police officers, which are named according to the areas they are located.

Thank you.

Prof. Oniang'o: He is avoiding the Question!

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Assistant Minister understands why we are asking this Question. He is actually trying to get a way around it. We wanted to know the names of those officers commanding police stations and police divisions. That is the question and he cannot say that we do not have them. We have them! I asked about officers commanding police stations and police divisions, and their previous ranks before their promotion. Could he answer that?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Assistant Minister, I think the question that is being asked, although I understand the situation about ranks, is who are the people who have been appointed to those positions recently! The Questioner is probably not familiar with the ranks that you are giving him. Who have been recently appointed to occupy those positions?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if that is the question, then we can supply that information. But the way the Question was framed, we would not have known the information required. But, now, the hon. Member has clarified the position. So, in that case, we

would like that either the Question be properly re-phrased or, on the basis of the discussions that we have had today and instructions from the Chair, we can answer it appropriately.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we appreciate what the Assistant Minister has said. We know that OCPD is not a rank but an office. But to satisfy the Question, could the Assistant Minister table the names of all those holding the positions of OCPDs and OCSs in the country, so that we can know exactly who they are?

(Applause)

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is information that can be laid on the Table because it is in the public domain.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Poghisio): So, when can you answer it?

Prof. Kibwana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can table the list on Tuesday.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): So, we defer the Question to Tuesday next week!

(Question deferred)

Next Question by Eng. Muriuki!

Question No.678

GOVERNMENT SHAREHOLDING/INTEREST IN
BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Eng. Muriuki asked the Minister for Finance whether he could table a list of all business organizations other than State corporations in which the Government has a shareholding or other interests.

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

Attached is a list of all business organizations other than State corporations in which---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Eng. Muriuki, I hope you have a written answer.

Eng. Muriuki: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is easier for me to table the answer. I do, hereby, lay the list on the Table.

(Mr. Katuku laid the list on the Table)

Eng. Muriuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this list, there is a total of 39 businesses which are being run by the Government. Among them there are green grocers like Farm Fresh Commodities Ltd, butcheries, poultry farms, sawmills and hide and skins companies. My question is: Instead of the Government off-loading important strategic parastatals like Kenya Reinsurance and others, could it take steps to off-load those small businesses like green grocers and butcheries?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are in the process of doing that. You will agree with me that we have brought a Privatisation Bill in this House, so that we can sell out

some of those State corporations and agencies.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all know that it is not the role of the Government to do business. Its business is to provide an enabling environment so that the private sector can do business well. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what has made the Government to continue investing in those private companies when, indeed, we are in dire need of money to develop this country? What is the rationale of Government doing business?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the NARC Government is concerned, and you will agree with me that some of these business organisations were established many years ago, its work is to create an enabling environment for the private sector and other willing people to do business well. It is our intention to give out the corporations and agencies to the private sector through the privatisation process which, of course, is on going. In fact, we already have a Bill that seeks to streamline the process.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to know how much dividends has been received by the Government from these 39 investments.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to be specific, I do not have the total of what we have received. I will find out that information and then table it in this House. However, some of the organisations have been giving out dividends while others have been operating at a loss. I can avail information about the profits gained by some of these organisations.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, information about profits made by the business organisations forms the core of the Question that has been asked. If those companies do not earn any revenue for the Exchequer, we would like to know how much has actually been received in total from all these companies. We would also like to know whether they have been performing at a loss or they have been making profit. When will the Government stop investing in those companies that have been performing at a loss? When will the Government really withdraw its shares from such companies?

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Members!

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will remove our interests in these corporations as soon as it is practical to do so. What Mr. Mwenje wants to know is exactly what I had told Mr. Bahari, that I will table the information later on.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Mwenje. I am trying to help you here. Order, there at the back! Mr. Katuku, after a Question has been asked, you should expect supplementary questions from hon. Members. After you had listed all those business organisations, you should have expected somebody to ask you how much money the Government has made from investing in those organisations. I would think so myself. In fact, that will be a way of ensuring that hon. Members do not ask questions again and again. The idea behind the Question is to give you a clue on what kind of supplementary questions hon. Members might ask. They, obviously, expect to get comprehensive answers. I would not like us to be deferring Questions all the times because Ministers ought to anticipate these type of supplementary questions.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my view, I have given a very comprehensive answer to the Question. The hon. Member was asking me to table the names of the business organisations. I am sure I have done that. The core part of the Question is about the shares held by the Government and I think I have done what I was required to do.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is clear that these Ministers

do not know what they are supposed to do. When we ask Questions, they should come prepared for supplementary questions. I think this Assistant Minister needs to go back and prepare himself for supplementary questions.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): No, I would not do that. I am not really saying that the Assistant Minister has not answered the Question. What I was saying is that Ministers need to be prepared to answer supplementary questions. Mr. Katuku has given you the list of all the 39 business organisations. The only thing that is lacking in his answer is about the performance of the organisations. It would have been better if he had included that information in his answer. That would help hon. Members to ask the right questions.

Eng. Muriuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, just as you have said, one of the most obvious supplementary questions on this particular Question is: Why is the Government continuing to invest in business such as butcheries? I would like to request the Chair to give the Assistant Minister some time so that he can give us a schedule justifying why the Government is investing in these organisations. He should be able to tell us if the Government is making money out of those investments or is it just a case of sinking public funds into these enterprises?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my previous response, I stated that as far as the Government is concerned, we are in the process of off-loading our shares from these organisations. Therefore, it is not our intention to go on doing business in investments such as butcheries that the hon. Member has talked about. We are now keen on providing an enabling environment for the private sector to engage in business. I want to assure this House that we are in the process of selling our shares in most of these organisations. Very soon, we will be through with the exercise.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Chair will be misdirecting itself if it does not defer this Question. It is true that Question has not been answered satisfactorily.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order, Mr. Mwenje! You are now moving in the wrong direction. I wish you did not say that.

(Loud consultations)

Order, Members! What is happening at the back there? I believe that the best we can ask of the Assistant Minister is that he improves the list and tables it next week. Is that not so, Mr. Katuku?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, I will table a list showing corporations that have made profit and those that have made losses. I will also indicate the amount of money gained or lost. I have nothing to hide. I will table the details here, next week on Tuesday.

Question No. 501

STATUS OF DUGO SETTLEMENT SCHEME

Mr. Abdirahman, on behalf of **Dr. Ali**, asked the Minister for Lands and Housing:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the existence of Dugo Settlement Scheme in Wajir North Constituency;
- (b) how much money has so far been spent on the project; and,
- (c) what is the fate of the said project.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) I am not aware.
- (b) In view of my answer to part (a), this question does not arise.
- (c) In view of my answers in parts (a) and (b), part (c) also does not arise.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think Mr. Ojode, whom I have a lot of respect for is only displaying his ignorance about the existence of this project.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order, Mr. Abdirahman! This is Parliament!

Mr. Abdirahman: Sorry, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I used any language which is not befitting the status of this House. I apologize for that. I want to point out---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Do not personalize the answers, because the Assistant Minister is answering the Questions in his official capacity!

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologize and withdraw that statement. I want to point out that this is a project that exists. It was initiated way back between 1994 to 1996 and, unless it is being directed to the wrong Ministry, I remember the Ministry of Agriculture clearing huge tracts of land in Dugo Location of Bute Sub-district. If the Assistant Minister feels that this issue is not within his docket, I would kindly ask him to refer the Question to the relevant Ministry. But for sure we know that certain amounts of money have been---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order, Mr. Abdirahman! What is your question?

Mr. Abdirahman: When will this project be revived? If it does not belong to the Ministry of Lands and Housing, since he is not aware of the existence of the settlement scheme, can the Question be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture which undertook to implement the project in 1996?

Mr. Ojode: I really feel sorry for this great friend of mine for displaying ignorance in this House.

(Laughter)

The reason why I am saying this is because he knows---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order!

Mr. Ojode: Let me apologize and withdraw on that statement.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order, Mr. Ojode! By the way, you know that history can be created here if an Assistant Minister becomes belligerent and is asked to walk away from the Dispatch Box and right out of the House! You know what I told Mr. Abdirahman, and he has apologized. Now, you want to compete with him!

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did apologize because he is a friend of mine.

But let me start by saying that the reasons why I am not aware is because he has acknowledged that the land clearance was done by the Ministry of Agriculture. I am an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Lands and Housing and not in the Ministry of Agriculture! The whole Department of Land Adjudication and Settlement does not have a single activity going on in North-Eastern Province. Therefore, Dugo Settlement Scheme is not one of ours. I am not saying that the scheme does not exist, but it might be belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture, and I am an

Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Lands and Housing and not in the Ministry of Agriculture!

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It seems like between the answer and the supplementary questions, we will not get anywhere, apart from tempers rising. Can we plead that the Question be deferred and directed to the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities which deals with settlement schemes? It is true that the Assistant Minister does not have anything to do with this issue.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): I just do not understand the mood surrounding this Question. What is happening? It is just a very nice Question which is supposed to have a very nice answer! So, what is happening?

Mr. Ojode: I suggest that this Question be referred to the relevant Ministry, which is the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! This is, again, something that Ministers and Assistant Ministers need to know. If you receive a Question that does not belong to your Ministry, there is no reason for you to purport to answer that Question. It is really up to the Minister or Assistant Minister to direct that Question to the relevant Ministry, and then send a copy to the Clerk, so that we are aware that it has gone to the other Ministry. This will help us to avoid the kind of confrontation that we are having. So, basically, what we are going to do is for the Assistant Minister to refer the Question to the relevant Ministry and send a copy of the same to the Clerk of the National Assembly.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Kombe: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to ask the Assistant Minister, through you, to clarify whether settlement schemes are not under the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): That has been sorted out. Next Question!

Question No.591

ERADICATION OF SLUMS IN URBAN AREAS

Mr. Mwandawiro asked the Minister for Lands and Housing:-

- (a) whether the Ministry has plans of eradicating slums in Nairobi and other urban areas;
- (b) if so, when it will start implementing them; and,
- (c) when will slums be completely eradicated in Nairobi and other urban areas.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mrs. Tett): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) My Ministry is addressing the problem of slums in the urban areas of Kenya through the Kenya Slum Improvement Programme, which is a collaborative effort between the Kenya Government and our development partners, coordinated by the United Nations (UN) HABITAT.

The improvement includes providing security of land tenure, basic infrastructural facilities and services, and improving the housing structure.

- (b) Improvement of slums in Nairobi and other urban areas is already an on-going process.

(c) The factors that have led to the development of slums in urban areas are economic. Thus, improved economic performance, reduced poverty levels and stable rural to urban migration will see the decline of slums. Slums in Nairobi and other urban areas will, therefore, be eradicated when the economy of the country improves.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Proceed, Mrs. Tett!

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mrs. Tett): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the era of having "flying toilets" in Kibera and other slum areas will be a thing of the past.

Mr. Mwandawiro: With all due respect, it is very clear from the answer given by Mrs. Tett that my Question has not been answered. This question is a very serious matter! It is now 40 years since Independence, and we have condemned the majority of Kenyans to living in bad areas and in slums despite the fact that this Government was elected by the poor people in urban areas. My specific question is: Does this Government have any plans to eradicate slums in urban areas of Kenya?

