

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 1st April, 2004

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the Minister of State, Office of the President has a Ministerial Statement to make.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

STATE OF SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister Of State, Office of the President (Dr. Murungaru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have the Ministerial Statement which I promised to issue in the House, on the state of security in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, there has been outcry amongst members of the public in general and even leaders, regarding the state of insecurity in the country. The Government views with great concern, the recent incidents of violent crime visited on innocent Kenyans, among them leaders and security officers. Regrettably, in some of those incidents, life has been lost and injury sustained. In the circumstances, the Government wishes to reiterate its commitment to ensuring the security of Kenyans. We will not tolerate the activities of a few individuals who have chosen crime as a way of life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at this earliest opportunity, the Government wishes to assure all Kenyans that it has not abdicated its fundamental responsibility of providing security to life and property as mandated by the Constitution, in view of what has been happening lately. The Police Department, whose duty is among others, to ensure enforcement of law and order, has been instructed to move swiftly, using all the resources at its disposal, to contain such incidents. The police have been directed to investigate and bring to book the perpetrators of the recent crimes affecting high profile personalities, which includes the attack on the former Minister, Mr. Cyrus Jirongo, and the attempted theft of a motor vehicle belonging to Dr. Oburu Odinga, which was parked at his residence.

The police have so far arrested two suspects involved in the attack on the former Minister, and have apprehended the two watchmen who were on duty and who opened the gates for the thugs at Dr. Oburu's residence. In addition, the police are investigating the killing of Maj. Stephen King'ori of the Department of Defence (DoD) and his brother along the Thika-Nairobi Highway near Juja Town, and that of the driver of Malindi Member of Parliament, Mr. Lucas Maitha, with a view to arresting the killers.

The Government condemns those incidents in the strongest terms possible! Sincere condolences are extended to the family, relatives and friends of the victims of those heinous crimes. As investigations continue, the Government appeals to all Kenyans, and leaders in particular, not to

jump to conclusions that the incidents are politically motivated. While every angle will be explored, it is prudent to allow the police to conduct thorough investigations and get to the bottom of those cases, without compromising the course of such investigations, or diverting the same in the wrong direction.

Of late, the police have made spirited efforts to combat crime in Nairobi and other urban areas, which has resulted in the recovery of 37 assorted firearms and 284 rounds of ammunition of various calibers from wrong hands, in the month of March alone. In the process, 24 very violent gangsters have also been gunned down. The police have also registered success by apprehending one of the masterminds in the robberies at the Blue Seas Forex Bureau and I & M Bank. That particular criminal has availed useful information to the police.

It should be recalled that the Government was able to deal a big blow recently, to proscribed groups such as *Mungiki* and *Kamjesh* which, in the past, wrecked havoc in Nairobi and other towns. While operations to neutralise such groups once and for all are still on-going, the police are also cracking down on other equally dangerous criminals both in urban and rural areas. Among the measures the police have taken is to enhance patrols on major highways, and random screening of passengers before they board *matatus* to curb carjackings.

The Government realises that police officers must be facilitated with equipment and transport in order to succeed in fighting crime. As a sign of commitment to bring down crime within Nairobi and beyond, the Government has added 20 new motor vehicles, which are especially designed for patrols in Nairobi area on a 24 hour basis. As a matter of urgency, all Provincial Police Officers (PPOs), Provincial Criminal Investigation Officers (PCIOs), Officers Commanding Police Division (OCPDs) and District Criminal Investigation Officers (DCIOs) within Nairobi area will be provided with cellphones for receiving short text messages (SMS) from members of the public with information regarding insecurity. The same facilities will be extended to other provinces as soon as possible.

In addition the Police Department's section dealing with the collection of intelligence on criminal activities is being strengthened and within two weeks, 45 officers who have been undergoing retraining will be joining that particular section to enhance it's capacity. That initiative is among those contained in the on-going reform programme in the Police Force, which also takes into account the overall terms and working conditions, as well as equipping and increasing staffing levels to make the force effective and efficient. The Government appeals to Kenyans to co-operate with the police in the war against crime by utilising the available methods, such as the recently launched Outdoor Policing Drop Boxes and even directly availing useful tips to the police in the spirit of community policing. If Kenyans do so, potential crimes could be averted and such information will be treated with strict confidence.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I will allow one or two clarifications if any, from the Minister. If not, that means that you have taken the statement very positively. Dr. Khalwale!

Dr. Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am disappointed that in his statement, the hon. Dr. Murungaru did not mention that I was also attacked. However, that notwithstanding, I would like to find out why, when specific names of thugs are given to police officers, they do not take a step of arresting them. By this, I have in mind the fact that when I was involved in this kind of incident, some names were given and up to now, those people are still walking scot free at home.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Murungaru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, information given to the police is always taken seriously and I am sure that the police, in carrying out investigations, are trying to establish a connection between the crime committed and those

particular individuals. However, I have always encouraged *wananchi* that if you go to a particular police station or police officer and you feel you are not satisfied, kindly go to the higher office because it does not necessarily mean that if you do not get assistance in one office you will not get it in another. I would like to encourage that that be a norm but I undertake to take up that particular point by hon. Dr. Khalwale.

Mr. Boit: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Considering the insecurity in this city and that most of the Ministers and Judges are guarded by police, we also feel that Members of Parliament should be guarded in their own homes. Could the Minister be very kind and extend this gesture to us? He has recently employed so many police officers and although we have not even been given the list, I am sure he is going to be very kind by despatching the Administration Police and the other many arms he has in his docket to our homes. Could he give us that privilege because apart from judges, even magistrates are now enjoying it? Could he please do that?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Murungaru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe this particular Minister has been more than generous to brothers and sisters who are his colleagues as Members of Parliament. We do have a shortage of security officers in the country. As soon as we have increased the numbers to sufficient levels, I will definitely consider that positively.

Mr. Ethuro: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. While appreciating the statement that the Minister has read before the House and even the concern that we have expressed as a nation about the state of insecurity, the Minister has not addressed some of the important areas that are experiencing insecurity now. To just point out some insecurity incidences, last week, a group of pastoralists from Kenya who were in Uganda, were attacked by the Ugandan Defence Forces. Right now, they are back in Kenya and their animals are dying because of lack of water. They are also dying because of lack of food. Also in Turkana in January, we have had cattle raiders from my good friends, the Pokot. The Minister has not addressed this issue. Does he imply that the pastoralists are not Kenyan enough? I wish he addresses that issue. We need a strategy to combat this problem. It is not a matter of logistics alone. It is not the number of vehicles or the amount of salaries. As you realise, the more we give them the vehicles and higher salaries, the more they do not do their job.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the Minister comments, I am sympathetic to Mr. Shaaban, although I had closed clarifications on this matter. He lost his bodyguard over the weekend and so, I ask him to seek a clarification.

Mr. Shaaban: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is unfortunate that the hon. Minister has not mentioned the unfortunate incident which has just happened where one of his own security officer was killed in broad daylight. The incident happened at exactly 1.00 p.m. during lunch hour and those people were armed. They had a vehicle. It was in the middle of the day. Is the Minister aware that because of the overwhelming crime incidents and the number of criminals in the country, particularly in Nairobi, even the security officers are fearful and feel intimidated? If at all the police themselves fear, how will they protect the ordinary Kenyans?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Murungaru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will reiterate that the Government does take security extremely seriously and the Government fully realises that nothing else can be achieved in the country by way of development without sufficient security. In that regard, the question of livestock thefts in some parts of the country have been taken very seriously by the Government but the problem is complex. Indeed, I had hoped that hon. Ethuro would commend the Government because that particular problem has been tremendously reduced in the country during the past one year. However, in that particular area, the problem is cross-border and that is a fact. It is cross-border. The attackers are from across the country. There are international aspects in that particular incident to be looked into. The Kenya Government is working with the Ugandan Government to try to bring law and order at that particular part of our border. We are working with the Ugandan Government to bring order at that particular part of our border with Uganda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to in-country raids between different communities, the

Government continues to be very vigilant and we will try our best to prevent any incidences that may occur before they happen. However, I would also urge leaders from those particular areas to urge their communities to change their ways because the reason for this kind of particular crime sometimes has got to do with the culture and norms in those particular areas. I would urge them to help the Government to change the ways of those concerned communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as for hon. Shaaban, I do extend my sincere condolences through him, to the family of one of my officers who was gunned down. I think hon. Shaaban must be aware that indeed, one of the persons involved has already been arrested and he was an ex-security officer of the Government. I would like to thank hon. Shaaban very much because he volunteered very useful information to the police which led to the apprehension of that particular individual and his positive identification.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me assure Members of Parliament and the country at large, that the police have not been overwhelmed by criminals. There are certain specific circumstances in the country which are contributing to crime in the country, such as the crackdown on groups like *Mungiki* and other similar groups. These groups are involving themselves in crime as a way of retaliation because of the Government's crackdown on those particular gangs. There has also been displacement of some youths from the *matatu* industry and some of them in a misguided way, have involved themselves in crime. The Government will continue to be vigilant. It will continue to work on reducing the number of illegal firearms in the hands of gangsters and I would once again, want to ask the country through their leadership in this Parliament to join the Government in volunteering information which will bring crime down.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is it Mr. Osundwa?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Shaaban gave information which led to the arrest of somebody yet we know that anybody who volunteers information to the police is not supposed to be identified. Is the Minister in order to endanger the life of hon. Shaaban?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps, Dr. Murungaru, we should let the matter rest there because if you continue-- Mr. Osundwa, you should know that if what you have raised is going to generate further discussions, then, it is going to do the harm you are trying to prevent. So, I think it is better if we leave the matter there.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

RENOVATION OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, you will recall that when the President was opening Parliament on Tuesday, 30th March, 2004, Mr. Speaker announced that arrangements for the renovation of this Chamber were at an advanced stage. I want to report that the jury that had been appointed to adjudicate and determine the winner of the design of the Chamber completed its work this morning. Therefore, it has been decided that the winning design of the new Chamber will be displayed from next week, along the corridors, together with other submissions. It was a competition and I believe that there was a winner.

On Thursday, 8th April, 2004, the Speaker will be announcing the winner and you will be able to appreciate what the new Chamber ought to look like. Therefore, all hon. Members of Parliament and other people from outside, for example, professionals, architects and engineers have been invited to a reception at 6.30 p.m. upon the close of business on 8th April, 2004. You will be able to attend that function and appreciate the design of the kind of Chamber you will have in a year's time.

So, you are all invited and, please, take interest in this because we will be inviting proposals. Hon. Members will be required to submit proposals on what they want in order to further improve the proposals that have been presented.

Thank you, hon. Members.

*(The Vice-President and
Minister for Home Affairs was
applauded as he entered the Chamber)*

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday, 30th March, 2004.