(Applause)

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know why the hon. Member is taking this issue to heart and getting very emotional. I have just said that we are in the process of upgrading all the slum areas in Nairobi and other urban areas in other parts of the country.

We have just been in the Government for only one-and-a-half years and not 40 years. So, I think it is very unfair for him to say that this Government has been in power for 40 years and we have not done anything; we are doing a lot. We have already passed the Policy Paper on the Housing Development Programme, which was adopted recently in this House on 30th June, 2004, and that was a big step forward.

Ms. Mbarire: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, being a human rights activist, Mr. Mwandawiro understands that basic rights are human rights. This Government promised to build 150,000 houses per year. I think the question the Assistant Minister should address is: Has the Government built any houses since last year? If it has, how many are they? If it has not, when will it start and how many will it build within the next six months, so that we are sure that at the end of the year we will have so many houses built and where?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, definitely for that one-and-a-half years we are putting policy in place. There was no policy or agenda. We will build 150,000 houses soon. We will start immediately. We are evaluating various prospective investors, whom we have already identified. I have just been transferred to this Ministry and I am doing my level best, not just as an MP, but also a mother. I hate to see people living in bad conditions and using flying toilets. We shall do our level best. We are waiting for a Cabinet paper which has to be signed. All these investors are asking for incentives. We will have incentives that apply to all investors. We are waiting for that Cabinet paper.

Mr. Ndolo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House whether we have any financiers who are ready to finance the upgrading of slums. If we do not have any financiers, what is the Ministry doing about finding them?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, various prospective investors have expressed interest to invest in housing. I can just name a few local investors, such as the National Housing Corporation (NHC), the East African Building Society (EABS) and Ekola workers in

Mlolongo, who will put up 20 units near Umoja. The Germans, Arabs and Malaysians are also interested in investing in housing. However, there is need to first have some policy direction, because they are all asking for incentives and we need to formalise all possible incentives. This is not a matter that can take days. It needs some months.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister clarify the issue of mushrooming shanties and ownership of land in urban areas in relation to grabbing? If there is any project to be introduced, where will it be built if most of the land in urban centres has been grabbed by private enterprises?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know why he is not aware that we are repossessing a lot of grabbed land. That has been going on since January last year.

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year when His Excellency the President was in Kisumu, after opening the show he went to break the ground for the new housing units. According to media reports, the President will go to Kisumu to inspect the same units. When the President goes to break ground it means that the Ministry has talked to its financiers and everybody else concerned. Will the President inspect new housing units in Kisumu?

Mrs. Tett: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let us wait and see.

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last week the Minister---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Madam Assistant Minister, in my view you gave the answer "yes". Does that mean the President will inspect housing units?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I really do not know his programme at this minute.

An hon. Member: He is going for an agricultural show! Why should the Assistant Minister know his programme?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last week the Minister for Health ordered slums to be demolished in an area near Kenyatta National Hospital, where 3,000 jobs were lost. We saw a bizarre incident where an Assistant Minister led her people to the same place and asked them to repossess the land. We wonder whether this Assistant Minister will put up modern houses in that area!

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those were kiosks. They were not slum structures. The Assistant Minister is here. She is in charge of that.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): I am not in charge of that!

(Laughter)

Mr. Mwandawiro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious Question. It is a challenge to this nation and the Government that we should start taking the poor seriously, and the Government should come up with clear plans to deal with this problem.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Ask your question.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Does the Government believe that slums can be eradicated with only proper planning?

Mrs. Tett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will definitely eradicate slums. It is a serious and challenging problem for my Ministry and myself.

Question No.730

FUTURE OF LAIKIPIA LAND

HELD BY NON-KENYANS

Prof. Oniang'o asked the Minister for Lands and Housing:-

- (a) whether he is aware that over 69 per cent of the land in Laikipia District is held by Non-Kenyan ranchers,
- (b) when the leases will expire and the Government's intended action upon the expiry of these leases in correcting the situation in (a) above, and;
- (c) how many squatters there are in Laikipia District.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that over 69 per cent of the land in Laikipia District is held by non-Kenyan ranchers. I am aware, however, that a substantial percentage of the land in Laikipia District is under ranches, which are owned and operated by individuals and registered companies.

(b) The leases will expire at different dates depending on their terms, which range from 99 years to 999 years.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Mr. Assistant Minister, what will expire?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mr. Ojode): Leases, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Not the leases?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Housing (Mr. Ojode): I said the leases.

A national land policy is being developed and it will have provisions on how to handle expired leases.

(c) It is not possible to ascertain the number of squatters in the district unless an inventory is undertaken.

Prof. Oniang'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was prompted to ask this Question by a visit to Laikipia District, where I saw a high degree of poverty and the expansive ranches. I know this is not prevalent in Laikipia only. The answer I have here first of all shows that the Assistant Minister did no research whatsoever, and yet Ministries have research departments. He should tell us what percentage is actually held by non-Kenyans, if it is not 69 per cent.

He is also talking of leases which will last for 999 years. As far as I know, none of us will be around in another 200 years. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he will do to make sure that those leases are revoked and some of the squatters settled on the now leased land? This NARC Government promised to settle squatters. Is he following up the issue of settling squatters?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is a very good friend of mine. I would like to give her some kind of history with regard to ranches in Laikipia District. Laikipia District covers an area of approximately 22,980,000 acres. The available data indicates that out of 37 parcels of land that are recognised as ranch land, 25 parcels cover an area of approximately 487,290 acres. It is, therefore, not certain that 69 per cent of the district, or 15,856,200 acres is covered by ranches. The majority of these ranches are owned by companies that are registered in Kenya. Therefore, it is not possible to know the nationalities of individual directors of the companies unless a search is done at the office of the Registrar of Companies. The individuals and companies who own land in the district acquired it either by purchase, or inheritance from the original pre-independent settlers who were mainly non-Kenyans. The leases may be terminated by either compulsory acquisition for a public purpose under Cap.295, or through purchase by Settlement Fund Trustees (SFTs) on willing buyer and willing seller basis, or by renewal.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of squatters, I would like to say that

squatters will always remain squatters. We cannot compare land of one or two acres which is subdivided to ranches. A ranch is a big investment for a ranch owner. Even if, for example, I gave 40 acres of land today to a squatter, he will sell the same tomorrow. I would like to---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): What are you answering?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am responding to the squatter problem. I have on many occasions indicated to this House that we will settle all squatters in Kenya. So, this issue of squatters will not be a problem forever.

Mr. Munya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is not answering the Question at all. He must start taking this House seriously. He has been asked the number of squatters living in Laikipia District. However, he says squatters will always remain squatters. Could he tell us the number of ranches that are owned by foreigners? Could he also tell us the names of those companies and their directors? Therefore, he must answer the Question fully. If he is not ready with the answer, let the Question be deferred until he comes here with a comprehensive answer. He has also been talking about a land policy for about one year now and yet, he has not brought it to this House.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, I thought I said that I have not taken an inventory of the number of squatters.

Hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have set up a committee that will come up with this inventory. As for the ranchers, I will furnish this House with the names.

Hon. Members: Give them!

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they include: Mr. George Latma Small who owns 17,993 acres of land with a lease period of 964 years with effect from 1st December, 1961; Mr. Henry Kimbocha Wanderi has 617 acres of land with a 999 lease period from 1919; M/s Mukogondo Ranch Limited owns 9,579 acres of land with a 999 year lease period, with effect from 1952; Mr. Ian Guy Patrick has 3,800 acres, a 999 lease period from 1919. M/s Mungwoni Limited has 3,929 acres of land with a 969 lease period, with effect from 1956; M/s Kifuku Estate owns 8,105, with a 999 lease period, with effect from 1957; M/s Olujugi, a 969 lease period with effect from 1956 and M/s Ereri, 4,479, a 969 lease period with effect from 1969. There are several others and I beg to lay the document on the Table.

(Mr. Ojode laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Serut: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the NARC Government set a precedent on how to acquire private property immediately it took over power from the previous regime. It did acquire Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC). Why can they not use the same system to acquire all those ranches in Laikipia District and give them to the poor? Our people cannot continue to live in abject poverty when there is land which is being occupied by absentee landlords. Most of these absentee landlords are *wazungus*.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend knows very well that KICC was a public property and not a private property. My Ministry cannot and will not repossess private property where a title has already been issued.

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says he cannot repossess private property. I wonder if he is aware that the so called "private property" was actually land that was stolen from our people, in the first place; by the foreign thieves that he is now protecting.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think we might be

degenerating into some isolationist and antagonistic tone over this issue. If you talk about land and the indigenous people, there are many Kenyans who live in areas where they are not indigenous. We are safe if we leave some things untouched. This is one of them. I do not see anything illegal with foreigners owning property in Kenya.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me say this to my colleagues: Land is a very sensitive issue. Therefore, we should tread carefully when talking about it because we might end up with the Zimbabwe situation.

Hon. Members: Why not?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order, hon. Members! I think we have turned Question Time into Debate Time. In fact, Question Time is a good time to get information, but only through asking specific questions for specific answers. We should not extend it into giving more information than we need. So, I will give the last opportunity to Prof. Oniang'o.

Prof. Oniang'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of land is sensitive and it will not go away. So, the sooner the Assistant Minister works on a policy and maps out who owns the largest land in this country and under what conditions, the better. The majority who do not own land are the poor. So, could he tell us when this land policy will actually be available?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had said that once the land policy is completed, I will bring it to my colleagues here.

Hon. Members: When?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when it is completed! I will bring it here for hon. Members. However, we need, first of all, to involve stakeholders to discuss it. **Hon. Members:** When?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, very soon when it is completed!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Assistant Minister, you are making it look very light. The question that is being asked is: "When?" I think that is why everybody is up in arms.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it will not just be the Ministry which will do it. We are going to bring in all the stakeholders. Let me hope that we will do it very soon.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. Ojode: Let me hope that it will be done towards the end of this year!

*(Several hon. Members stood
up in their places)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): What is generating the heat? Who has a point of order?

Ms. Mwau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the Minister---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): It has to be a point of order!

Ms. Mwau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister not misleading this House with policies? It is not only him! This House has become a "House of policies"; when answers are given. So, is he not misleading this House? It is policies, policies and more policies!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): I am actually getting impatient!

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, legislation is based on policies. What I am saying is that, by the end of this year, you will find a national policy on land in this House.

(Several hon. Members stood

up in their places)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! If you look at the clock, I think we have taken so long on this particular Question. We have given it enough time. Let us move on to the next Question.

Next Question, Dr. Kuti!

Question No.733

MEASURES TO
STREAMLINE PHARMACEUTICAL TRAINING

Dr. Kuti asked the Minister for Health:-

- (a) whether she is aware of the existence of unaccredited pharmaceutical training institutions; and,
- (b) what she is doing to streamline the training, placement and proper utilization of pharmacists.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware of the existence of some unaccredited pharmaceutical training institutions countrywide.

(b) The Ministry is currently working closely with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology which is charged with the responsibility of training, in order to streamline the training, placement and proper utilization of pharmacists in the country. It is also important to point out that, arising from the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Ministry appointed a task force to look specifically into the issues concerning training in pharmacy, with specific terms of reference to address the following:-

(a) To review the existing various curricula and harmonise them into one for each level of training.