*(The Vice-President and Minister for
Home Affairs on 31.3.2004)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 31.3.2004)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wetangula was on the Floor when we closed yesterday. You may proceed, Mr. Wetangula.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we closed yesterday, I was urging my colleagues that we have a duty to ensure that we deliver to this country a Constitution that will be a pillar of unity for our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his address, the President also touched on many developmental issues. One of them was agriculture. I want to, first, thank the Government and the Minister for Agriculture in particular for bringing to Nzoia Sugar Company, Kshs300 million to pay farmers the unpaid dues for the last several years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to urge the Minister for Agriculture to pay more attention to the plight of farmers especially in the cereal sector where the input of both seed and fertiliser is so expensive that no farmer can afford to buy and those who afford to do so cannot make any meaningful profit from their farming.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President also talked about the issue of the environment. With regard to this, I would like to urge the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources to be more proactive in issues of tree planting and protection of the environment. If you flew from here over Lake Naivasha, through Eburu and Olunguruoni towards Kericho, you get the impression that this country is at war with itself. There is so much destruction of trees and the environment in general that one wonders whether tomorrow will be there to look after the Kenyan posterity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have always advocated that we need a law in this country that will require every land owner to plant---

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is it Capt. Nakitare?

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with due respect. There are several meetings going on in the Chamber while the Assistant Minister is on the Floor contributing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Capt. Nakitare! The Chair is very conscious of its responsibility. If I feel that there is unnecessary consultation in the House, I will say it. This is not a classroom, please.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we need a law in this country that will require every land owner to plant a minimum of ten per cent of his land holding with trees, so that we can improve the environment of our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country is hosting peace talks for Sudan and Somalia. We have made very good strides and we thank the Government for hosting these two processes. We are happy to inform this House that in respect to Sudan, we can safely say that the momentum towards peace is irreversible. Much sooner than later we shall have a comprehensive peace accord signed in Sudan and we shall have some of the refugees from Sudan going back. As for Somalia, I want to make a special appeal to my colleagues here, especially those ones in the Department of Defence and Foreign Relations to take a more proactive approach in assisting the Government. Hon. Members from the front-line with Somalia should help us talk to their kinsmen across the border so that they can see the sense of having peace in their country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is difficult for this country to host warring factions from a neighbouring country forever because it drains our economy.

An hon. Member: What about the bills accruing in Eldoret?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): My colleague here is asking me about the bills accruing in Eldoret. That is part of the problem we are facing with a failed State in our neighbourhood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Head of State touched on the issue of attention to Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) districts of this country. We would want to hear from the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, when he comes here to contribute, when he will be effecting the opening of the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and many other abattoirs around the country that we have been promised before.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I say that because our country has enormous potential in livestock and fisheries production. All we need is to provide the necessary infrastructure so that our brothers and sisters who live in the ASAL areas can realise economic benefits. I have no doubt that once that is done, we shall increase the income and capital of our brothers like Major-General Nkaissey here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been so much talk about the Nile Treaty. I come from a district and region where close to 60 per cent of the waters of Lake Victoria originate. I want to urge our Government and the Governments involved with the Nile basin, not to haggle and hassle over the water of the River Nile, but to look at the environment and the catchment areas where the waters that flow into Lake Victoria come from.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, areas like Mt. Elgon have been completely deforested. We want the Government of Egypt, if they seriously want the waters of River Nile to be protected, to start by protecting the source of the water. Egypt should not talk without caring to know that the rivers which flow into Lake Victoria, have for the last 15 years, reduced the flow close to 50 per cent. If nothing is done soon, there will be no water to hassle about.

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

Mr. J.K. Koech: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues in debating the Presidential Speech.

Before I begin my speech, I would like to thank His Excellency the President for visiting the Kipsigis Region, greeting the people and also understanding the needs of the people in those particular areas.

While talking about the problems facing this country, I would like to cite a few cases of success, in spite of the fact, of course, that there are quite a good number of loopholes which need to be addressed. I think this House needs to do something for this nation. The President put it very well - that Parliament is a supreme organ. I think for a very long time Parliament has not

really asserted itself.

Over the years, we have heard of a lot of unnecessary quarrels, because when we talk about the quarrels, some new hon. Members may think that the quarrels only came recently. Some of us have been in this House for quite a long time, and we have witnessed a lot of quarrels here. We have seen some Ministers having a lot of problems. I do remember at one time the hon. late Dr. Ouko stood here and talked about "*siasa ya kumalizana*". He was talking with a lot of bitterness and it was so sad. In the past, we have seen quite a number of Ministers quarrelling here. For example, Mr. Mwangale introduced the word "traitor" here. The late Dr. Karanja was being discussed in this House. It was a pity because there was so much talk and because hon. Members had been tuned or reduced to one level or one thinking. They only used to think on those lines and logic in that particular regard disappeared from their minds. I do hope that with the President's advice that we should not be turned into a quarrelling nation, that instead, we should sit here and consider our country first, our problems and what is very important for this nation. We should not think about ourselves or agree to be led by emotions instead of logic.

We need to be sober and discuss the actual problems that are affecting the people of this nation. So, we should not think in short terms because the biggest problem with human beings is that their memories are very short. If we are hungry today and you are fed tomorrow, we tend to forget that we were hungry yesterday. If there was a certain situation that prevailed in the past, we forget about it. We think that we are only having problems today. Let us look at the longer spectrum of political development in this country and let us benefit from that. Let us incorporate those problems which have affected us in the past into the current issues. Let us not only take political expediency to be the reign of the day. I have seen for a long time that problems arise when political expediency takes charge of our future. I think this should stop and instead, make sure that we do what our people in this country want us to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of us have had a lot of problems with the state of the economy. So, there are a few things which give me some joy to see. When I see the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) going back into the hands of the people, I have a lot of joy.

(Applause)

When I used to go to Sotik in the early 1970s and 1980s, I used to see some old men dressed in very nice and smart clothes having a small drink in a place known as "The Farmers Bar" after receiving some money from the sale of their milk produce. These were great days! But later when I went there, what did I see? I saw people in tattered clothes. Indeed, you could not distinguish the original colour of their clothes. Do you not think I would be happy to see farmers delivering milk to the KCC and being paid promptly for their produce? Having said that, let us give credit where it is due and if there is a blame, let us put the blame where it is due.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you look at the bank interest rates prevailing in the country today, you will see that they are less than 20 percent. When I look back to the days of the Goldenberg scam, I recall that one day I was seated in this House answering questions as the Assistant Minister of Finance. At that time, the bank interest rates had jumped to 70 per cent. I was being grilled here for mistakes which were not of my own making. It was a pity. Later on, the interest rates dropped by 35 per cent. But I am happy now that interest rates have dropped to less than 20 per cent. I think that is one of the things which should give us some joy.

(Applause)

Many people lost their lives because of hypertension. They went to the bank and borrowed some little sums of money, say Kshs200,000. After a few years, the banks would claim more than Kshs2 million or Kshs3 million. In fact, some people became crazy! I think we are now being rescued from that madness. These are some of the good things which we must appreciate. I am not saying this because I love the NARC Government, but these are some of the realities. They have also made mistakes. But when they do so, we should point out the mistakes to them.

There has always been a culture of telling lies in this country. I think we should end the reign of lies. There was a time when you were seen in the company of somebody who was called a traitor, you would also be called a traitor. Even at home, your people would call you a traitor but you would not understand why you are being called a traitor. This was terrible, and I hope some of these things will come to an end.

When some people make a mistake, let us find out if it is true they have made a mistake. If so, then we should give them what is due to them. But if Mr. Koech has not made any mistake, why do you accuse him for a mistake he has not committed? I am not saying that we cannot make mistakes, but let us assess ourselves correctly and condemn somebody if there is something to warrant that. I think that is very important for this nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Government is now looking at the welfare of the farmers by giving them credit. I am very happy because the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has recently re-opened its offices in Kericho, and our people are no longer travelling long distances to get credit for farming. This is a credit for us and we are very grateful for that. These are some of the issues we are having. It does not mean that I am saying that the Government has not made any mistakes. We should also correct the mistakes you make, and ensure that we balance things the way they should be. Let us make sure that we do the correct thing. But if there is nothing wrong, we should make sure that we go on doing the correct thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of us have been looking at the issue of the Constitution very critically. There is no reason why we should hurry through some of the issues which have been raised. It is good for us to come to some consensus by looking at what is good for this country. We should sit as one honourable house and discuss what is practical. We should not allow ourselves to be carried by emotions because that is what is destroying this nation and even this House. We should not raise an issue if we do not know its implication to the House.

(Applause)

A good example is what happened yesterday. I do agree that this House should make its own rules, but before we raise an issue, we should try to see what its implications are. Once we have done this, we can make a decision. We should not make a decision because we hate certain people. We should make a decision because we know that that decision has good and far-reaching for this nation. So, when we come to the issue of the Constitution, let us be honest with ourselves. Some people want this Constitution because they want to settle some scores. This is a fact! Some people want to hammer about this issue of the Constitution because they think that when they do so, they are going to acquire some political mileage.

We should sit down as a House and see what is practicable in this Constitution. We should see what can be implemented right now and what can be implemented in the future. Let us look at how far we have come from 1963 and see what has been ailing us. We should see what we can incorporate into the new Constitution from the good ideas which were brought by the farmers for the future development. We will not have a revolution in terms of the Constitution. We must evolve and take up issues according to the needs of this nation. If we are going to be carried by emotions because we want power, we will not make any progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there have been many people who have wanted power in this country and they have never got it because the good Lord always gives power to those he has

anointed. If we are so much pinned down so that somebody must have power, I would like to assure him that he will never get it. The people who will get power are those who are patient and have the interest of this nation at heart. As I conclude my contribution, I appeal to the hon. Members to be patient in whatever they do. We should not be carried by jealousy to settle scores. We want to settle scores.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing (Mr. Ndwiga): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion, that, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday, 30th March, 2004.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to concur with the previous speaker that what is required in this House is consultation. I want to thank the previous speaker, Mr. Koech, because he has spoken like a statesman. Yesterday, I listened to the Leader of the Official Opposition and he also contributed like a statesman. Let us not criticise the Government for the sake of criticising. The Government must be criticised and that is why we have Opposition parties, but we must remember that we are Kenyans. It does not matter how much you criticise the Government when you are in the Opposition, but at the end of the day, the people you represent will want to see delivery of services occasioned and stimulated by hon. Members. I have sat on the Opposition benches for ten years and I know how it feels. I envy my colleagues who are seated on the Opposition benches. For the ten years that I was in the Opposition, I never entered a Minister's office. If an hon. Member from the Opposition did that, and my friends on the other side will bear me witness, the Minister would be sacked the next day for talking to an hon. Member from the Opposition.

Maj. Madoka: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead this House? When I was a Minister, I received hon. Members from the Opposition even in my house.

The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Maj. Madoka received hon. Members from the Opposition in his house, but this was towards the end of the KANU regime when the fight was too hot to handle.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, like an old hon. Member of this House, I wish to advise my colleagues who are in this House for the first time that it does not matter how much noise we make in this House. What matters is what we deliver on the ground. Indeed, if they want to know that, that is the truth, let them go to our library here and verify this. They will find that the noisiest hon. Members in the Seventh and Eighth Parliaments never came back to this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ndwiga, you are out of order! There are no noisiest hon. Members!