(b) To prepare a visit - which was done - to inspect and assess all training institutions offering pharmaceutical training and certificate level and make recommendations to the Permanent Secretary, (PS), Ministry of Health, and their sustainability and adequacy for training of pharmaceutical personnel.

(c) Determine and recommend the serving hours for the implementation of harmonised curriculum. There are also graduates, either in diploma or certificate level, who have qualified from various institutions. Those training standards are the centre of contention. The purpose was to assess the training, curricula and make recommendations on further training requirements for registration of those recognised. The Government was also concerned with the new development in the training of pharmacy personnel. That is why the Ministry of education issued a notice in the newspapers to alert the general public of the situation pertaining to pharmacy training on the 7th July, 2003, regarding the illegal, education and training in those institutions.

Meanwhile, the report of the task force which has been presented to the Ministry and adopted--

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! Are we

interested in this answer? There is so much consultation! We cannot even hear the reply! The hon. Member who asked the Question is very much interested in hearing the answer. Let us give him a chance.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the report of the task force which did the assessment is adopted by the Ministry, we assure all those institutions with adequate infrastructure, facilities and resources that they will mount satisfactory pharmacy training programmes. That would be approved---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Is that part of your answer?

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am just completing it now.

Those institutions will be approved to offer the same, but under regulated and controlled conditions.

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you, I and all Kenyans are exposed to a very serious problem because of chemists that are run by quacks who are trained in unaccredited institutions. They do not know the side effects of the drugs! They do not know the interaction of drugs and their shelf life. Therefore, there is drug resistance and many deaths because of poor administration of drugs. Those chemists are run purely with the intention of---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Dr. Kuti, ask your question now!

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am just trying to build the question! So, in order to prevent any further suffering of Kenyans, when is the report by the task force going to be effected?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak now, the Ministry of Health has accepted the accreditation of 18 of the 31 colleges that are offering pharmaceutical training. They have been assessed and evaluated by our team and they have been found fit to undertake the training. However, the harmonisation of the training curriculum is now on-going, so that the Pharmacy and Poisons Board can approve a syllabus that is going to be used by all those institutions. The balance of the 31 institutions are going to be closed down. The Ministry is going to request the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to close them down because they are offering sub-standard training to Kenyans.

Mr. Kombe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister give us the names of the pharmaceutical institutions that are going to be closed? We have some students in those institutions and we do not know which ones are registered and which ones are not. Could he give us the names of those institutions that are registered and those that are not?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it will not take too much time, I can read the names! They are 18 in number.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Could you table the list?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will table the list of the 18 institutions which have been accredited by the Ministry, including those ones which have been closed down.

Dr. Manduku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of training young school leavers in pharmacy and laboratory technology at backyard pharmaceutical training schools and behind the shops must come to an end! A lot of money is taken from those young people and, at the end of the day, they get some kind of certificates which they do not qualify for and, indeed, which are not useful for the profession. Now that the Assistant Minister knows those institutions are not registered, and he has a task force in place, could he close them, so that poor school leavers can be trained by approved institutions?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the institutions that have been

operating in the backstreets have all been ordered to close down. We are telling Kenyans not to spend their money on pharmaceutical institutions run by quacks. That is because their training is sub-standard and their children will not be employed anywhere, when they finish training in such institutions.

Dr. Galgallo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these so-called pharmacists get a training of about six months. We know to train a pharmaceutical technologist at the KMTC, it takes about four years. So, you can imagine the knowledge gap between these small fellows manufactured and the real pharmacists. Under what titles do these people, who get six months training, operate in our pharmacies?

Mr. Kochella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these institutions do not have any training certificates. I do not know who licenses them. They just do whatever they do. Some of the courses they undertake are not recognised as far as the Poisons and Pharmacy Board is concerned. For the interest of the House, some of them are offering Medical Assistant Technology, which is not in the curriculums, Pharmacy Assistant Technology, Physiotherapy Assistant, Chief Medical Assistant, General Clinical Assistant, Nurse Aides, Community Health, Health Childhood Development, Veterinary Pharmacology--- These courses are not there. Kenyans should beware that these certificates are not recognised by anybody.

Dr. Galgallo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of public health belongs to this Ministry, and the handling of those medicines is a public health issue. Now, if the Assistant Minister says he does not know what they are doing and under what titles, what business does he have being in this Ministry?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Just to assist the Assistant Minister, he has given some titles which you asked for. Those are the ones they operate under.

An hon. Member: They are quacks!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): We do not want to get his opinion. We want to get the correct answer from the Ministry. I think we should understand that these people are not accredited, to begin with, and since they are not accredited, they cannot use the titles used in the other colleges. The only thing they are saying is that they are going to close them. Those which are accredited can continue and be given some titles to operate on.

Mr. Konchella, what do you have to say on that?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with you entirely. The Ministry of Health cannot know what is going on behind every street in this country. So, unless it comes through the public for us to see what they are doing, we would not know. But what we know is that we have sent a team which has evaluated them and we have identified those we have registered and those who have not been registered.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think what we need is a definite answer. They have said these institutions are doing illegal training, and really, we need him to tell us that they are going to close them down. I think he owes this nation that commitment.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Mr. Konchella, you have not said that?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know; these things started during the KANU era. We are trying to streamline what has been going wrong in this country by simply removing what is wrong. So, if they started during KANU era, then ask us what we are

doing about it now. We are getting rid of quacks in the pharmacy training.

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question has not been adequately answered. This is a very serious issue. Pharmacy is a very important component of medical practice. The Department of Pharmacy at the University of Nairobi---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Ask your last question!

Dr. Kuti: When will the list of un-accredited colleges be published so that they are closed, and Kenyans know and do not take their students there?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this will be considered. But I want to assure hon. Dr. Kuti that the Poisons and Pharmacy Board, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, is setting up a curriculum that is going to ensure that all will follow.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Mr. Konchella, Just tell the House--- You know them. You know all these training institutions and you must bring the list of the training institutions which you know, both the ones that have been accredited and the ones that have not been accredited. You said those ones will automatically be closed. Members just need to know that you have done something about it.

Mr. Kochella: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will table that list tomorrow, because it is available.

Question No.662

IMPORTATION OF TEA PLUCKING MACHINES

Mr. Keter asked the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development:-

- (a) how many tea-plucking machines have been imported by Brooke Bond and James Finlay companies and where they are kept;
- (b) what is the equivalent of one machine to human labour; and,
- (c) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that employees of the said companies are not retrenched.

The Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Dr. Kulundu): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Brooke Bond Kenya Ltd. imported 15 and James Finlay Kenya Ltd. imported 20 hand-held tea-plucking machines, respectively. There is also one in Sotik. The machines at Brooke Bond Kenya Ltd. are within the company's tea estate of Kapkorech, Kimugu and Kerenga. Those of James Finlay Kenya Ltd. are located at Kiptatei and Kaproret Tea Estates.

(b) One plucking machine manned by three people performs the equivalent of 18 people at Brooke Bond Kenya Ltd. while one plucking machine manned by the same three people at James Finlay Kenya Ltd. performs an equivalent task done by approximately 25 people.

(c) The Government has in place the law governing redundancies and retrenchment. The affected companies also have in place recognition and collective bargaining agreements through the Employers Association namely, the Kenya Tea Growers Association, with the Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union. The agreement provides that no retrenchment can be effected without the knowledge of the other party and also of the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development. In our recent meeting with the representatives of the tea companies, it was also agreed that there would be no retrenchment or redundancy. These machines, I must emphasise, are on experimental basis. Five of them at Brooke Bond Kenya Ltd. and three of them at James Finlay Kenya Ltd. Machines will be used to harvest no more than 12 per cent of affected plantations. The machine-operated green tea will be marketed in Japan and other Far East Asian countries where it is

popular and fetches good prices.

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the NARC Government came into power with a promise that they were going to create 500,000 jobs per year. Here is a situation where the Government has allowed multinationals to import about 40 tea-plucking machines which, in my calculation, will lead to the retrenchment of about 1,000 people. Could the Minister consider banning the use of these machines in Kenya?

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is not going to stand in the way of technology. Harvesting by machines is the trend worldwide. However, suffice it to say that, in this particular case in Kericho, in M/S Brooke Bond and 53 other companies, there will be no retrenchment absolutely and there will be no redundancies as a result of introducing these machines. The affected workers will be redeployed to other sections of the plantations. As I have said, these machines will not cover more than 12 per cent for every plantation in this country.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has answered that there will be no retrenchment and yet he has said that 12 per cent of the work will be done by these machines. Does that make sense? Could the Minister consider levying 2000 per cent tax on these machines so that they are not imported? This will prohibit their importation into this country.

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it makes a lot of sense in that the affected workers do not number more than 200 and re-absorbing them in the other sections of the tea companies will not be very difficult.

However, let me stress that, apart from levying tax and so forth, my Ministry is in the process of introducing other conditionalities in order for these companies to bring in machines. For example, these plucking machines will be of a specific size and specification. I know that large plucking machines are the ones that are offensive in the sense that they may require more workers to be displaced. We, as a Ministry are, therefore, working on that and I do not see anything wrong with the machines covering less than 12 per cent.

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my concern is that we have M/S Brooke Bond and M/S James Finlay in Kericho. That is not the only tea-growing area in Kenya. What we have---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Just ask the question!

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is why are we always on the receiving end in terms of dismissal of police officers and experimenting of new equipment? Why do we not get these particular machines experimented in Limuru or other tea-growing areas? Why specifically Kericho?

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a partisan question! However, it is not true that these machines have been introduced in Kericho alone. I have said that last Friday, we met with representatives of 53 companies that are not based in Kericho alone. Therefore, it is a countrywide phenomenon and Kenya alone cannot stand in the way of technology. If we were to resist technology, then we should as well resist the introduction of computers in our offices! Therefore, so long as the workers' welfare is assured, the introduction of these machines is welcome.

(Mr. Keter stood up in his place)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): We should be getting to Questions by Private Notice. Mr. Keter, you gave out your chance for the last question. Your colleague asked it for you!

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has clearly said that 12 per cent of work in the affected area will be done by the machines and they will be plucking green tea

which is meant for the Japanese market. That is only in M/S James Finlay. What about his former employer M/S Brooke Bond which is not manufacturing green tea?

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, M/S Brooke Bond was my former employer before coming to Parliament. However, M/S Brooke Bond and the other 52 companies have got a good market in the Far East of green tea. It is not just M/S Finlay. Even M/S Brooke Bond has got a market in the Far East and the traditional dependence on the West must be discarded for this new market in the Far East; where green tea fetches very good prices.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): We will now go to Questions by Private Notice!

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ARREST/PROSECUTION OF MR. JAMES MUIRURI

(Mr. Muiruri) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. James Karanja Muiruri was on March 14th, 2004 arrested and detained in Makindu Police Station until April 5th, 2004 without being charged?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, under what circumstances was the said person arraigned in court, charged with indecent assault and is now in remand prison having spent a further 23 days in police cells?

(c) What action does the Minister intend to take against the officers involved in the illegal arrest, detention and malicious prosecution of the said Mr. James Muiruri?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Muiruri's Question is deferred to Thursday.