The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing (Mr. Ndwiga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the word "noisiest". The loudest hon. Members of this House never came back. We can trace this back to 1963. Kenyans have come a long way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am proud to be an hon. Member in the Ninth Parliament. Perhaps, this is the most elitist House since Independence. The Seventh Parliament was a total shame for this country. There was no consensus and we were making noise from the beginning of a parliamentary session to the end and we never achieved anything. The Eighth Parliament was a big improvement. This House, as established today, has the capacity and the ability to change the face of this nation and to cleanse this country of its biggest problem of ethnicity and tribalism.

When I stand and look across there, I do not see tribes. I see my colleagues. When I travel through this country, and I am a very widely travelled Minister because I have been to all corners of this country, I do not see Kalenjins, Kikuyus or Luos. I see Kenyans wallowing in abject poverty. It is the responsibility of this House to get together and assist our people to alleviate that problem. We can waste a lot of time shouting "Constitution" and other things, but that will not help us. We do not have to shout at one another. We need to build a consensus among ourselves and give Kenyans a

Constitution which befits them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many of us are either blind or deaf to the fact that in the last one year, this Government has achieved so many things. Some of those achievements have not been achieved in the last 15 years. For example, the Government introduced free primary education. Yesterday, I was shocked to hear an hon. Member say that he has not seen a single job created in this country. I do not know the interpretation of job creation. People imagine that job creation is when you get people employed as clerks. We want to create employment for our people where they live. Through the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC), we have created more than 100,000 jobs and nobody can dispute that. Today, local business people can access loans in banks and for the first time in 15 years, interest rates have become borrower-friendly and banks are asking the people to borrow from them. That is where jobs are created.

Corruption has also gone down. Yesterday, I was shocked to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition say that there is corruption in this Government. I concur with him that there is a bit of corruption. The truth is that we inherited corrupt officers from the past regime and they have continued to perpetuate the vice. Perhaps, the Government ought to have cleared the entire workforce, but these officers are also Kenyans. Government officers are not supposed to be partisan. That is why they were all retained.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the first time, sugarcane farmers have been paid their dues, which have been outstanding for over 10 years. Milk prices have increased from Kshs8 to Kshs18. I want to take this opportunity to assure my colleagues here and Kenyans at large, that for the first time in 15 years, prices of milk will not fluctuate. In other words, the prices of fresh milk will not go down when we have powder milk. This year, we will maintain dairy products prices as they are. There are so many things that have happened. We are seeing a lot of improvement in our infrastructure. Our roads are being improved. I know that my colleague, the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing, is working hard to make sure that some of the roads that require tarmacking will be tarmacked. We are responsible for the rest through our District Roads Committee. There has been a lot of improvement in our road network in this country. Before one criticises, he or she needs to first appreciate what has been done in the last one year and has not happened in this country in so many years. We want to encourage the Government to be visionary. This Government has said that it wants to work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can point fingers from the other side of the House. I want to remind people that the Government is made up of the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Therefore, those in the Opposition are part and parcel of the Government. I want to urge my colleagues to calm down. They should not oppose for the sake of opposing. They should not oppose issues simply because they do not like someone in the Government. Someone who does that is not worth being called a leader. We should respect each other. We are here because we are leaders. We are not here for a love affair. I do not have to like anybody. We are here because we were elected by the people to be their leaders.

Mr. Karume: Ahsante sana Bw. Naibu Spika kwa kunipa nafasi hii ili niseme machache kuhusu Hotuba aliyotupa Rais alipokuja kufungua Bunge. Alijaribu kugusia mambo yote. Aligusia usalama, na pia kuhusu mambo ya wakulima. Sasa, tunangoja kuona mambo aliyoyasema yakifanyika. Tumeambiwa mambo mengi sana katika Bunge hili ingawa mara nyingi hatuoni vitendo.

Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kumzungumzia Waziri anayehusika na usalama wa nchi. Wakati huu hakuna usalama katika miji yetu. Mambo tunayoyasikia hatujawahi kuyaona mbeleni. Watu wamekuwa wanauwawa mchana; wengine wanauwawa asubuhi wakienda kazini na hakuna watu ambao wametiwa mbaroni.

Katika sehemu ninayowakilisha Bungeni, tumekuwa na taabu sana. Watu wameuwawa kwa wingi. Kwa mfano, mtu mmoja alipatikana akiwa ameuwawa huko Riabai, na mpaka leo wahalifu waliomuuwa hawajakamatwa. Jana usiku katika sehemu ya Gachie, mtu aliyekuwa akienda

nyumbani katika matatu yake aliuwawa na waliomuwa wakatoroka. Jumatatu wiki hii, huko karibu na Banana Hill, mama fulani alipigwa na wahalifu na kisha kumbaka mke wa mwanawe. Hakuna jambo lolote ambalo Serikali imefanya kuhusu jambo hilo.

Ningependa Serikali ifikirie chanzo cha uhalifu huu. Je, kuna mipango ya kuharibu usalama katika nchi hii au hakuna? Serikali inafanya nini kuhusu mambo ya usalama? Hakuna lolote ambalo linafanyika. Tunaposoma magazeti, ni lazima tusome juu ya watu ambao wameuwawa. Jambo hili hatujaliona katika miaka iliyopita. Nina hofu sana.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa upande wa kilimo, ningependa kuiuliza Serikali inapogawa pesa za kilimo, ifanye hivyo katika sehemu zote za nchi na sio katika sehemu moja. Tunajua kuwa Shirika la AFC limetupilia mbali madeni ya Kshs2 billion zilizodaiwa wakulima wa Bonde la Ufa. Katika sehemu ambazo zinakuza kahawa Mkoa wa Kati, na hata katika sehemu ya Kisii, wakulima wana madeni ambayo hawajui yalipotoka. Madeni mengine yalitokana na wakubwa wa vyama vya wakulima. Madeni haya yanawasumbua wakulima na hatujasikia yakitupiliwa mbali kama Kshs2 billion iliyotupiliwa na Serikali katika sehemu ya Bonde la Ufa. Wiki jana, shirika la AFC lilipeana Kshs760 million kwa wakulima. Pesa hizo hazikupewa Mkoa wa Kati. Ningependa kusema kwamba sehemu kama Kitale ilipata Kshs140 million, sehemu ya Eldoret ilipata Kshs185 million, Kapsabet ilipata Kshs14 million, Turbo ilipata Kshs56 million, Kericho Kshs14 million, Nakuru Kshs44 million, Molo Kshs9 million, na hali Naivasha ilipata Kshs21 million, na Wilaya ya Narok ilipata Kshs70 million. Niko na orodha ndefu sana, lakini Wilaya kama vile Thika hazikupata pesa zozote. Sehemu ya Nyeri ndiyo iliyopewa Kshs9 million. Wilaya ya Kirinyaga haikupata kitu, wala Murang'a, na hata Thika.

An hon. Member: Thika ilipata.

Mr. Karume: Bw. Naibu wa Spika, ninajulishwa kwamba Wilaya ya Thika ilipata pesa.

Deputy Speaker: Order! Let us hear Mr. Karume.

Mr. Karume: Wilaya ya Thika haikupewa kitu. Watu wa Kisii walipewa pesa kidogo sana. Hata sijui watakachofanya nazo.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Karume! If you addressed the Chair instead of addressing these hon. Members, you would be heard.

Mr. Karume: Naomba msamaha, Bw. Naibu Spika.

Labda hawa ni watu wanaosikia uchungu sana kwa sababu hawakupata chochote. Wilaya za Kiambu, Muranga na hata Nyeri kupewa Kshs6 million ni jambo la kushangaza. Ni vizuri kuona kuwa Mawaziri wengi wako hapa siku ya leo kwa sababu inafaa wafikirie masilahi yetu kwa sababu Kshs700 million zilitolewa na huku wilaya nyingine hazikupata hata ndururu. Hii inaonyesha kuwa mambo hayaangaliwi sawa sawa. Sisi watu wa Mkoa wa Kati tumeteseka kwa muda murefu. Eneo la Meru lilipewa Kshs38 million, lakini eneo la Embu halikupewa hata ndururu. Tungeuliza wale wanaogawa pesa waangalie masilahi ya kila mwananchi. Hata wanapoajiri watu kazi, inafaa waajiri watu kutoka kila sehemu ya nchi hii na sio kuajiri tu watu kutoka sehemu moja. Hii Kenya ni yetu na Serikali ni ya wananchi wa Kenya.

Jambo lingine la maana ambalo Rais alizumgumzia ni kuwa tusahau mambo ya chama. Hata kama umetoka NARC, KANU, SAFINA au FORD(K) unafaa uwafanyie wananchi wa Kenya kazi. Ningependelea Waziri wa Afisi ya Rais anayesimamia usalama awe hapa. Huko ninakotoka, kama kituo cha Polisi cha Karuri watu wanauawa kila siku. Mtu yeyote akiniuliza ni kazi gani Serikali imefanya kulinda usalama wa wananchi, nitasema hakuna kazi imefanya. Hata kutoka wakati wa ubeberu hatujawahi kuona hali ya ukosefu wa usalama kama sasa na huo ndio ukweli. Mimi ninasikia uchungu kwa sababu utaona kuwa katika wiki moja watu wanne wameuwawa katika sehemu yangu na hakuna watu wanaokamatwa. Tumeomba gari na tungetaka mhe. Murungaru aangalie vile tunaweza kupewa gari huko Karuri kwa sababu ile gari tuliyo nayo haiwezi kusafiri. Utapata polisi wanapopigiwa simu wakati watu wanapigwa na wezi usiku huwa wanasema: "Kuja utuchukue kwasababu gari letu halina petroli au limeharibika." Utakuta mtu anasema: "Wezi wako hapa nje na siwezi kuja kuwachukua." Tusiyachukulie mambo ya usalama kwa urahisi.

Serikali imefanya vizuri kuleta mabadiliko katika mambo ya matatu kwa sababu ajali barabarani zimepungua. Waziri wa Uchukuzi na Mawasiliano amefanya kazi ya maana sana. Lakini inafaa Serikali iwe na mipango inapofanya mambo. Wale watu wote waliokuwa wameajiriwa kufanya kazi ya matatu sasa hawana kazi. Serikali inafaa ifikirie watu hawa wataenda wapi. Ingawa rafiki yangu, Waziri wa Vyama vya Ushirika, amesema kuwa watu wengi wameajiriwa kazi, mimi siwaoni. Huko kwetu hawajaandikwa kazi. Sijui watu walioandikwa kazi wako wapi. Jambo tunalojuwa ni kuwa siku hizi watu wengi wanafutwa kazi. Ni vizuri Serikali iseme ukweli kwa sababu watu wanafutwa kazi, na wanagonjea kazi 500,000. Kwa hivyo, Serikali ingetafuta suluhisho la ukosefu wa kazi kwa sababu watu wana taabu.