(Question deferred)

TERMS/CONDITIONS OF EXTERNAL DEBTS REDEMPTION

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

(a) Could the Minister explain the nature, terms and conditions relating to the following external debts listed for redemption in the Schedule of Debts in the Printed Estimates for 2004/2005:

(i) Universal Satspace - Kshs674,081,921

(ii) Silverson-Forensic -Kshs298,400,000

(iii) Rescheduled/New loans -Kshs904,568,439

(b) Could the Minister state when the appropriate expenditure relating to these loans was approved by Parliament?

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

(a) Universal Satspace debt is meant to take care of supplies of bandwidth spectrum and ten years service to Telkom Kenya Limited. The amount of the loan is US\$39.9 million at nil interest rate and at a repayment period of 5.5 years.

Silverson-Forensic debt is meant to cater for supply of 994 security vehicles and assorted spares to the Office of the President. The amount of the loan is US\$90 million with a nil interest rate and 13 years repayment period.

Rescheduled/New loans will be used to pay amounts rescheduled under both tariffs and London club debts as well as new rescheduling which may take place during the financial year.

(b) The provisions of expenditure relating to these loans were incorporated in the 2003/2004 Financial Year Budget Estimates which were approved by this Parliament.

Thank you.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because of the importance of this Question, I seek the indulgence of the House for a minute. You will notice that both loans; Universal Satspace and Silverson-Forensic were taken last year yet I would challenge the Assistant Minister that the Budget Estimates for last year, which are with us here, do not contain those expenditures relating to Telkom Kenya and 994 security vehicles. However, more importantly, they are dubious because which company in the world will supply you 994 vehicles for US\$90 million without any interest rate for 13.5 years? Because of the concerns about the dubious nature of these transactions, I would appreciate if the Assistant Minister would also table the relevant contents for this House to peruse.

My question is: With regard to Silverson-Forensic, who is this company? Who are they? Last year, the company was paid Kshs287 million and this year, it will be paid Kshs298 million. So, could he tell the House whether the motor vehicles have, indeed, been delivered and table the contract documents for both loans?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the issue of the vehicles that are to be supplied by M/s Silverson-Forensic, the agreement was signed between the Office of the President and that company in 2001. The company was to supply 994 vehicles to the Office of the President. As I have said, since the signing of that agreement, no vehicles have been supplied to date. We have also not paid anything to the company. We have only provided for the funds in the Budget. You realise that this Question is based on the provision made in this year's Budget. If the vehicles are supplied, we will pay as per the agreement that was signed then.

The details of the company are available at the Office of the Registrar of Companies.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Assistant Minister, Mr. Billow requested you to table the contract documents for both loans.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will table the contract documents later. I do not have them with me now.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): When will you table them?

Mr. Katuku: I will do so on Tuesday, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister said that he is implementing an agreement which was signed in 2001. Did this agreement have an open-ended implementation period, or did it have a specific period within which it should have been implemented through the supply of the vehicles?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not get the question. Could the hon. Member repeat it?

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, does this agreement have an open-ended implementation period in the supply of the vehicles?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the agreement, the vehicles are supposed to be supplied over a period of eight years. You realise that this agreement was signed by the KANU Government in 2001. It is unfortunate that the NARC Government is now being crucified for the misdeeds of the previous regime. We are trying to correct some of these misdeeds,

including the contract between the Government of Kenya and M/s Forensic, Laboratories and others, which were signed by the KANU regime.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have heard the Assistant Minister say that the NARC Government is being crucified for the "misdeeds" of the KANU regime. I am surprised that he continues to honour those "misdeeds". Is he in order to mislead the House? If there was a misdeed by the previous regime, the best thing to do would be for the current Government to cancel the contract and start afresh.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, cancelling the contracts will lead to some costly legal implications. Those of us who have been involved in the signing of contracts know that the implications of cancelling the contract may be more costly than waiting to pay for the vehicles as they are supplied. However, we are evaluating these contracts with a view to doing away with some of them.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister needs to take this Question seriously. Taxpayers are going to pay Kshs900 million this year alone to service two agreements in respect of which no goods or services have been provided. May I request the House that this Question be deferred until we get a copy of the agreement, go through it and confirm what the Assistant Minister has told us? He said that, according to the contract, the vehicles will be delivered over a period of eight years. We want to confirm that statement. The information I have is that last year, M/s Silverson-Forensic and M/s Universal Satspace were paid Kshs287 million and Kshs649 million respectively. Both amounts are provided for in the Estimates. The Government is going to pay the amounts provided for in the current financial year, unless we terminate these contracts. Could we defer the Question until this afternoon, when I get a copy of the contract?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order! Order! Mr. Billow, your request for deferment of the Question cannot be the last resort. Really, you were only given a chance to ask your last question. So, you cannot go through the Question and then request for its deferment. However, I want you to know that I have asked the Assistant Minister to table the contracts. When he does so, you can even seek clarifications.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the Estimates for last year and those projects were not approved by this House. However, the Government went ahead and paid Kshs287 million and Kshs649 million for projects that have not been approved by this House. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House when the motor vehicles and the telecom services will be provided by these companies? We believe the second company is owned by Mr. Deepak Karmani of M/s Anglo Leasing and Finance Company.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, when provisions are made in the Budget and approved by Parliament, that, by itself, gives the Government the mandate to spend the money for the intended purposes. I want to confirm to this House that although we voted those funds, to date, no money has been paid in respect of the vehicles in question. In the current financial year, we have made provision in the Estimates, but we have not yet paid. We will only pay after the vehicles have been supplied.

Mr. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The written answer by the Assistant Minister is very clear that the expenditures were incorporated in the 2003/2004 Budget, and I am challenging him on that one. The only provision under the Office of the President for motor vehicles was for the 400 police vehicles it bought and its budget was Kshs1 billion. Is the Assistant Minister not misleading the House?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order! Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, was this project explicitly provided for?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the agreement, the amount

was not to be paid in total. The payments were to be staggered for eight years. So, last year, we made a provision for the amount that was to be paid then. In the current Estimates, we have provided for the amount we are supposed to pay this year. In the next Estimates, we will provide for the amount we are required to pay next year. So, the hon. Member should not question the total amount involved. That figure will be arrived at after all the payments have been made.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, what Mr. Billow is asking is that even the amount you said was provided for was not, actually, provided for in the last Budget. So, how was the amount provided for? Was it provided for explicitly or in some other ways?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Billow's Question is based on the 2004/2005 Estimates and I said the amounts are provided for. Whether the project was provided for in the last financial year or not, we did not pay for anything. It is not necessary that all the monies provided in Budget are spent.

Mr. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister give us the Sub-Vote and the Head under which the monies are provided for in the current Estimates, so that we can check? Let us not take the House for a ride!

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you remember that when this Question came up last week, I said that it would be fair to the House if the hon. Member could wait until we discuss the Vote of the Ministry of Finance in the Committee Stage, so that he could raise the question. We will scrutinise the Ministry's Vote in the Committee Stage this afternoon. If I had with me here the Printed Estimates, I would show him the schedules. If he doubts me now, let him ask that question when we scrutinise the Vote of the Ministry of Finance, and I will show him the schedules under which the monies are provided.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Very well. Because of shortage of time, Mr. Choge's and Mr. Kagwima's Questions by Private Notice will be deferred to Tuesday afternoon.

RECONSTRUCTION OF KAPKENER
PRIMARY SCHOOL ROOF

(Mr. Choge) to ask the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that a roof covering a block of seven classrooms at Kapkener Primary School in Aldai Division, Aldai Constituency, was blown away by strong winds on 15th July, 2004?
- (b) Is the Minister further aware that the roof was completely wrecked?
- (c) What has the Minister done to provide a new roof, which is estimated at about Kshs600,000?

(Question deferred)

OMISSION OF THARAKA DISTRICT
FROM KMTC INTAKE

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that Tharaka District has been omitted in this year's in-take in Kenya Medical Training College?
- (b) Could the Minister urgently correct this omission?

(Question deferred)

POINTS OF ORDER

OMISSION OF QUESTION FROM THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Omondi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order regarding a Question which appeared on the Order Paper yesterday. Being aware of the importance of the Question, we went and talked to the Clerk of the National Assembly and the Minister himself pledged that the Question would appear today. I am surprised that the Question is not on today's Order Paper.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Is it not on the Order Paper for the afternoon sitting?

Mr. Omondi: No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): I understand it is coming up on Tuesday.

Order, hon. Members! I am hard pressed to move to the next Order because of time. We have taken a lot of time with the Questions. Who has a Ministerial Statement?

SPEAKERS RULING ON QUESTION NO.555

Mr. M.A. Haji: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have not made a ruling on Question No.555. We have been waiting for the Minister under whose docket the Question falls, but he has not turned up.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): The Question is deferred to Tuesday next week. There is one Ministerial Statement.

(Question deferred)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HARASSMENT OF KOROKWONY WOMEN GROUP BY PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Bomet, Mr. Salat, sought a Ministerial Statement as to why members of Korokwony Women Group in Bomet District are being harassed by the Provincial Administration and what law they have flouted to deserve the harassment. He also sought to know why the Government is getting involved directly in matters of the women group and even forcing them to hold elections when it is aware that there is a protracted case in the High Court between Korokwony Women Group and Korokwony Company Ltd.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I wish to shed light on the historical background of this matter. The Korokwony Women Group was formed in 1996 by the late Mr. Isaac Salat, the former Member of Parliament for Bomet Constituency. The idea was to bring all women groups in his constituency under one umbrella. The membership by then was 3,000 women.

The group owns a five acre plot within Bomet Town. However, in 1991, a few members of Korokwony Women Group secretly registered a company by the name Korokwony Company Ltd. According to the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the shareholders are as follows:-

- (i) Ms. Priscilla Chepkirui Tesot - 50 shares;
- (ii) Ms. Esther Chepkorir Koromicha - 50 shares; and,
- (iii) Ms. Alice Chepng'etich Kosgei - 50 shares.

This means that all the other women in the group are excluded from the company, which has also registered the five-acre plot in its name. The scenario has generated numerous cases in court over the ownership of the company, the property and the money that was in the bank.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Provincial Administration is aware of the protracted case in the High Court between the two factions. As a result, it cannot, in any way, interfere in this matter. The Provincial Administration has called upon all the members to try and amicably agree on reconciliation, so that they all benefit from the common investment.

(Ms. Mbarire stood up in her place)

Mr. Osundwa: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to draw your attention to the fact that there are two hon. Members on their feet, contrary to our Standing Orders.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Members! Mr. Osundwa you are right. The Assistant Minister is on the Floor. Let us give him the opportunity to make the Ministerial Statement.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is, therefore, not true that the Provincial Administration is harassing the members of Korokwony Women Group, nor is it forcing them to hold elections. It is only trying to bring a reconciliatory ending to the controversy in this group. The elections were agreed upon by both factions after harmonisation of the list of the members. The elections were, therefore, held on 17th July, 2004, with both factions present. Unfortunately, one of the groups left in the middle of the exercise, but the exercise was completed.

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for having done a proper research into the history of Korokwony Women Group. He has stated that there is a group which broke away from the original Korokwony Women Group. Last weekend, through the assistance of the Provincial Administration, fictitious names were used to conduct an election. The Assistant Minister has admitted that there is a protracted court case with regard to this matter. The elections were held in the presence of the DC, who sought to bring these two warring factions together. The Korokwony Company Ltd. took the matter to court. After about four years of court rulings, Korokwony Women Group was about to win the case. There is some interference. They were forced to wind up the Korokwony Company Ltd and hold elections, so that members of the Korokwony Women Group could join the company.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): What do you want to be clarified?

Mr. Salat: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why would a fictitious list be used in holding elections, which were supervised by the Provincial Administration?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information we have is that prior to the elections, there was harmonisation of the list of the names of the members of Korokwony Women Group. The harmonised list of names was agreed upon by the both factions in the presence of the Provincial Administration. What is at stake here is a possibility of an investment for a flour milling company, worth about Kshs85 million. The Provincial Administration was merely coming in to make sure that things are in order, so that we do not lose this investment.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is trying to reward an individual in the whole process. The maize flour milling project worth about Kshs85 million is welcome in that area. Why is the area hon. Member being sidelined? A nominated hon. Member from the area, Mr. Kones, is a shareholder of the flour milling company. I have a letter from the Treasury which says:-

"I wish to confirm that the Kenya Government implementation team for the maize flour processing project in Bomet town will comprise the following:- The District Development Committee; Korokwony Women Group and Hon. Kipkalia Kones".

Are we trying to reward Mr. Kones for supporting this Government?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro: Order, Mr. Sirma! You need to table that letter.

(Mr. Sirma laid the document on the Table)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to confirm, first of all, that the Government recognises that the Member of Parliament for Bomet is Mr. Salat and it has no intention to undermine his work. If mistakes were made in the past, they can be corrected. We are all human beings.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! This is a serious matter which affects hon. Members of this House. One is a Nominated Member, while the other one is elected. So, how do you include one and exclude the other, especially, an elected hon. Member?

(Applause)

Order! The Assistant Minister has heard. Let him respond!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to re-state the position again; that, it is not the intention of the Government to undermine the work of the elected Member of Parliament. If mistakes have been made, we will correct them. We shall include all the necessary leadership, including Mr. Salat. He knows he is my friend and I cannot leave him out!

(Laughter)

POINTS OF ORDER

ACQUISITION OF KISUMU MOLASSES
PLANT BY FOREIGN COMPANY

Mr. Mbau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Energy on the circumstances under which a foreign company, namely Energem Resources Incorporated acquired the Kisumu Molasses Plant from the Government and the conditions under which a subsidiary firm of that company was licensed to be the sole supplier for bitumen to the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. I am informed that whereas the Kisumu Molasses Plant was valued at US\$24 million in March, 2004, Energem Resources Incorporated acquired a 55 per cent shareholding at a throwaway price of US\$2 million, instead of the anticipated US\$13.2 million. I am wondering whether we can afford to throw away---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Mbau! Are you seeking information or you are supplying information?

Mr. Mbau: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am seeking information. I want to conclude by asking: Could the Minister also note that the same foreign company has taken over five other companies which are operating in Kenya? I wonder whether the Minister for Energy is here.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Mbau, which Ministry are you directing the Ministerial Statement to?

Mr. Mbau: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the Ministry of Energy.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Is the Minister for Energy here?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will pass on the information to the Ministry of Energy.

Mr. Mbau: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

GRABBING OF KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL LAND

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek an urgent Ministerial Statement regarding a despicable saga at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) where an Assistant Minister of the Government led a group of land grabbers to grab land which belongs to a Government institution, which is a reputable referral hospital in this country. I would like to seek this Ministerial Statement from the Leader of Government Business because the matter touches on the Ministry of Health, the Office of the President - Special Programmes, the Ministry of Lands and Housing and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We watched a scene where an Assistant Minister of the Government led people to destroy a fence which belongs to a Government institution. People were taken there to grab land that belongs to a public institution, when in fact, we have been told this morning that the Government is trying to repossess land which was grabbed from its institutions. This is an urgent matter because there is tension at that hospital.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Well done, Mr. Angwenyi! Is the Leader of Government Business here?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will pass on the information to the Leader of Government Business.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Let us move on to the next Order!

MOTIONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE PYRETHRUM INDUSTRY

THAT, noting that Kenya is the leading producer of pyrethrum in the world; considering that the pyrethrum industry has in the past earned this country considerable foreign exchange; cognisant of the fact that the industry is currently facing a lot of problems; this House urges the Government to establish a committee of experts to look into the problems affecting the industry and that the committee submits its report to the Minister within four months after its appointment.

(Mr. Mukiri on 21.7.2004)

*(Resumption of Debate
interrupted on 21.7.2004)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Mukiri, I think you were moving your Motion! You have five minutes to go!

Mr. Mukiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. To wind up, I urge the Government to invest in the pyrethrum industry. As I said last time, pyrethrum is the fifth foreign exchange earner. In 1996, the industry earned this country about Kshs2 billion. At the moment, we are just getting hundreds of millions. This is because of the various problems which I enumerated. The Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK) has come up with several by-products from pyrethrum. Those by-products are used to kill insects which destroy our maize, wheat and rice. We have by-products which kill mosquitoes and their larvae. The PBK has also come up with by-products which kill ticks, tsetse flies and many other insects.

I had an opportunity of visiting the PBK with Mr. Muchiri, Mr. M. Kariuki and other hon. Members and we saw how the Board produces those by-products in a very small laboratory. We know that if the Government is serious, it will put up a factory so that all those by-products can be sold in this country and the neighbouring countries. The by-products can help open up markets for pyrethrum. We are not asking for too much. I think this is within the capability of the Government. As I said earlier on, the Government should invest between Kshs100 million and 200 million in this industry. If the Government does that, we will not rely on the foreign market for our crop. Right now, the Board concentrates in looking for pyrethrum markets in Europe and the USA. I also urge the Government to ask or assist local investors to invest in this industry. We know that China and a company in the USA called Johnson and Johnson have shown a lot of interest in this industry. But I urge the Government to assist local investors to invest in the industry so that we can be guaranteed of continuity.

Lastly, there is the Kshs150 million which was deposited in the Euro Bank Ltd. and the case was taken to court. I think there is a problem with the Government when it comes to fighting corruption. Since the case was taken to court, and I think it was taken there by the KANU Government, nothing has happened. We want the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs to spend more time in fighting corruption. People should be taught that corruption does not pay. The people who took away the Kshs150 million have gone scot-free, while the farmers are suffering.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to see tangible efforts. We want to see the Minister, as much as he is trying to bring a legislation on the Constitution, do other work as mandated in the Constitution. I would like to ask hon. Members to support this Motion, so that we can assist pyrethrum farmers in this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to move, and urge my friend and colleague, Mr. Cheboi, to second the Motion.

Mr. Cheboi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to second

this Motion. The pyrethrum industry is one of the leading foreign exchange earners for this country. Between my constituency and that of the Mover of the Motion, I think we produce more than 70 per cent of pyrethrum in this country. The pyrethrum industry is ailing. Pyrethrum farmers have not been paid for more than two years now. The Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK) owes farmers more than Kshs2 billion. That is why I second this Motion and say that a committee of experts should be established to investigate what is ailing the industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the PBK has been paying what it owes to farmers in bits. I would like to say that it is totally wrong for the Board to start paying from behind. I say "from behind" because, having not been paid for two years, and the Board now begins to pay farmers from two years behind--- As at now, they are making payments for August, 2002. That does not, in any way, help farmers to continue producing that crop.

The other day, the factory was burnt down. So, as we speak right now, the produce from Kenya is taken to Rwanda - a foreign country - for processing. Then, the other day, the insurance company paid for the damages on the factory. They paid about 80 per cent of the total value of the factory that was burnt down. I would like to suggest that the entire amount that has been paid should not be used to construct a new factory. It should be paid to farmers first. That is because, at the end of the day, if a new factory is built now, farmers will no longer have anything to take to the factory.

Secondly, on the same issue of payment by the insurance company, you cannot expect the PBK, which claims that it cannot pay for a month's produce, to fill the gap between what the insurance company paid and what is over and above--- The valuation of the factory was done a long time ago. So, what has been paid now cannot construct a new factory. I want to say that the best way forward, and which those experts could adopt to held the industry, is to liberalise the pyrethrum market.

(Applause)

What we are saying is that, at the moment, there is no competition. You can only take your pyrethrum produce to the PBK and nowhere else! If the market was liberalised, there are quite a number of things which would come up. First, there would be competition between the sectors. For example, in Nakuru now, there is a mosquito coil making plant. If the industry is liberalised, we will have competition. That will instil discipline into the pyrethrum industry.

Secondly, if the industry is liberalised, we will have managers in the Board who will run it like a business, and not like a church organisation where profits are not required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has not supported the pyrethrum industry. I want to say that, actually, the Government has neglected that very useful sector of our economy. When the Minister goes to the western part of this Republic, he talks about the sugar industry. He even goes ahead and gives them some help. He gives them some money! The other day, he gave sugar-cane farmers almost Kshs800 million!

Prof. Olweny: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to say that the Minister gave sugar-cane farmers money and yet, the money that was given to them was from their own Sugar Development Levy, which is deducted from them?

(Applause)

An hon. Member: That is frivolous!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Prof. Olweny! The hon. Member is right! The source of the money is immaterial!

Mr. Cheboi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for protecting me. I do not want to rule out the hon. Member as being frivolous! What he has said is welcome. That is exactly what I want from the Government. We have taken produce worth over Kshs2 billion to the Board. We are really not asking for a favour from the Government. We are asking the Government to give us money and use the produce that we have taken to the Board as security. That is the same as what my colleague has said here. We just want our money! Let the Minister give us our money! So, I am saying that the Government has totally failed to support pyrethrum producers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the factory is worth over Kshs2 billion. What is required is marketing and help from the Government. The Government should use the produce, and whatever has been manufactured, as security. The Government should put in place the right policies. We do not expect Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) to be used to control mosquitoes. We should use products from pyrethrum to control mosquitoes.

The Pyrethrum Board Act has been flouted with impunity by the Minister. We have visited his office and told him as much. As I said, in Nakuru District, we produce more than 70 per cent of pyrethrum in this Republic. But, when it came to appointment of directors, the Minister went ahead and gave those posts to members from his own area and other areas which do not produce the crop. We want a situation where Nakuru District, which produces the most pyrethrum in this country, to have more directors. So, the number of directors from a district should be commensurate with what it produces. So, in actual sense, Nakuru District should be having 70 per cent of the directors. We only have one elected director and another one who hails from Nakuru District, but has been appointed a director of the neighbouring Kericho District. We really feel that the Government has done very little to help us.

Last year, I visited the Johnsons and Johnsons the plant in the United States of America (USA). They said they require quite a lot of our produce. The problem has been that there has been very little support from the Government. The Government imposes unnecessary levies when they try to get that product from us. Nobody in this Government has ventured in Eastern Europe, China and Russia, to try and explore and source markets for our produce.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that if the Government can support that industry; if a group of experts can be mandated to look at what is ailing that industry--- We do not want people from other regions to manage an industry which they do not understand! If you bring somebody from Meru or other regions which do not grow pyrethrum, it becomes a problem! They do not understand the magnitude of that problem. We want local experts who understand the problems in the industry. I think we should have gone further and sought a parliamentary committee to support that industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to summarize by saying that the Government should put its priorities right. We have a situation where we are the best pyrethrum producing nation in the world. But we are being over-taken by our neighbours like Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and even India now! If we do not put our priorities right, we will end up losing the advantage that we have had for quite a long time. I can assure you that it will be a total loss for this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion. I would like, from the outset, to say that the pyrethrum factory is located in my constituency and I know the pain that farmers and the workers in this industry are faced with.