Nimefurahia kwa sababu Waziri wa barabara amefika Kiambaa, lakini hatujaona barabara mpya zikitengenezwa. Katika Bajeti ya mwaka jana, Waziri wa Fedha alitaja pesa nyingi sana za miradi mingi, lakini hatujui zimeenda wapi kwa sababu hatuoni miradi yoyote mipya. Imebaki miezi miwili tuwe na Bajeti nyingine na hatuoni jinsi zile pesa tulizopitisha hapo awali zinatumika. Kwa kweli, Serikali imefanya kazi ya maana sana kuhusu masomo bure ya shule za msingi, kwa sababu watoto wetu wengine ambao hawangesoma, sasa wanasoma. Lakini Serikali inafaa ifikirie juu ya mambo mengine.

Bw. Naibu Spika, tungependa Serikali ipigane na ufisadi zaidi. Ufisadi umeturudisha nyuma sana. Kuna watu walioshindwa kulipa madeni yao kwa sababu riba ilienda juu kabisa na jambo hili lilisababishwa na ufisadi. Mfano ni kisa cha Goldenberg, ambapo pesa zilitumiwa kwa njia ya ulaghai. Kwa hivyo Serikali ya NARC inafaa ijue kuwa walipewa kura nyinyi ili wamalize ufisadi.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono.

The Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Motion. I would like to begin by first thanking His Excellency the President for giving a statement which exhibited statesmanship, by trying to show the way through reconciliation. I also want to take the opportunity at this early stage to thank hon. Members of Parliament for remaining steadfast and making the Bomas process successful. Thirdly, I want to thank the people of Kenya for remaining patriotic during this very difficult period in our country's history.

There are three points that stand out in the President's Address. One, is that we should avoid portraying our country as a quarrelling nation. Two, he urged the media to understand that they are part and parcel of the society and that they will be judged by the very same standards which they demand of the leaders of this country. He also said that he will be proud to be a Member of a House, which shall go down in history as the House that delivered a democratic Constitution to the people of this country. I think that these were very important statements. So, I want hon. Members to understand and agree with me that today, Kenya has become a continental political laboratory, where experiments are being carried out, which will have far-reaching consequences on the whole of the African continent in terms of their failures or successes.

The people of Kenya have spoken. As they say in Latin, *Vox Populi Vox Dei*, which means the voice of the people is the voice of God. Therefore, we want to show in the experiments being carried out here that it is possible for disparate political groups in the Opposition to come together, and form an alliance in the form of a rainbow. We want to show that there will be a peaceful transition where the defeated incumbent hands over power peacefully, and that the Government thereafter becomes successful in terms of provision of services to the people of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Opposition for playing their role effectively as an Opposition in keeping the Government in check. I also want to say that I am a very proud Member of NARC. I want to state that NARC is a living political movement, and not a decaying monument of unity. We must all the time be prepared to accept mistakes when we make them because the Latins say *irare humanum est*, meaning to err is human. Once we have made mistakes, we should accept them, correct them and move forward. It is important for us to look at what happened at Bomas. We should learn a lesson from it and move forward in appreciation of the fact

that the solution to our problems does not lie in the past, but lies in the future.

Representatives of the people of Kenya from all parts of our country gathered at Bomas to talk about the Constitution of the country. We had said that we did not trust Parliament, because Parliament had been responsible for mutilating the Independence Constitution and that amendments had been hurriedly brought to the House to deal with political exigencies of the day at that time. We said that we wanted a people-driven constitutional review process and that was why we went to Wanjiku. Wanjiku spoke. So did Nanjala, Cheron, Nduta, Amina and Anyango. As a result of this, we came up with a draft document which we discussed at the Bomas III talks and agreed on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President, in his Speech, told us that there is need for us to come together as representatives of the people of this country to try and build consensus. If there are areas where there is no consensus, we try and see how we could try to bridge the gap which may exist. Today, I speak as an hon. Member of Government. At the Bomas talks, I was Delegate No.125 and the Member of Parliament for Langata Constituency. I said that there was no Government at the Bomas talks. We went there as ordinary Members of Parliament. That is why I stayed behind when other hon. Members walked out. However, we are united here. This is a coalition Government. We have opened up democratic space in this country so much that the people of Kenya are not yet used to it. If you travel to Germany, Switzerland, Norway and other countries, you will find that there is a lot of quarrelling among political parties, but that does not stop the Government from providing services to the people. That is why I would like to say that we have learnt on this side of the House to walk down the stairs and chew the gum at the same time. That is why we are, therefore, able to deliver.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unknown to many people, we have performed considerably well, given the fact that we are only one-year old. I want to inform the hon. Members here, for example, that we have just signed an agreement with the World Bank through which we are receiving US\$260 million for the Northern Corridor. This is the road that is running from Mombasa to Busia and Malaba. Hopefully, you have read in today's newspapers the advertisement that was placed there that work will begin by July, this year. As all this is happening, We, as Parliament, need to play our role. I have said I am willing and ready to walk an extra mile if that will ensure that the people of this country get the Constitution that they desire and deserve.

I want it to be known, contrary to the speculations in the media, it is not the President who is trying to reconcile us. We are capable of reconciling ourselves. We have talked. I have no problem with my colleague sitting right here, Mr. Murungi. I am a Minister in the Government of this country. I have a right to see the President at all times. Therefore, I do not understand why the Press should consider it as news when I go to talk to the President about matters that concern the Government. It is not news!

I would like to urge the hon. Members of this house that, wherever there is a will, there is a way. I am sure that hon. Members know that we have the will to ensure that we cross the river and go to the other side. We would like this House, when the time comes for us to discuss the final draft Constitution, we be united. We would not like to betray the people of Kenya. We would like them to get what they want. We would not like to betray the spirit of the Bomas talks because that is what Kenyans want. This is the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya and it must speak with one voice when it comes to a very critical issue like the Constitution of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are areas where there have been misunderstandings and tempers have been very high. This House has been divided, a lot of exchange of words has taken place, some of them not palatable, but, at the end of the day, it is those who are able to bridge the gap between them, who will eventually become the winners. We must create a win-win situation.

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

Mr. Nyachae: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I also stand to support the message that the President gave to this House on Tuesday this week. Since time is limited, I will go straight to the points I want to put across.

The first point I want to put across is to seek unity for this nation. The unity we need for this nation must be signalled by the Government side. Since last year, we, in the Opposition, have given the Government very good indications that we are not quarrelling with them. We wanted the Government to settle down and embark on what they promised *wananchi*. However, what we have seen from the Government side is worrying, not only we in the Opposition, but also the entire country. Yes, it is all right for politicians to have differences, but the language you are using out there at meetings, is not the language that will bring the consensus that the President was talking about. Leaders are using insulting language! A leader must contain his language. Leaders must weigh their words because they can easily drive the country into all sorts of divisions and, probably put the country in danger.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Constitution is not the only document that will put food on the table for the *wananchi*. We all want a good and new Constitution, but leaders on the Government side are talking too much in a manner that will not create peace. So, if you are all telling us that you respect the President, just as we, in the Opposition do--- The Presidency is an institution of a nation, so, we all respect it. If you respect the message he gave here, please, change and behave like responsible leaders, so that we can have matters sorted out.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will move to another point; security. The issue of security is a worry, not only in Nairobi, but all over the country. Yesterday, I flew home and the question I was asked was: "We hear that in some places vehicles are escorted by security personnel." Here, we have never seen any, but criminals are dominating. Even security personnel are getting scared of the crooks who are going round robbing people. People cannot even go to the market places. This is a very serious matter. Let us not allow security issues to be mixed up with politics.

I do not belong to the LDP, NAK or any other wing of the Government, but quite frankly, even if they say it is the work of criminals, sometimes questions arise. For example, Mr. Raila is here and he is a politician, but his sister is not a politician. His son is not also a politician. How can we have a coincidence where a sister, a son and other members of Odinga family are all being subjected to criminal activities? That kind of coincidence raises questions. So, can we differentiate this issue? Some of us are very concerned. It means that if I disagree with some of the leaders here, it will not be me, as Mr. Nyachae, the politician, but they will get at my wife, son and other family members. This is bad. We will not have peace in this country if leaders continue behaving like this. That is not the way to manage this country. If I disagree with you, it is me who has disagreed with you. In my whole family, I am the only politician. The rest of the members of my family are not politicians. So, when you meet my son out there, you should greet him even if you do not like me, as a politician.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me proceed to agriculture. We are talking about food security in this country. The Minister for Agriculture has already announced that there is a shortfall of maize in the country, but what plans are there to boost food production? The Kshs700 million that has been disbursed for food production is not enough. Even if that money was there, all of it would end up in foreign countries. In a period of one year, the price of fertilizer has increased by more than 42 per cent. The price of a 50-kilogram of DAP has shot up from Kshs1,100 to between Kshs1,600 and Kshs1,700. That is a very big increase. How could that happen within one year? As a country, we have accepted to pay that price. The Minister for Agriculture should explain what went wrong, because that will increase the poverty level amongst the farmers.

The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing has talked about job creation. It is true that jobs can be created by boosting operations in the dairy and crop production sectors, among others. However, talking and taking action are two different things. It is true that the price of milk per litre has increased from Kshs12 to Kshs18, but how much of that money reaches the

farmer? The co-operative societies, which organise the marketing and delivery of milk, make huge deductions from the sales of farmers. The Minister was very active last year. We told him that coffee farmers' money in Kisii District had been "eaten." He sent a team of investigators to investigate those allegations and they came up with a report. The report revealed that some officials of the co-operative society had "eaten" farmers' money and even the figures are there. However, the report has not yet been acted upon. Instead of telling us what he has achieved, could the Minister take action as he promised us last year?

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers in Kisii District have asked me: "You brought here some Government officials who investigated this matter and found out what had gone wrong. Is that all they wanted to tell us?" It is just like a pastor who tells his congregation: "Go and pray, God is coming", even though he does not know when God will come. Similarly, the Minister promised to help the farmers get their money back, but he did not say when he will do so. Coffee production is declining not only in Kisii District, but also in Central Province. As I speak, both large-scale and small-scale farmers are cutting down their coffee. Kenyans fought the whitemen from 1937 so that they could be allowed to plant coffee and when they left the country, coffee production declined. Why did we desire to produce coffee then, and why is the production of that commodity dwindling? Could the Minister take action?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the NARC Government promised to act on corruption. In fact, last year, the Government started very well. Some of you know that when I was in the Government, I fought corruption and I resigned because of that vice. I supported every idea of dealing with corruption. When the NARC Government came to power, it started very well in that direction. The Government instituted the Goldenberg Commission of Inquiry to investigate that scandal and we have seen a lot of reports before. Is the Government waiting for a report in order to act? The Government has seen where that money went. Has the Government called those people and requested them to bring back that money? Several people have been mentioned and the amounts of money they stole has been indicated, but the Government has not taken any steps to recover the money. Could the Government take action on corruption?