Our first line of defence in terms of looking at the operation of this corporation is to visit some matters relating to the management of State Corporations. There is a serious conflict between the State Corporations Act and the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya Act, which gives the board powers to appoint a managing director. The State Corporations Act gives the power to appoint a managing director to the Minister. This is a serious conflict.

Although the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya Act is much older in terms of legislation compared to the State Corporations Act, there was no attempt in the State Corporations Act of 1986 to amend the provisions of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya Act. In that regard, therefore, the power to appoint a managing director, in my humble view, is vested in the Board and not in the Minister. This is one of the major problems we have today because we have a managing director who, after failing to manage Sony Sugar Company and after being suspended by the Minister for four months, found his way in Nakuru as the managing director of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya. I think the Board should have a free hand to pick a competent managing director in terms of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya Act. We do not want a managing director who is handpicked and imposed on farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya Act, the shareholders are the producers of the pyrethrum. The shares are determined by the levels of production. The Act states very clearly that the distribution of the directorship of the Board will be in accordance with the production level based on the districts. In that regard, therefore, and just as Mr. Cheboi has clearly stated here, if we are the leading producers of pyrethrum as a district, then, we must have the lion's share in the Board. That is within the spirit of the Act. Unfortunately, concerning what happened last year, perhaps, the Minister was not properly advised in terms of what he had to do to pick members of the Board. So, we had in place a Board that had to be disbanded because the farmers had not been given a hand to carry out elections to elect their representatives. However, even as constituted today, the Board still faces serious problems because the production levels are not reflected in the composition of the Board. We hope that in the future, there will be a serious attempt to ensure that the production levels per district are reflected in the composition of the Board.

We are aware that there are problems of marketing of pyrethrum and as Mr. Mukiri said, the hon. Members from the pyrethrum producing areas have had occasion to visit this factory, and we saw the amount of pending stock that cannot be disposed of. The stock is lying there in excess of Kshs2 billion. We are aware that the problems of marketing arose as a result of corrupt practices. Markets were being changed so that people could get handouts. Subsequently, the places we were marketing our pyrethrum to had to keep us out completely. The countries that gained from this particular decision were Rwanda and Tanzania. We need to do a very aggressive marketing for our pyrethrum. Given that a stock worth Kshs2 billion is still pending and we still owe the farmers in excess of Kshs800 million, something has to be done in order to break this long jump.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have had the occasion to visit some European States. The emphasis today is that they want organic products. Besides the competition that is being posed by synthetic products in terms of pesticides, the organic products still carry the day and their value is much higher. So, the market for pyrethrum, in fact, has a greater potential now than, probably, any other time in the past. We should be able to promote our pyrethrum so that our farmers can expand the production of the same. But they cannot produce more when what they produced a year ago is still lying there and when they have not been paid for what they submitted to the factory.

I think we need a new approach to marketing which will ensure that the products are marketed competitively across the globe. Currently, the main markets have been the USA and a few countries in Europe. But even in Europe, we can only export our products to one or two countries. Therefore, in order to compete effectively, we need to go for quality production.

Right now, part of the pyrethrum stock that we receive in Nakuru has had to be transported to Rwanda for processing. It is then brought back before it is exported. This is because one of the factories went on fire last year. We were assured that it had been properly insured, but despite that fact, the factory has not been replaced and the cost of production has, therefore, gone very high. If we have to transport raw pyrethrum to Rwanda and bring the refined pyrethrin back, we lose the by-products too, that is the pyrethrum waste that goes into the refinery. So, I think in order to promote higher quality and to reduce the cost of production, it is necessary that we put our factory in place and be able to pay our farmers timely.

One of the problems that we are having right now is the problem of personnel. Despite the fact that Nakuru District leads in the production of pyrethrum, the way the managing directors are picked leaves a lot to be desired. They are picked from outside the production area. It is very unfortunate that the problem that has now created a stand-off between the management and the farmers today has been brought about by the management. There is a new managing director who thinks that all he can do is to get boys and girls from his village to come and be heads of departments. The present position is that eight heads of department in Pyrethrum Board in Nakuru come from the same village with the managing director. They were employed after he had been picked. This is very demoralising for farmers who produce pyrethrum. We are not saying that other Kenyans should not be given an opportunity to be picked and serve fellow Kenyans in an industry that is not located in their own district. The farmer must feel that he has a stake in the industry. Even in the recruitment of employees, the farmer should be considered. We want a situation where either the chairman or managing director are picked from Nakuru so that farmers in Nakuru can have the motivation to feel that they are raising their own baby and they would love to support it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add my voice to what Mr. Mukiri has said. Our visit to the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya was an eye-opener because one of the most successful laboratories I have seen in this country is based within the Board's premises. We have very good researchers who have come up with very modern products which we should be able to sell competitively. In the earlier days, the Board used to have a subsidiary which was involved in the processing of pyrethrin. In view of the products that we are now getting from this laboratory, it is important that the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya ventures into the production of pesticides. They have the best research material and it will be in order if they went into the processing of pyrethrum. By doing so, they will be cost effective and even if we do not get markets overseas, we will be able to process it locally and sell it in the local market.

That is an area which needs to be looked into, and I appreciate that the Motion seeks to have a committee of experts which will be able to look at every aspect of pyrethrum, from the grower, processing and marketing. I think that by doing this, we will be able to identify the problem areas. I would like to propose that when this committee of experts is appointed, let the farmer be represented in the same proportions, as it is the wearer of the shoe who knows where it pinches. I think pyrethrum farmers know where the problem is. We are well aware of the problems even at the factory level, right from the production, cost and the manner in which the quality is assessed. Because you can grow pyrethrum next to your neighbour, and in terms of quality assessment, your neighbour gets twice as much in terms of valuation of that particular product. You are left wondering, because the climate and the soil is the same. So, how come that one farmer is paid 50 per cent of what the other farmer is getting? These are areas that need to be re-examined, and I really think that a committee of experts will be able to do this quite effectively.

I beg to support.

Mr. Sirma: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to talk about this very important Motion.

At the onset, I wish to say that I support the Motion raised by hon. Mukiri. This industry is very important to our farmer, but currently, the whole industry has been run down and the Government is actually doing very little to support this industry. I would like to support what hon. M. Kariuki said, although I know that the factory is located in his constituency and, of course, he is reaping from where he has not sown. We know that he just gets his constituents employed from our hard-earned earnings.

He has also talked about the board employing the managing director or the management team. I think that this is an issue where the Government has totally failed. When the NARC Government came into power, they were drunk with all the power they had inherited, and they decided to sack everybody on site who had a certain name or who came from a certain community. Mr. Kiptoon was a competent manager in that factory, and he understood how to manage that factory. But I think right now, some people are complaining about the new managing director who came all the way from Sony Sugar Factory in Muhoroni. The complaints have nothing to do with his competence, and I think it is only about the love lost within the NARC family which is bringing about all the hatred right now. We do not think that he is a bad manager. Let us give him an opportunity and see whether what this Government did is anything to go by.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a constituency which grows a lot of pyrethrum. We have the highest pyrethrin content produced from Koibatek, and we have been the ones being paid the highest per kilo because of the contents of production. I also wish to say that I was a pyrethrum grower until the other day when this industry collapsed, and I uprooted all the pyrethrum in my farm, and they are now no more. Unless the Government makes an about-turn decision on this issue, farmers are going to lose this crop. We had a very good crop which had been bred well by the researchers at the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a lot of reservations about putting in the experts to investigate what is known. We are only saying that the Minister does not want to take action. We are just pushing him as a House to do what is his actual role. These experts have all the information, and we should only tell them to hand over the report to the Minister, who is lazy and does not want to assist these farmers, so that he is seen to be working. Everything that is bedeviling this industry is known; it is the marketing. There were some dealers who wanted to be the go-in-between in the industry and the people who were buying the pyrethrin from the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya. We want the industry to be streamlined. You should stop giving confidence to those people who buy the pyrethrin. If we can do that, we shall not lose any money to the third parties who are in-between. The Minister is just refusing to do that, and he is just creating employment for other people, and in all this, it is the farmer who has lost.

The Board of Directors is not actually representative of the pyrethrum-growing areas. We have been having a director from our district. But since the NARC Government assumed power, they removed him because we never voted for NARC. I think that is the only reason I can give, because we have always had this director and Nakuru had their own director. The people of Kisii also grow pyrethrum. So, if we can change that, we can be back in business in the pyrethrum industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to talk about the issue of processing pyrethrum in Rwanda. This is a very sad case, and Kenya has been an example of a developing country in East and Central Africa, where we are ahead of most of the other countries. But it is sad that we are trying to get assistance from other places when it was just a matter of repairing what was burnt down in Nakuru. If we can only repair that--- We have lost employment and funds in terms of the pyrethrum being taken there for processing. We want this issue to be acted on very fast.

I also wish to say that our local authorities used to get cess, which used to help them to do

well. But although this money has been misused in the past, it was a source of revenue for our local authorities. We want this industry back because of that. With regard to the debt which the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya has with farmers, this is something the Government really needs to take a bold step, in order to revive this sector. We have been discussing the Vote of the Ministry of Finance, and I have seen that they are giving a lot of billions to the National Bank of Kenya. Why do they not give this money to the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya? Why do you want to give rich people money, while the poor farmer is suffering here, yet he has already delivered his produce? Why can the Government not take over these debts and then the National Bank of Kenya can wait another day? Because if we are interested in reviving the industry, why should we go to this other industry? We want to restructure the National Bank of Kenya so that we can sell it to another person. Why do we not restructure the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya so that it can help our farmers? It will create employment and wealth. This is something which should be taken very seriously.

Pyrethrum is actually required all over the world as it is an environmentally friendly product. Most of the people are turning away from the synthetic products. If we can take this advantage this moment, we can revive this industry, help our farmers and make Kenya a good country.

Finally, I would like to tell the Minister that we are not actually asking experts to give him advice. We are asking him to open his ears, so that we can tell him the cries of the many Kenyans. We want to create wealth in this country. There is no simpler way of doing this than giving farmers power by reviving the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK) and re-financing it to enable it pay back the money it owes our farmers.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Muchiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to support this Motion. Pyrethrum is a cash crop commonly grown in Nakuru, Nyandarua, Kisii and other contiguous districts, including West Pokot. Since this industry is ailing a lot of our people are actually suffering. We are unable to take children to secondary schools because pyrethrum farmers are not being paid their dues. The foremost problem is that farmers are delivering pyrethrum, but they are not being paid their dues by the Board. What is the problem?

We can talk about marketing, but the directors of the PBK have a responsibility to look into ways and means of solving problems faced by pyrethrum farmers. I think there is a problem and we have to say it, as people from pyrethrum-growing areas. The management of that board is not properly constituted. It may have a managing director and a chairman, but if you are a managing director who comes from about 500 kilometres from where you work, how can you understand the problems of the people you serve? I think there is a problem. We do not require an engineer to be the managing director of the PBK. We require an industrialist or an agriculturalist, who knows how to market the product and not how to repair machines. The Minister must look into that issue.