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. I listened to the Presidential Address to this House and it was very visionary. I was happy to hear that our agricultural sector has improved. The Speech by His Excellency the President was very reconciliatory and we applaud him for that.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, let us hear Mr. Muchiri.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was happy to hear that the President would like us to have unity in this country, because it is the cornerstone of development. There is no way this country can develop without unity. I believe that the President had in mind the unity of this House. I think it is high time that we forgot our party differences. The *mwananchi* who voted us is crying for development. If we forge unity, then *mwananchi* out there will get development. We must, therefore, thank the President for his effort to bring unity. It is important that we start understanding one another. We have a duty as hon. Members to honour the pledges we made to our constituents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President said that the economy of this country has grown by

1.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That was very encouraging. When the NARC Government took over power, the economy was in shambles. We are happy to note that the economy has grown and that the real GDP has also increased. However, we should realise that the only real growth to *mwananchi* is that which will improve his standard of living. We would like to urge the

Government to double its efforts to bring food to the table as well as development to the *mwananchi* in upcountry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to thank the Government for reviving the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). We, in Nyandarua District, are very happy with the Government because we now sell our milk to the KCC at Kshs18 per litre as opposed to the past when it went to waste. We are also happy that the President talked about the Government availing money to the ASAL districts.

*(The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila)
left the Chair)*

*(The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Khamasi) took the Chair)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, hon. Members! Could you, please, consult in low tones?

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes I wonder what criteria is used to qualify a place an ASAL area. In Nyandarua sometimes we are considered as getting a lot of rain, but people forget that Nyandarua is on the leeward side of the Aberdare mountains. We receive low rains and our soils are not very good. I would like the Government to include the district among the ASAL areas, particularly Ndaragwa, because we border Laikipia West and Kiini. Ndaragwa should be considered an ASAL area, because our poverty index is very high.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about the fight against HIV/AIDS and other diseases. It is high time that money that is available to fight the HIV/AIDS scourge was not utilised for awareness. I think everybody is now aware about HIV/AIDS. Money meant to fight the scourge should reach the affected and infected people. We should stop holding many seminars on HIV/AIDS. We should go straight to assist those who are affected. My constituents have told me that there is no need of holding seminars. What we need is to reach those that are affected. We welcome the Speech and commend the President for his effort to fight the pandemic.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the introduction of micro-financing that the President talked about is going to assist the ordinary *mwananchi* in the countryside. When the Bill to facilitate these financial institutions comes to the House, I think we should all support it.

The President also talked about increasing our forest cover. It is important that the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife does a little bit more in terms of creating forest cover. For example, the only lake in Central Province is Lake Ol Bolosat. That lake is the one that provides water to the northern part of the country; Samburu and Laikipia, but nobody is taking care of the source. We would want the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife to provide money, because I host the source. There is a stretch of about 20 kilometres that actually gives Lake Ol Bolosat the water that drains into the northern part of the country and we can improve it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we can have the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife do a pro-active approach to this forest development, this would be important. I think the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife should not close the forest area like a settled areas. They should allow *wananchi* to go and graze in those areas because every *mwananchi* now understands that forests are the source of our waters, firewood and all that.

There is no reason why *wananchi* should be stopped from grazing in the forest areas. For example, in my constituency there are a lot of forest areas, but there are no forests as such. Therefore, before we plant any trees, let people be allowed to graze their animals in the forests so that the forests are seen to be a little bit more "friendly" to *wananchi*.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was happy to note that the President talked about bringing legislation in this House to consolidate the land laws. That is a welcome move, and I would like to urge the Ministry of Lands and Settlement to ensure that the Registered Land Act is given more prominence than any other legislation that we have under the land laws. We have some laws that are a little bit colonial. For example, the House will be happy to know that we have a law called the Registration of Titles Act, that was favouring land that belonged to the colonial masters. If the land laws are consolidated, it will be a little bit easier to apply them, and they will benefit *wananchi*.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to move to the issue of the Constitution. I think it is necessary that, sooner or later, we should be able to complete the Constitution. I think a lot of work was done at Bomas, and I think 80 per cent of the Constitution that came out of there was good. But a bit of it did not have consensus. That is the consensus I would personally want to see. I studied constitutional matters a long time ago when I was a Commissioner of the Ufungamano initiative. I would wish that Kenyans have a new Constitution so that they can steer this country to greater heights. We are trying to create a Constitution for posterity, and it is important that any constitution-making should not have winners or losers. We should all be winners in a constitutional process. If this consensus can be created in this Parliament, I think *wananchi* will be able to get a Constitution that is going to benefit this country at large.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let there be no community in this country that is being hunted. There is no community which is being hunted. I think we should be in a position to look at each and every community in this country as a community which belongs to this country. Let there be no hatred, my dear colleagues. Let us all be together. We must struggle together to develop this country. There is no community that should be seen like it does not belong to this country. I appreciate the commitment and the co-operation that is actually being seen in the Ninth Parliament, so that we can all enjoy the fruits of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would have wished that the President addressed himself to the plight of those people who fought for the Independence of this country. The *Mau Mau* fraternity is languishing out there. I would have wished this Government - because the first and the second Governments forgot those people who fought for Independence - looks for ways and means of taking care of those people who fought for the Independence of this country.

I beg to support.

Mr. Y. Haji: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to support the Motion, but at the same time as an hon. Member of KANU, I would like to repeat what our leader said, that we are a loyal Opposition, but that fact will not stop us from criticising the Government where we feel it is not performing as expected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have my reservations about the economy of the country. One time, Mr. Nyachae as the Minister for Finance said that the economy of the country was in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Personally, I think that it is not only in ICU, but all the supporting machines are also failing. I am saying this because, within two months an order was given by this Government forcing public transport vehicles, numbering over 10,000 to be fitted with safety belts and speed governors. Each of those 10,000 vehicles had employed two drivers in shifts and four conductors in shifts. As a result of this, all the employees have been sacked and every vehicle has only one driver and one conductor. That is sacking more than 40,000 workers who were supporting over 400,000 people, because, in any African family household, including dependants, they are not less than ten persons.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, not only that, but also the speed governors are reducing working hours and also accelerating the tear and wear of lorries. That is because the speed

governors are not meant for lorries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that millions of workers in Kenya cannot do business. They save the little money they earn. Today, the interest rates on savings have come down from 10 per cent to only 1 per cent. Nobody has told us that the interest rates on borrowing have been reduced. Compare how many Kenyans are borrowing money to do business with those who are striving to save the little money that they have. But because they do not get any interest, they are not able to save any money. Are we really helping the economy of this country? We are not!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with all due respect, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development was created to serve the people whose livelihoods depend on livestock. As I stand here now, in my constituency, we have lost 600 head of livestock. One family alone has lost 200 because of the CPP. That is simply because there are no drugs to inoculate our livestock. We are told that the machines which manufacture the drugs here have broken down. My question is: If it is the responsibility of the Government to help poor farmers, why has it been difficult to either repair those machines for the last four months or even import those drugs? We are being told that the agricultural sector has improved. What about the livestock sector? A lot has been talked about Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). Unless that is turned into tangible results, we will not see the benefits from all the money that has been pumped into the ASAL areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the economy again, we have seen so many demolitions going on, allegedly because a by-pass was supposed to pass through that area. How much money did Kenyans spend to build those houses? They did not grab the land. They were given the land through the Government machinery. If every successive Government is going to do what is being done by the NARC Government, then God help this country because no investors will come to invest here if they know there is no security on the land that they will be given.

Dr. Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. With all due respect to the hon. Member who is contributing, you heard him mention the issue of land grabbing. Is he in order to mislead the House when we know that, when he was the Provincial Commissioner in Western Province, he is the one who led in the grabbing of the old Kakamega Showground?

(Applause)

Mr. Y. Haji: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg this House to note that this man has thrown a very dirty allegation against me. He must substantiate! If not, I will bring a substantive Motion against him here. So, I want him to substantiate.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that the chairmen of plot allocation committees are provincial commissioners. The meetings that were chaired by the hon. Member were on record and, maybe, he could do well to consult them.

Mr. Y. Haji: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not substantiation! He has not substantiated!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Y. Haji! Dr. Khalwale, I think you are on the spot! You are responsible for the statements you make here. If you do not have any evidence to the contrary, then I would like you to steer clear of it, stand up, apologise and withdraw the remarks.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless this House is in a rush, one can easily consult those records if he is given time. But for purposes of continuity, and if it pleases the House, then I withdraw.

Mr. Y. Haji: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is typical of the hon. Member. That is his behaviour and I am not going to behave like him.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of demolishing houses where electricity main lines are passing is also another way of impoverishing Kenyans. Instead of removing the

people, they should relocate the main lines. They should give those people an opportunity to have a peaceful living.

Prof. Olweny: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to refer to another hon. Member as misbehaving, after the hon. Member had apologised and withdrawn?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Prof. Olweny! I think that matter was put to rest and should not be raised any more.

Can you proceed, Mr. Haji?

Mr. Y. Haji: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope you will also add me some time.

With regard to the security of the country, I am happy to note that in the North Eastern Province, which was known to be an area of insecurity, the situation has improved in the last three years. I would like to congratulate all the police officers and members of the Provincial Administration who are serving in that area. But, as has been raised by most Members who have contributed, the insecurity in Nairobi and other areas of this country is a matter to worry everybody. We cannot expect people to come and invest here when shooting attempts have been made on Members of Parliament. Even army majors are being killed. I think time has come for the Government to arm every watchman in this country, like it is happening in Uganda. That way, we will bring sanity in the minds of the people who are committing those criminal activities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to forests, we should all support the Statement made by His Excellency---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Your time is up! Mr. Munyao!

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to also align myself with earlier speakers, in congratulating His Excellency the President for his exposition of national policy. The Standing Orders allow us to speak on the Presidential Speech for only seven days. Otherwise, the reality is that we should take two months going line by line, touching on each and everything. I am very happy because all the speakers have really shown a lot of concern and commitment to the Speech.

I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Deputy Leader of Official Opposition and even my former Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Y. Haji, because of the maturity they have shown so far. That is what we need in this country. It is true - and it is showing - that Kenya is now beginning a new page. It is showing that Kenya can be a good example in Africa. We can quarrel all day but, in the evening, share a blanket. We can quarrel all the time, but we know the issues that affect *wananchi*.

The Speech by His Excellency the President was purely on economic issues. We need to continue with that as leaders of this country. It is also true that Kenyans elected us to this House and they expect services and not bickering. So, because we have now quarrelled enough, we have thrown a lot of dust, left and right, and everybody knows how much dust each one of us can throw, I want to appeal passionately to most of leaders that we now concentrate on offering services to Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a year ago, and even up to now, while I concur with my colleague hon. Y. Haji, it is true that there was some little problem concerning animals in North Eastern Province. But you realise that we border a different nation and animals, like cattle and others, find better market on this side of Kenya. On the other side, and the world does not talk about it, their animals are sick because they never get any medical attention. In fact, it is not only animals, but also human beings. They do not get any medical attention. But because the borders are not fenced, there are no walls or wires, they keep on crossing because they get better prices here.