I do not think we require a chairman who comes from an area which does not grow pyrethrum. The chairman should come from Kisii, Nakuru, Nyandarua or West Pokot and not from cold mountains. Pyrethrum cannot grow on cold mountains. Maybe it can grow near the Aberdares because the climate there is rather suitable. Let us give jobs to people who are interested in working.

Mr. Sirma: Yes; join us here!

Mr. Muchiri: I am sorry, I will not cross to that side, Mr. Sirma. I belong here and I will remain here.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Government for intervening because the farmers are now getting a bit of payment, but there are still arrears for more than one and a half years.

As leaders, we are unable to restrain the farmers from uprooting pyrethrum for ever. We

keep on giving them hope, but there is a limit to this. You cannot keep on telling them that they will be paid. Eventually, they might take the cue from Mr. Sirma and uproot the crop. We do not want them to do that because there will be a time when demand for the crop will be high and there will be no pyrethrum coming in. Since we want to give our farmers incentives to grow the crop, we want the Government to assist them. Government support here is necessary.

When we hear that the Government is stabilising prices for coffee and sugar farming we ask why can it also does not direct its efforts to people living in Laikipia, Nyandarua and Nakuru Districts so that we can stabilise this industry.

I join Mr. Sirma in asking why the Government is pumping Kshs4.5 billion into the National Bank of Kenya. For what reason? I am a shareholder of the NBK, and for several years I have not received any dividends from this bank. What is the point of throwing good money after bad money? I cannot see any economic value in doing that. The Government is the only body that can resuscitate this industry. We, as farmers, are doing our job of growing the crop. The Government must manage this industry properly.

Most things in this country are not going in the wrong direction because of fate. It is a question of management. Management has now been recognised as a fourth factor of production in addition to capital, labour and land. If we are able to practise good management in our institutions, there is no reason why our industries should not thrive.

I wish to touch on the issue of the PBK money that was sunk into the Euro Bank. How can we just stare at such a situation? Can anybody tell me that the directors and shareholders of Euro Bank are not known? Why can we not use the principle of tracing to get this money? Why can we not lift the veil on this bank and see who was responsible for sinking that money in it? If the PBK deposited money into the Euro Bank and the money got lost there, and the Government is not able to get it back, then it should be held responsible for the loss. It is negligent not to trace this money and refund it to the farmers. Therefore, the Government has no option but to pay this money to farmers. I am calling upon the Government to ensure that that money that was lost in Euro Bank is returned to its owners.

As we fight corruption, I am not sure that Kenyans are that interested in anybody going to jail if he is not going to return their money. We want them to go to jail, return the money or both. That is all that we need. How can we can fight corruption by writing secret reports? I thought we were transparent. This Government is ruling this country on the platform of transparency and accountability. So, we do not want to hear about secret reports. We want open reports so that we can know who is ruining this economy. This economy must be resuscitated so that we can create the employment opportunities that the NARC Government has promised Kenyans. I do not think that the jobs promised by the Government are those where prospective candidates have to queue with their identity cards in their hands in order to be interviewed for them. If we resuscitate this economy, jobs will be created through the multiplier effects of economic growth. I think that is the way it should be and not the other way round.

We are currently growing pyrethrum in the former settlement areas. There was a time when pyrethrum was really a cash crop. I want to encourage our people to continue growing this crop because there are certain areas where you cannot grow anything else. If we do not grow pyrethrum, what else can we grow? Our soil is not suitable for tea or coffee growing. The only other crop that we can grow in those areas is potato. We do not want the pyrethrum industry to die, and that is why we are supporting the idea of identifying experts to look into what is ailing this industry. I hope that the Minister will be able to constitute a committee consisting of marketing, production, agricultural experts, pyrethrum farmers and local leaders. That way, it will be a complete task force or committee. However, I do not want to see a situation where committees are just formed. I know

there have been a lot of instances where task forces are formed and whatever reports they come up with, go to gather dust in the shelves. That is not what we are looking for in this case. We are looking for a committee that will give a way forward to this industry. If we believe that insecticides from pyrethrum are more environmentally friendly, then why do we not discourage the use of those ones which are less environmental friendly?

I had an opportunity with Mr. Mukiri, to visit one of the laboratories in Nakuru and we saw that there are a lot of products produced that can actually be marketed within the country. If we do that, pyrethrin will be utilised within the country. We have quite a big market. It is a shame, as Mr. M. Kariuki said, that sometimes we are forced to take pyrethrum all the way to Rwanda for processing, simply because a factory was burnt down. I wonder how long it takes an insurance company to pay. This is because that factory was insured. However, we are told that they have not even started to reconstruct it. That should be looked into and the insurance company should now pay up so that factory is reconstructed. We do not have to take pyrethrum all the way to Rwanda for processing.

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

Dr. Manduku: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for recognising me because I am one of the greatest pyrethrum growers in the whole of Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces. There is nobody who can dispute that fact because records in Nakuru show exactly that. It is believed that people living around Molo and its environs are the greatest growers of pyrethrum. However, we are the greatest growers of this crop in Kisii District.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, pyrethrum is the economic base of the people of my constituency and of the northern parts of Kisii District. The crop was first introduced in my area in the early 1950s. It is money generated from this crop that contributed to many of our people to go to school.

(Mr. Wetangula consulted loudly)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you, please, protect me from Mr. Wetangula?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Wetangula! Let us listen to Dr. Manduku!

Dr. Manduku: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir for protecting me. I was saying that money generated from the sale of pyrethrum facilitated our people to go school. Personally, I went to school because my father grew pyrethrum. In my area, we do not have any other cash crop other than pyrethrum. This is the crop which every individual; young and old, knows as a crop that earns money, other than maize which we grow for consumption at home and sometimes for sale. However, in the last three or five years, the crop has run down and its economic base has disappeared. When you visit my area now, you will see very poor people. They are not able to dress well, or send their children to school. You will also see many youths loitering around because they do not have jobs. Some of them have resorted to taking *chang'aa* or attacking *wananchi* simply because their parents were unable to pay school fees to enable them complete their secondary school and, probably, proceed to universities. It is for this reason that I say that this is a very important crop. Therefore, I would like the Government, and not only the Ministry, to protect it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know pyrethrum is the only crop that produces the best insecticide in the world. Its pyrethrin is better than all other insecticides that are produced. We cannot compare them with the synthetic products. You will also realize that Kenya has the best and the highest pyrethrin content in the pyrethrum crop.

The biggest producer of pyrethrum, after Kenya ran down, is Tasmania Island in Australia. Tasmania produces a lot of pyrethrum, but the quality cannot be compared to that of Kenya. Pyrethrum farming in this island is on large scale basis; including the planting and harvesting. This is completely different from the way we harvest this crop in Kenya. Therefore, we are the best producers of pyrethrum in the world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, pyrethrum is required the world over. So, marketing should be intensified, so that our farmers are able to get earnings from this very important crop. I do not understand why the Government does not support the marketing of this product. We all the time concentrate in marketing this product to Europe and America and yet, there is a potential market in the Eastern World. For example, Japan needs a lot of pyrethrum. Though India is producing a little pyrethrum, it cannot suffice its requirements. Therefore, the Government should support farmers in terms of marketing in the Asian world and increase the existing markets in America and Europe.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem that we have with regard to this crop is to do with management. I would like to support hon. Members who said that appointment of directors to the pyrethrum board is done very haphazardly. You cannot appoint a director who comes from a sugar-cane growing area. This is not possible. That director will not even know what happens with the pyrethrum sector. So, we should appoint a director from the people who are growing the product; have an interest and understand this crop. They could also advise farmers. I would like to agree with one of the hon. Members who said that, the chairman of this board be a pyrethrum grower. I do not think whether the current chairman is a pyrethrum grower because he comes from an area with very high altitude and pyrethrum cannot grow there. So, the question of patronage in appointment of directors must cease so that we streamline management of pyrethrum in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture is also neglecting farmers in the quality production of pyrethrum. For example, the kind of pyrethrum which is being introduced in the market now is hybrid; it has got high pyrethrin content. However, farmers do not know how to handle that because the Ministry of Agriculture has no interest in going into the farms to assist farmers produce the right crop; to know how to nurture it, fertilize it, pick it and dry it and even pack it for marketing. We ask the Ministry to use a little more energy and get extension officers and other experts. We are not asking for experts who will come to our offices and tell us how we are going to improve the production of pyrethrum. We want experts to go to the farms and help the farmers, so that the farmers can produce quality products and get paid properly. We want to stress that the Ministry should listen and help our farmers. When the now Minister for Agriculture was a Back-bencher in the Opposition, he was the loudest man talking about pyrethrum. I do not know what happened. He became a Minister and forgot! He went to sit in those beautiful red-carpeted offices and forgot what he used to say about pyrethrum. We want to wake him up and tell him: "Mr. Minister, wake up! Go and see the plight of our farmers!" Areas that do not have cash crops are suffering. Let him go and wake up his officers! They should help our farmers to grow better crops. That way, we can, definitely, get a good market.

The American market is still wide. Recently, we were in America and when we talked about pyrethrum, they said: "We wish you had more!" I do not know why we should not have it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another problem that we have is processing. Sometime back, that factory burnt down. How long does the Government take to replace those machines? The produce from farmers is now piled up in stores in Nakuru and cannot be processed, simply because processing is being done in Rwanda. When processing is done in Rwanda, you can imagine the cost of transportation from here to Rwanda and back to Nakuru for further processing, packaging and selling! The Government can give us a loan, if not a grant, to buy new machinery, and farmers will

pay within a certain period of time, instead of reviving the National Bank of Kenya (NBK)! Why not buy new pyrethrum processing machines, so that we can earn more foreign exchange for this country?

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kaindi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry, to respond to this very important Motion. I want to assure hon. Members that I have heard and listened very carefully to what they have said. I want to allay fears that there is anybody who is lazy in the Ministry. As a Ministry, we want to assure this House that we will do what it takes to assist not only pyrethrum farmers, but all the farmers in this country. The Government recognises the important role that agriculture plays in our economy. Therefore, I want to assure the House that, as a Ministry, we are really concerned about the decline of pyrethrum growing in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me start by saying that hon. Members have raised very important pertinent points, and I have noted them down. They have raised concerns about the Act, which they have pointed out that it is old and needs to be re-looked at. There is a conflict between the State Corporations Act, the appointing authority and the role of shareholders. Hon. Members have alluded to a fact that a portion of our pyrethrum is being processed in Rwanda. That is a fact! Let me start by giving a small background.