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

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): If it is a point of information, no!. You know my nature; I would have allowed it. But because I have only ten

minutes, let me not take it.

So, my Ministry is committed to fighting animal diseases. In fact, I have been to Garissa. I have met all the leaders there and told them that when a disease is detected, they should come to my officers and we shall know what to do.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last Friday was the day of the Kenya Veterinary Association. I spent the whole day vaccinating cows, goats, sheep, dogs, cats and all animals. What else would anybody expect? The NARC Government has given all parents in Kenya free education for their children. Now, my Ministry has given free vaccination to all animals, including cats and dogs. What else could we do to assist our people? We will go all the way.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not only that. Yesterday, I spent the whole day receiving vaccines at Kabete. I have already given 150,000 units of vaccines to 14 districts. Before Tuesday, I will be receiving another 300,000 units of vaccines, which I will give further throughout the country. I want to tell hon. Salat that people are vaccinating their animals in his constituency today.

We are doing this because we care for our animals. One thing my friends in the Opposition must understand, however, is that if it were a different period, which hon. Dr. Godana knows, the districts to benefit would depend on who-is-who in that district. An example of how fair the NARC Government can be is when the bursary funds were disbursed. We gave Kshs1 million to all the 210 constituencies, knowing that there are some which are in the Opposition. But because we are serving the taxpayers, the Kenyans, we have to give bursary money even where people support KANU. The same applies to the Constituency Development Fund. We shall be spending Kshs20 million for each constituency regardless of whether it is a KANU area or a NARC area, because we know we are serving Kenyans. The other day, we were giving famine relief food to Baringo Central, because we know we are not giving the food to hon. Gideon Moi, but we are giving it to Kenyans.

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

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Does he know what a point of order is?

Mr. Moi: I think this old man--- Sorry, is he in order to mislead the House that he gave famine relief food to Baringo Central, when he knows jolly well that he did not?

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had asked whether the hon. Member knows what a point of order is. You have already heard and certified that, that is not a point of order. What I said is very clear. I even have in my office, the map of the areas that are prone to famine and the leading one is Baringo Central and the NARC Government is going to give food to that area.

An hon. Member: Return your food!

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): I will not! He is my good friend, I can assure you. He has been to my constituency. Even last night, we were in Machakos together and I promised to visit Baringo Central because I know the animals there also need some treatment. In fact, I will be injecting them myself.

Mr. Moi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is a big difference between animals and human beings. The Minister was talking about famine relief. If he wants to vaccinate the animals, he is more than welcome, but not to mislead the House that the Government brought famine relief there.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): That is debate!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I told you that what the hon. Member needs to do is to understand the meaning of a point of order.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Order, Mr. Moi. Let us differentiate between a point of order and when you want to pass across a message.

An hon. Member: Throw him out!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): There is no question of throwing him out. I think we better read our Standing Orders very well. Hon. Munyao, can you continue? There is nothing for you to respond on that.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for agreeing with me that we need some little school around the House here to try and---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, several Members have talked about the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). It is true that issues of KMC have been raised here by my predecessors. It has even got to an extent that some Kenyans now do not know my initials and I would rather now inform them through the Chair that my initials are "J.K. Munyao" and not "KMC Munyao". Wherever I go, people call me "KMC." The truth is, and I think this is the last challenge I am getting, all structures and all preparations are ready to open KMC.

An hon. Member: When?

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Mr. Munyao): Any time now. All the structures are ready. There are people sweeping there now. The former employees have been paid and all the unsecured debts have been paid. We have paid everything and we are now ready to even open the door any time. Every structure is ready.

All I can do now is to appeal to our dear livestock farmers to prepare their livestock. I am also appealing to our friends to co-operate with our officers because we have got a very serious strategic programme of animal breeding. The animals we have in Kenya are not enough and we want to breed more. We want healthy animals and that is why we have gone out of our way to make sure that we eradicate diseases and keep animals healthy.

With those remarks, I wish to support.

Mr. Abdirahman: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my comments on this very important Motion. In fact, the President's Speech was well balanced and full of optimism just like last year. The Government's vision in that document and the policies, if only translated into action, may make a difference for Kenya. But I highly doubt whether some of those things will ever be translated into reality, because, from last year to date, we have had very little difference, if anything, in many parts of this country. I want to honestly give a demonstration of this in the various sectors related to service delivery in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I pick, for instance, the free primary education which the NARC Government keeps talking about and which the Opposition and many other Kenyans have translated into "affordable education", there has been only a paltry Kshs1,020 which was calculated uniformly for every child in this country, irrespective of the status, when we very well know that Kenyans are not all at par in terms of development.

Equally, the Minister who spoke a few minutes ago, spoke loads about the development of the livestock sector. It is a Ministry that was created many months down the road after the Budget was read last year. When I looked at the budget for Wajir District, there was nothing meaningful in terms of development. The policies that surround the livestock sector development, particularly in relation to diseases, are now a nightmare for us in that province. We wonder how long Kenyans in the northern parts will wait for that region to be disease free.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to keep on saying---

(Mr. Gumo walked into the Chamber)

Dr. Galgalo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have just seen Mr. Gumo who, in my opinion and I would want the Chair to look at him, is not properly dressed to be in this House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Where is Mr. Gumo? Could you please stand up? We want to look at you!

(Laughter)

(Mr. Gumo stood up in his place)

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am properly dressed!

(Loud consultation)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Well, I do not want to create a debate again about the mode of dress in the Chamber. The substantive Speaker has already made a ruling about that and there was supposed to be a Committee which was to address the whole issue. As of now, I am not very sure whether Mr. Gumo is properly dressed or not. In view of the doubt, I will leave the matter to that Committee until the substantive Speaker makes a proper ruling on it.

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope you will allow me to continue because of the interruption.

I want to comment that the President's Speech talked about an economic growth rate anticipated at between 6 per cent and 7 per cent hopefully in the years ahead. But I believe all that will not be achieved when there are certain parts of this country whose potentials are not in any way exploited; be it in the form of minerals or even water which is a minimum requirement for many things in this country.

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

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

I also want to comment on the budget that is said to be associated with arid lands development. This is a budget that was negotiated for by the KANU Government although we know the resources have been doubled. What is now worrying us is the bloated number of districts that are trying to be encompassed in the name of arid lands. You heard Mr. Muchiri talk of some more districts being considered in that list.

There is about Kshs2.2 billion which is said to be from the African Development Bank (ADB) and an additional Kshs1 billion from the European Union. That money is said to be meant for water development. When we are trying to develop the livestock sector, it is not all about water. We want the relevant Ministries to incorporate communities in planning so that they are able to bring in their development priorities.

I also want to comment on the Ministry of Local Government. The Minister for Local Government, Mr. K. Maitha, yesterday boasted that they were channelling money for development directly to local authorities at the district level. I am sorry to say that, that money is only meant to resuscitate ailing local councils that are not picking up in any way. There are no clear guidelines; that money is issued to councillors and they use it only to put up some small structures without proper planning. It is not making a difference in the lives of Kenyans.

I want to make a small comment about the co-operative movement that is said to be creating a lot of jobs for Kenyans. The co-operative movement could be alive in areas like the Central Province and major populated regions of this country. However, I want to bring it to the attention of

the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing that there is potential for development in the arid regions. There is existence of associations and people can be trained on entrepreneurship skills to improve the lives of Kenyans who have been disadvantaged in that region for a long time.

I want to go on to comment on the Constitution Review Process that we have just concluded at the Bomas of Kenya and which we hope to see in Parliament in a few weeks ahead. I want to point out that the consensus-building which we kept on talking about very aggressively in the last few weeks should have started during Bomas I. It is the Government that completely abdicated its responsibility of guiding Kenyans and Parliamentarians on the process. All the same, consensus is a welcome move but those at the top, particularly at leadership positions, who kept on talking about the Government's position should know that there can be no Government position in a constitution-making process. We can have the Kenyan people's position and that is the time when we can talk about consensus. Once we all agree that this is the Kenyan position, then those of us who are negotiating on behalf of the Kenyan people will be able to give and take on the contentious issues. I will emphasize the need for national unity irrespective of ethnicity or party affiliations. We know that, that is the overriding factor because if we do not unite, all these developments we are talking about will not be there. However, the truth of the matter is that the President of this country is trying to give us the goodwill but his Ministers must portray that goodwill too. The leader must persuade people and be able to incorporate and develop a team work approach in whatever kind of programme he may have in place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on insecurity, so many billions of shillings have been used, for instance in the North Eastern Province in the name of improving security in the past. Today that area is more peaceful than Nairobi, where we live. Actually, those of us who travel upcountry, many a time have no worry; we even go without escort for instance to Wajir in the North Eastern Province and even Turkana from where my colleague here comes from. Insecurity is reaching alarming proportions and it is because of the inept nature of this Government in trying to restore security. I urge the Government to take this issue seriously and ensure that Kenyans' lives are taken care of.

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

Mr. Arungah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my remarks on this very important Motion.

I would like to first start by thanking the President for giving us what he thinks his Government has achieved and what he intends to do in the next few days.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for having given us what I consider to be a very powerful, sober and mature contribution.

The President mentioned many things in his presentation but I will confine my remarks to a few of them.

First of all, I would like to comment on the free and compulsory primary education programme. In Khwisero Constituency, for example, there have been a few gains. These gains are as a result of enhanced admission levels of about 5,000 children. These children have been able to access education as compared to the year 2002. Because of this programme, there has been improved retention level and completion rates in schools. However, these gains have brought about certain challenges. These challenges include inadequate facilities; a few classrooms and desks in our schools. This has led to very serious congestion in our schools. There is also inadequate sanitary facilities. There is also shortage of teachers. In my constituency, for example, we have a shortage of about 200 teachers. That translates to a shortage of about four teachers in every school. The net effect is that the quality of education will be affected. I hope that the Government could do something to address this issue. Although I realise this is a nationwide problem, but I think it is more serious in my constituency.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the agricultural sector, there have been a few notable gains. For example, maize, wheat and dairy farmers are getting a bit more in terms of

returns compared to the last few years. Although the sugar cane farmers are not being paid enough, but, at least, they are being paid promptly. We have been told that the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and the National Planters Co-operative Union (NCPU) will be involved in the importation of the various agricultural inputs. I hope, through these initiatives, prices of farm inputs will come down.

Having said that, the Government has to address certain things. For example, where I come from we produce only 30 per cent of the grain that we consume. This means that there is a deficit of about 30 per cent. Now, in order for the Government to achieve or improve on this deficit, it will be important for it to strengthen the agricultural extension services. We do have a situation, for example, in Khwisero Constituency, where we have only nine extension officers. They do not have transport, and are expected to serve a population of about 100,000 farmers in about 20 sub-locations. Given this scenario, I do not think the farmers are getting the due advice to improve the output from their fields.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do appreciate the Government's intention, or the efforts it is making to revitalize corporations like the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) and Kenya Farmers Association (KFA). I hope, eventually, this will have some impact on our people. We also need the Government to look at the issue of credit. For example, these institutions do give credit to farmers. But, unfortunately, an organisation like AFC would give a loan and expect the farmer to start repaying it the following month! It is not realistic at all because it takes at least six months for maize to be harvested. So, we should actually relook at the lending programme, so that farmers are given seasonal credit to be repaid only when they harvest. I would also suggest that organisations like AFC should have a way of giving long-term loans. For example, in my constituency, there is a programme where we are encouraging farmers to plant tea. It takes two years for us to get any meaningful returns from our tea plantations. It is, therefore, necessary for the lending institutions to look at the lending structure.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also the issue of land. The President did talk about the many laws regulating the administration of land. Most residents in Khwisero Constituency do not have title deeds because of too much bureaucracy involved in transfer of land. Our people have to travel long distances to get a title deed processed. It is even sad that even in a straightforward case of succession it takes, at least, six months before a transfer of land is effected. I think we can look at that again so that it takes a shorter period of time. The Minister for Lands and Settlement is here and I will plead with him to make sure that the people of Khwisero Constituency have a lands office. At the moment, it is in Kakamega, which is 50 kilometres away. It will be a good idea for the Minister to make sure that we have our own lands office at Butere.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the rural electrification, I am happy that, after 40 years of Independence, Khwisero Constituency will get about 20 kilometres of electricity line. I am, indeed, grateful, on behalf of the people of Khwisero. I would also, in the same vein, urge the Ministry concerned to ensure that the Rural Electrification Programme succeeds. Since we know that this power will only benefit the people who are along the main road where this line will pass, there are people who live far away from the line and will not access electricity. It is important, therefore, that other sources of energy are made available for the farmers who may not be able to access the electricity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when it comes to creation of jobs, I do know that the Government did pledge to create about 500,000 jobs a year. I also know the Government envisaged the situation where there will be investors who will come into the country and invest so that the jobs can be created. For me, these jobs will be meaningless if the people of Khwisero Constituency will not get their share. I have in mind a programme where, for example, I intend to encourage farmers in my constituency to grow at least 1,000 acres of tea. I hope the Government will assist my people to access credit because we do not necessarily want handouts. If we can access credit, we will be able to grow 1,000 acres of tea. In the process, we will be able to create 4,000 jobs. I think we will

have made a contribution towards the Government's goal to create more job opportunities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President did talk about a programme where the sugar factories will be rehabilitated. In the neighbourhood of Khwisero Constituency, we do have a factory which is defunct, at the moment, and I hope that it will be rehabilitated. If that happens, possibly we could grow up to 5,000 acres of sugar cane and, in the process, we will create approximately 7,000 jobs.

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

Mr. Bifwoli: Thank you, Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to give compliments where they belong. The President gave a very good Speech which was visionary. At least, from what he said, it indicates a man of vision; a man who has Kenya at heart. This Government has only been in power for the last one year. However, we are judging it as if it has been in power since Independence. We cannot compare the achievements of a government that has been in power for the last 40 years with a government that has been in power for one year. We all know that the NARC Government has achieved a lot in the short period it has been in power. For example, free and compulsory primary education is an achievement. There are more than eight million children now at school. Let us also accept that, whatever we are seeing in this programme, are mere challenges. One challenge in this programme is shortage of teachers. I am simply urging the Government to employ more teachers and motivate them, and the programme will succeed 100 per cent.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue I want to compliment the NARC Government for is its prompt payments to farmers. Previously, we sold a 90-kilogramme bag of maize at Kshs400 but, today, we sell it at more than Kshs1,000. There are some challenges which the farmers face and the Minister for Agriculture should address them. One bag of DAT fertilizer should cost around Kshs800 or Kshs1,000. The farmers will be relieved if the current prices are reduced.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Government for paying me for the sugar cane I delivered to Nzoia Sugar Company in 1998. It is only last week when my wife handed me a cheque for the money I had forgotten I would ever be paid. Had the NARC Government not come to power, I am sure I would not have been paid. People speak as if the NARC Government has done nothing, and yet I have been paid money for the cane I delivered to Nzoia Sugar Company. I had given up hope of ever being paid this money by that sugar company. The company had withheld my money, and it is only the Kibaki Government which has saved me and other farmers. We must thank the President and his Government for that. What we are seeing are mere challenges. I urge the Ministers to accept these challenges and also accept few corrections and they will be the best because we do not need another group to lead this country.

On the education sector, bursary funds have been allocated to all constituencies. Regardless of whether you are in the Government or in the Opposition, your constituency has been allocated Kshs1 million. I am in NARC, and my constituency has been allocated Kshs1 million. The same applies to a constituency which is represented by a KANU Member. This is a very good Government because it distributes resources equitably. How we will spend the money is not the problem of the Government. What matters is how we organise the committees on the ground. I want to thank the Government and encourage it to disburse a little more to Bumula Constituency. This is because this constituency is poor and over Kshs10 million is required to cater for needy students who have applied for bursary money. I am sure that if Bumula Constituency is allocated Kshs5 million, my constituents will receive quality education. I am a son of a poor man and woman. I suffered during my early days in school. I used to be sent away from school. I used to go through the window to run away from Government officers. If I had the privilege of free primary school education, I am sure that I would have gone far. We have to compliment the Government for that good gesture.

The Government should revamp the agricultural sector. It should pump a lot of money into this sector. For example, the Government should revamp the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) and the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) so that the farmers who rear livestock can have a place to sell them. This is a mere challenge. This is a problem which the Government can solve. From what the NARC Government has achieved in one year, if Kenyans can give it ten years, Kenya will be a very good country to live in.

On corruption, the Government has tried but there is a big challenge and questions. If I may pause, Goldenberg---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Bifwoli! Who are you addressing?

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am addressing the Chair and also complimenting the Government.

This Government has tried to fight corruption. But what is the use of being told the number of people who stole money in this country through the Goldenberg scandal, and yet the Government does not take action against them? The Government took very swift action against magistrates and judges who were implicated in corruption. But there is one anomaly it made. It only targeted Luhya and Luo magistrates and judges. The Government sacked Luhya and Luo magistrates and judges. Does it mean that it was only the Luhyas and Luos who were corrupt in the Judicial Department and no other tribe was corrupt? That is the question we ask the Government. As much as it does the right thing, we also have to ask it why it does this selectively?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Bifwoli, address the Chair as you contribute!

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me look at you so that you can see that I am addressing you!

QUORUM

Ms. Abdalla: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I believe that Mr. Bifwoli is giving a lot of compliments to the NARC Government which is not here because there is no quorum. Maybe, we should call them back so that they can get an opportunity to hear his compliments.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Ms. Abdalla, have you raised your point of order?

Ms. Abdalla: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): There is no quorum. There are only 21 hon. Members in the House. Ring the Division Bell!

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! We have a quorum now. You may proceed, Mr. Bifwoli!

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because I was praising the good work the Government has done, I annoyed KANU and that is why one of its Members rose on a point of order to say that there was no quorum in the House.

However, there are several challenges facing the NARC Government. If the Government has to create 500,000 jobs per year, to be sincere, the Minister for Agriculture has to revive the cotton industry. The *mitumba* clothes have destroyed the textile industry in this country. I urge the Government to freeze the free market on *mitumba* clothes. We cannot get underwear from abroad. The Government should not allow second-hand underwear to be imported into this country in the

spirit of a free market so that they kill our cotton industry. This industry has been destroyed by these clothes which people import. Even now, if we hon. Members of Parliament donate second-hand clothes and took them outside there, they will not sell them but burn them. Why is the Government allowing second-hand clothes to be sold to our people to the detriment of our cotton industry? Our cotton industry has collapsed! I urge the Government to stop the importation of second-hand clothes. However, during this particular week, our Ministers have heeded the Speech from the Head of State. Today, I want to compliment the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Kiraitu Murungi. He has been with us since the State opening of Parliament! He is with us even now!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisisio): Order, Mr. Bifwoli! Your time is up!

Mr. Bifwoli: It is not! My time was wasted on quorum. You even come---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisisio): Order! Do not fight over time! Time is very well managed here!

Proceed, Mr. Kajwang!

Mr. Kajwang: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a contribution to the Presidential Speech. First of all, I would like to say that it was a well-considered Speech and almost touched on some of the things that affect the nation. I will contribute to one or two issues only. The first one is security.

I think the President addressed the security situation in this country. He did not have to say that it is very grave. The security situation in this country is worse than the security situation in Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries. Remember that when we compare Kenya with Uganda in terms of security in its own capital, it is a very terrible matter! That country has gone to war and is still at war. Yet, Kenya is doing much worse. Why? Because we have never had a policy on containing insecurity in this country. We have not put enough money into and you can never get a product, unless you invest in it. We have not invested in security.

In last year's Budget, we were complaining that the amount of money which was allocated to the police for the improvement of their infrastructure was below par. That is because we identified security as a serious issue in this country. But, even on top of that, we have not been pro-active enough to think beyond providing vehicles, guns, boots, uniforms and houses. Uganda, which has less money than we do, they are more pro-active. They have made arrangements with the business community to improve security. How have they done it? Every company in this country which provides the so-called security, has alarms, vehicles and *rungus*. I do not think they have *pangas*. Why? If any alarm went off and you called any security company to come, they will come with *rungus* and whistles. That does not help much! Our robbers, of course, do not care or give a damn about somebody coming to confront them with *rungus* and whistles.