It is true that pyrethrum growing did not start in this country yesterday. It dates back to the 1920s. The product was introduced to Kenya by the then colonial government in 1928. In recognising the role of that product, the Government established the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK), so that it could specifically look at the problems facing that particular industry. We recognise the many districts and areas of this country where it is grown. It is grown in about 25 districts. That is why many hon. Members have passionately contributed to the Motion, because it concerns the people that they represent. When it goes down, it affects the lives of the people they represent. If you go through the Rift Valley Province, there are many districts that grow pyrethrum. If you go to Central Province, there are very many districts, including Nyandarua. If you go to Nyanza Province, three districts, namely, Central Kisii, Gucha and Nyamira produce enormous supply of pyrethrum. Sections of Eastern Province also grow that particular product. Western Province is also not left behind.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, right from the Second World War to date, Kenya commands about 60 to 70 per cent of the production of that product not just in Africa, but in the whole world. We have a few other countries that grow that product, including the very rapidly upcoming Tasmania, which is one of our biggest competitors now. We have a small quantity being grown in Australia, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we recognise that over 200,000 small-scale farmers are involved in that activity. As a matter of fact, as we speak now, over 2 million people are supported by that activity. If you look at other products like tea, horticulture and coffee--- Today, Kenya is able to produce close to about Kshs34 billion worth of tea. Horticulture generates about Kshs24 billion for this country. There was a decline in coffee from Kshs18 billion to Kshs6 billion. Today, we are talking about pyrethrum, which could be producing close to Kshs2 billion annually for the people of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also recognise the competition that pyrethrum is facing. We have synthetic forms of pyrethrum being produced in other parts of the world. That is why we have had a lot of problems in the pyrethrum industry in terms of marketing. Let me also tell hon. Members that, during *El Nino* rains--- Most of our pyrethrum is rain-fed and we had a lot of water logging. It affected our production. What happened after that? The traditional markets started

questioning the capacity of our country to sustain that market. As a nation, we experienced a very rapid decline; from 10,000 tonnes to only three tonnes in 1999. That affected our traditional markets, particularly the United States of America (USA). They got concerned that if they continued with the natural pyrethrum, maybe, as a country, we could not sustain that production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the statistics from 1999 to date, there has been an increase in production. In the year 2003, production capacity went up to 10,930 metric tonnes. Therefore, today, our problem is not production, but marketing of that product. Last year, we put in place a Board. Many issues have been raised concerning that Board. We have heard those concerns as a Ministry, and we will do what it takes to restructure that Board and make it responsive to the needs of the farmers. We are lucky that the Western world does not want to move to synthetics, and we are experiencing demands for natural pyrethrum. That is why today, we can see the demand increasing. Recently, we had a team from the Ministry of Agriculture and members of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya visiting East Asia. They went to Japan, Malaysia and India. The effect of that trip was to see whether it was possible to establish those markets. If you look at our marketing in the past, actually, from 1990 to 2003, America alone was buying 66 per cent of our pyrethrum and about 19 per cent to Europe. The consumption locally has been dismal. That is one of the challenges we are giving this Board, that let us diversify the product. Members have alluded to the fact that if you go to the Board today, they have started responding to those challenges. We have quite a number of products today.

As a matter of fact, about two or three weeks ago, I was in the Nakuru ASK Show and I visited the Board's stand. They had products like pinach, pimos and pirvaxin for mosquito control, which are being produced for our local consumption. We have others like pytics and pygwis for tick control. We have others like piagrow and pytach for purely pest control. The essence of this is that not only do we produce for external markets, but we also develop the capacity to consume so that we also develop an internal market. This is what the Board is being challenged to do.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the concern of Members is that we especially develop focus into the problem. We go in-depth into the problems bedeviling this particular industry. I want to assure Members that it is the concern of the Ministry that, that becomes a priority. We are going to put as much focus and effort, just like we have done in tea and other areas. We think it is important if we are going to improve the lives of our people.

Therefore, in collaboration, for example, with the Ministry of Health, today, we have consulted a company called Sumitomo in Japan. They are also exploring ways of how they can use this within permissible limits in the control of malaria.

However, in the meantime, we know we have capacity. We actually have highly qualified personnel within the Ministry who can steer this particular Committee. They should be able to consult extensively. They should involve all the leadership because the Members from the areas where pyrethrum is grown also know what it takes to grow it; like one Member said, "it is the shoe wearer who knows where it pinches most."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about the factory. It is true that a section of that factory was gutted by fire and, therefore, about 30 per cent of our pyrethrum has to be processed in Rwanda, while we are making efforts to ensure that that factory has been repaired. It is true that payments have been made. We have also put a tender and we expect within the year or early next year, that problem will be resolved. What is happening is that when we take the flowers for processing in Rwanda, it is brought back here as crude and it is true that there are costs to it, and that will limit the amount of money that ultimately goes to the farmer. I want to assure this House, therefore, that we will make all efforts to ensure that we comply and do what it takes to improve this situation.

There is one small aspect I must touch on, about the Euro Bank funds. Members have talked about it. It is true that some money, in 2001 was deposited in Euro Bank. But this matter has been taken up by Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC). What we will do as a Ministry is to ask the Government, to expedite this process so that, that problem can be resolved.

Finally, I want to say that, as a Ministry, we support Mr. Mukiri in his quest. We will ensure that within the shortest time possible--- I want to assure Members that I will not go to the Ministry to sleep. We will ensure that we constitute that committee so that we can resolve this matter and table a report within the appropriate time, of that committee to this House. So, when we contact you as Members whose areas grow pyrethrum, please, come so that we can move together and see whether we can resolve these problems.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mwanicha: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In view of the fact that we are all unanimously agreed that this committee is formed; the Assistant Minister has informed the House that he will take steps to immediately form the committee and that he would involve Members from the areas concerned; would I be in order to ask that the Mover be called upon to reply?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Members! Under Standing Order No.80, a Member rising in his place can raise such a question. So, I wish to dispose of that question.

(Question, that the Mover be now called upon to reply, put and agreed to)

Mr. Mukiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think I have ten minutes. Could I distribute my time to the following Members: Three minutes to hon. Salat, two minutes to Prof. Maathai, and two minutes to hon. Sudi?

Mr. Salat: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am happy to join my colleagues in contributing to this very important Motion. My constituency also grows pyrethrum. I am glad the reply from the Ministry was very encouraging, because we had actually started uprooting the product. I am glad that there is a future and I want the farmers of Bomet to know that the Ministry is now very serious in taking care of their affairs. As most Members have thanked the Mover, I would also like to say that what has been ailing this product, besides management, is the dependency of this product on the world markets. My suggestion, as the Minister has put it, is to look inwards. We need to look at how we can benefit from this product and how it can benefit Kenyans, because the world markets are very unpredictable. We must not let our farmers down by depending on the world markets so much.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, just like the tourism sector, which has of late appreciated the importance of internal tourism, I encourage the Ministry to make sure that research is done so that this product is used locally, and our farmers get the necessary benefits. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, management, which is a key area, has been letting down this particular industry. We cannot appoint directors who are politically correct.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Prof. Maathai): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the Assistant Minister for his positive response to this Motion by hon. Mukiri about pyrethrum.

I want to say that, as a Government, it is very important, and I want to encourage the Assistant Minister to continue as he promised, for us to realise how management of cash crops in this country evolved. The management evolved with an idea that the White settlers were the people

who were expected to own and manage cash crops. For a very long time, our people were never allowed to grow these cash crops. When the doors were finally opened at Independence, unfortunately, a group of us took the position hitherto held by Europeans, and we continued to manage the cash crops in this country, including pyrethrum, in the same old colonial way. So, those who took the positions of the White settlers have continued to be considered as the large scale farmers, and have greatly enjoyed the fruits of their cash crops. But the ordinary people who were then allowed to own and produce these crops at Independence have continued to be managed as small-scale farmers who are managed in co-operatives and whose management of the product is entirely outside their hands. I want to encourage the Ministry to break this tradition because it has contributed to the poverty of our people in the sense that our people have not been allowed to manage their crops. They deliver their crops and then the processing and marketing is done by others. Quite often, these are people who are complete strangers to the cash crop, and who literally have been ripping off farmers. My time is over, but I want to strongly support this Motion and ask the Ministry to change this management pattern that punishes our people.

*(Mr. Sudi and Dr. Godana stood
up in their places)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! Was it Mr. Sudi or Dr. Godana? Or both?

Mr. Mukiri: It is was Mr. Sudi, Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Sudi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it cannot be both of us. I would like to thank Mr. Mukiri for giving me a chance to support this Motion. There is something which I am going to tell my farmers because half of my constituents grow pyrethrum. However, they have been uprooting it because they have not been realising yields. Now the Government has taken the issue of restructuring this industry seriously. I am happy and thank the Assistant Minister for eloquently expressing measures that should be taken to arrest the situation.

I know that the 11th September bombing of the World Trade Centre affected the management of the pyrethrum industry. However, I have been trying to tell my farmers to hold on but it has not been possible.

With those few remarks, I beg to support this Motion and call upon the Ministry to make sure that it works.

Thank you.

Mr. Mukiri: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have only one minute and I wish to thank hon. Members who have supported this Motion. I also wish to take this chance to thank the Assistant Minister. He has heard that some hon. Members are not very happy with the way the Ministry has treated pyrethrum farmers to an extent that one of them said that the Minister is sleeping, while another said that he was lazy. However, he has assured us that from now henceforth, we are going to see a turn-around in the pyrethrum sector. I take the Assistant Minister's word very seriously and I hope that as he forms this Committee, he will be able to consult all stakeholders, and that we do not have to go on begging from donors when we can turn around our own economy.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

INCREASED INVESTMENT IN

LOCAL SUGAR FACTORIES

Mr. Mwancha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, in view of the fact that the local sugar industry is under a constant threat of collapse due to the importation of cheap sugar, and in view of the Government's stated objective of alleviating poverty levels by increased job opportunities; this House urges the Government to increase investment in the local sugar factories in order to broaden the range of products obtainable from the cane plant and improve their efficiencies and hence enable locally produced sugar compete favourably with imported sugar.

The problem that we have had in this country, and which is an issue that has kept coming to this House all the time, is that of importation of cheap sugar. We are in a catch-22 position, because everybody wants cheap things so long as they are of good quality. The cheap sugar that comes into this country is good for our people. All of us want cheap goods. However, we fail to ask ourselves where this cheap sugar comes from.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all know that this country produces 400,000 tons of sugar against a requirement of 600,000 tons. We are, therefore, supposed to be importing 200,000 tons of sugar duty-free. In a few years to come, the protection that the Government currently gives to our sugar sector by levying duties on imported sugar will not be there. That means, anybody will be allowed to import cheap sugar from wherever he will want to import it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Motion is, therefore, to urge the Government to assist the sugar factories countrywide to diversify their production, so that sugar does not become the main product from those factories. In some of the countries where this cheap sugar comes from, sugar is only a by-product of the factories. In Brazil, for instance, the main product of the sugar industry is alcohol, which is used to run engines that are purely meant for alcohol that comes from sugar. However, because of regulating the industry and being able to give some oil companies a chance, it is a requirement in Brazil that a minimum of 25 per cent of the alcohol used must come from sugar. So, Brazil does not experience the problem of importation of cheap sugar because, in that country, sugar is just a by-product of sugar-cane. We should be able to do that in this country, so that we widen the range of products coming out of sugar-cane. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the benefit of the House, from sugar-cane, we can produce gasohol, methylated spirit, industrial spirit and bagasse, which can be used for many purposes. In Cuba, for instance, all the desktops and cabinets come from fibre boards manufactured from the bagasse that comes out of sugar. In Kenya, this is left to rot in the bagasse yards. The bagasse that is a problem in the sugar-cane makes fantastic charcoal cubes, which are used---

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! Order! Mr. Mwancha, you will continue for the balance of your time next Wednesday. Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. Therefore, the House stands adjourned until this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.