In Uganda, they have provided security firms with licences to carry guns. Of course, they supervise them and make sure that the guns do not go into the wrong hands. But they are armed, so that every security officer standing in front of a bank or your home, would be armed. That is why they tie our guards here in Kenya. When they come with guns, they just tie them, and then come into our bedrooms even before we wake up. It is because we have not thought of that as an avenue. There is already an investment, a structure, a vehicle and an alarm system there. Fuel is already provided. The only thing you need to do is to give them a licence to carry arms and then supervise them and in that way, we can go a long way in improving our security in this country. It has been done in many countries and Kenya can do it. I have not heard the Minister in charge of security talk about it although we have raised it a few times. We have not heard the President mention it but it is a cheap way of improving our security by a big percentage in a short time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, and I am still on security but just briefly, I think there is now some kind of specialised insecurity against Members of Parliament because every time a Member of Parliament moves, we are now scared that we can die any moment. I thought mine was an isolated case but immediately after mine, there was that episode of the Member of

Parliament for Mandera Central, hon. Shaaban. Before that episode, there was that one of Dr. Oburu and every other two days, there is a security problem. There was one which involved hon. L. Maitha at the Coast and every other day, there is a security problem involving a Member of Parliament. We are almost beginning to believe that we are being targeted and the Government must come out and protect us because we are an investment to this country. They have invested a lot of money in us first of all to educate us, bring us here and then to pay us. So, to bring us here only to suffer insecurity and fear of death every other minute we take a ride, is a dangerous thing. So, we are asking the Government to protect not only Members of Parliament but the entire country but we feel that we are now targeted and we need special protection.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was also something which the President spoke about which I want to speak about quickly and that was consensus-building of the constitutional review process. I want to say very clearly that there is every need for consensus in every project and not only in constitution-making. However, the Constitution of Kenya Review Act provided for consensus. It provided for consensus on collection of views. It provided for consensus for collating of those views. It provided for consensus at Bomas and at every stage, it has provided for consensus, only that the law cannot force consensus. So, we provided also that, in case there is no consensus, there would be a vote and we provided on what majorities would carry the day. We also provided that if certain minorities, especially one-third of the conference was to be dissatisfied, they would raise an issue and make such issue on which they disagree a contentious issue which would be taken to a referendum. So, the law recognises consensus and the law recognises that you also cannot force consensus. So, to talk of consensus after the Act is not helping us very much.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the job at Bomas as far as I am concerned is complete and what is remaining is publication of the Act or the Bill and bringing it here so that we enact it. I do not think that there is any need for political parties to meet anywhere in any boardroom to force on the majority of Kenyans any consensus. This is because if you look at the delegates who came to Bomas, there were delegates from political parties, religious groups, districts, professional groups, women, youth, the disabled and from all sectors of life and even tribal chiefs found their place there. There were even delegates from the army and police. So, when you now meet as political parties in some caucus and enter into something called a "consensus" and come and force it on Kenyans, we will be doing a great disservice to Kenya. So, I think that the only consensus which should now be talked about is the consensus reached at Bomas and that we proceed with the Act as it provided.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the last thing I want to speak about is harassment of the Press. This Government came to power on the basis of the rule of law and, in fact, when His Excellency gave his first Speech, he said that this country will be governed by the rule of law. Of course, there are many people who will injure your rights but you can only redress such injuries by following the law. Now, recently I understand that a radio station called KISS FM made certain disparaging remarks about one of our colleagues and, of course, that Member who was injured went to court and got an injunction to restrain the radio station from making ridiculous statements about her and also to stop portraying her negatively. I do not know what those words mean. However, she had a right to do exactly that, which is to go to court and injunct them from making ridiculous statements about her and portraying her negatively. However, while that is still going on, which is now a suit in court and that is a right which is being pursued by a citizen who feels aggrieved, the Minister for Tourism and Information goes out and says that on that same basis, he is instituting a parallel committee to investigate the same matter and report to him without any foundation of the law. This is because there is no law which authorises the Minister to come up with any committee to investigate the Press, whether it is electronic or print media. Of course, he has a general direction of the Press but Press freedom is a fundamental right. In fact, if you look at the Draft Constitution which we made recently, we said that no law will be made that will curtail the freedom of the Press. Why? Because if you do so--- I know that instructions have already been given that KISS FM will be closed down by the Government because of these so-called disparaging remarks---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Your time is up!

Mr. Khamisi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been sitting here the whole afternoon and I am glad that you have given me an opportunity to speak and to speak in support of the Motion and also to support the sentiments that were made here by the President. I agree with everybody who has said that the Speech touched on a variety of issues, most of them quite fundamental or quite important to the wellbeing of this nation. However, I would like to constrain to a burning issue that is very close to my heart and that issue is land. I am glad the Minister for Lands and Settlement is here because he knows what I have been talking about for the last two years and his Assistant Minister is also here.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year the President, in delivering his Speech here, did indicate that there were too many laws and he promised to regulate and harmonise these laws. It is already one year since that promise was made and it has not been met and, once again, we are being told that the laws have to be harmonised. I would wish to see more action and less words. The land issue is a very emotive issue. It has been the subject of this House since 1967 when the first Select Committee was formed by this House. There have been subsequent commissions, like the Njonjo Commission, coming very much close to my mind and I think there were very substantive and very important recommendations that were made by both committees but, unfortunately, none of these recommendations have been carried forward and now we are seeing yet another Commission which is the Presidential Commission on Land.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, judging by the way we are going, we are not going to go anywhere. This Government appears to be moving in the same direction as the previous Government. This is 2004 and we have only three years and I do not feel comfortable when I hear that we have been in power for only one and a half years. I think in one and a half years, this land issue should have been articulated well by this Government and solved. When we go out and solve the problem piecemeal as in the case of the Ogiek, who have been promised title deeds while the people of the Coast and the people that I represent have not received any title deeds, I think it is very unfair indeed. I would like to appeal to this Government---

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Kimunya): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Do you need the information?

Mr. Khamisi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not need the information from the Minister. I would like this Government to be more serious than the previous Government. We suffered during the last 40 years under the KANU regime. Our land had been grabbed and a lot of it is still occupied by absentee landlords. No policy direction has been given and the NARC Government is still perpetuating the same. I would like to see seriousness, more goodwill and action instead of words only.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about agriculture, which the President also touched on. It appears that whenever issues regarding agriculture are raised, the only crops in the minds of many people are sugar-cane, coffee and tea. No serious consideration is given to crops grown in the tropical areas of this country. I am talking about cashewnuts and coconuts. The cashewnuts industry in this country has almost collapsed. There is no effort at the moment to re-plant the cashewnut crop in the areas that were once cashewnut areas. Even the mill industry that is trying to revive itself has to depend on Tanzania to get raw cashewnuts simply because our farmers have not been encouraged to produce cashewnuts. As if that is not enough, seedlings have not been provided to farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the kind of seedlings we were using were of a ten-year tenure and sometimes would last for 12 years. Today, we have hybrid seeds that could germinate into mature cashew trees in less than three years. We have not seen the Government moving towards this direction despite the fact that we have agricultural research stations which are supposed to be doing research. We would like to see this Government move forward and identify the

seedlings that have become very popular in cashewnut-growing areas such as Tanzania and India. We could import the seeds so that our farmers can benefit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, we had a seminar in Mombasa which was attended and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture. During that seminar, we were promised that a Bill was being prepared to establish a coconut board as well as a processing board for this agricultural product. It is now almost one year since the promise was made by the Minister and nothing yet has been done. It is important to stress here that the coconut tree is as important as coffee and tea crops. I would like to see the Government being serious.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was surprised by the comments from the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing. He said that the co-operatives are working well and that they have been revived. I would like to remind him that in my own area, co-operative societies have collapsed and we have not seen any action from the Government in terms of reviving them. We would like to see the Government moving towards that direction, too.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about jobs, especially with regard to the youth. This Government, again, has not been able to fulfil--- I know it is working very hard to fulfil the promise of providing 500,000 jobs. However, in my area, and in the whole country in general, there are still many young people who have not been able to get jobs. The Government should provide an environment that will attract investments from abroad and also encourage local entrepreneurs to establish factories in this country. This will provide jobs to our young people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the same vein, we are seeing a lot of movement to overseas countries by officials of the Ministry of Tourism and Information. We are yet to see any results on the ground because our hotels are still empty. I would like to see more efforts being channelled in that area. We would like to see the Government improve the security in our country. It should also improve on matters pertaining to taxation so that more people come to build hotels in this country. Tourists can then come to enjoy the wonderful things that we have in our country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about reconciliation. We heard the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing stressing that reconciliation has virtually been achieved between himself and other Members of the Government. I would like to believe that the reconciliation is genuine and not just a matter of cover-up. I am glad that, today, for the first time, I was able to talk to some Ministers, who before, were unreachable. In fact, one of them hugged me this morning in this House and I felt very good. I think this is an important factor in trying to bring reconciliation in this country. The people have spoken on the constitutional dispensation. Members of Parliament should rally around to make sure that they present the Constitution to the people of Kenya within the time they were promised the same.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the provincial administration, which I am sorry to say appears to be behaving in the same way in which the previous provincial administration, used to behave. We are seeing, particularly in my constituency, Members of Parliament who seem not to be singing the Government song, being side-lined. Ministers are not paying attention to those areas, especially my constituency. I see a lot of Ministers passing through Bahari Constituency when going elsewhere, yet my constituency is part of this country. There is one particular Minister who has actually ordered the District Commissioner (DC) there not to associate with the Members of Parliament from the Opposition parties.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to assure you that I am very much in the Government, I respect this Government, and I need to be treated equally like everybody else.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Chepkitony: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Motion. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for the tours he made last month to various parts of the Rift Valley, including Eldoret. While there, he opened the Eldoret Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) show, and also met leaders from that area. He also toured the South Rift. That was a good move in trying to consolidate national unity. We hope that the President is going to

continue touring various parts of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to address the question of the rule of law. Since this Government took over the reigns of power, it has promised Kenyans that it is going to respect the rule of law and also the democratic rights of Kenyans. Judging by what has happened in the past, the rule of law is not really being exercised or respected. I am, in particular, referring to various actions in the courts of law where the Judiciary has been interfered with. There are cases where judgements are always made in favour of the Government. At times, cases are being postponed just to frustrate certain people. All these show lack of respect for the rule of law because it does not demonstrate a good gesture to the rule of law.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is separation of powers between the Judiciary, Legislature and the Executive. Is it in order for the hon. Member to disparage the whole Judiciary instead of being specific? If he has any specific case in mind, he should table the evidence here rather than disparaging the whole Judiciary.

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member wants me to table the evidence, I will do it. In particular, the Government has reneged on its policy of privatisation and liberalisation. The Government took over the Kenya Seed Company (KSC) by using police officers and threw out its management. The company was doing very well as a private company. The former management and the shareholders have been going to court to seek redress, but they have been frustrated by the Judiciary through interference by Ministers. I think the Executive has ordered the courts not to hear that case. This is very serious because it is interfering with the lives of the shareholders of that company. This will not be beneficial to the country.

If we want to encourage foreign investment into this country, we should, first of all, respect the local investors who are shareholders of the company. This did not only happen to the KSC, but it also happened to the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). When the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing took over the KCC, he did not do it in a civil manner. Police officers took over the KCC without any negotiations with the management. This does not reflect well on the Government and the rule of law. There should be a better way of handling this issue. The Government should have negotiated with the management to see how best it could have taken over the company.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the President said that there has been some growth in the economy of this country, that has not been reflected in the lives of Kenyans. There is still unemployment and the inflation rate is very high. Within one year, the prices of fertilisers have gone up by over 45 per cent and that will impact negatively on agriculture this year. The cost of fuel has gone up and this has caused the prices of other farm inputs to go up.

On the question of the infrastructure, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government promised to bring down tariffs in order to encourage industrialization and attract private investors, but that has not been done. Our cost of production is still very high because of the high cost of electricity. The road network is in a pathetic situation. If you travel from Naivasha through Nakuru to Eldoret, you will find that the roads are in a pathetic situation and nobody seems to be taking any action. Since this Government took over, no repairs have been done on that road. We wonder whether anybody is caring or not.

On the issue of agriculture, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the President said that there has been an improvement in the agricultural sector, if you look at the livestock sub-sector, you will find that livestock marketing has not been streamlined. It is only the KCC depots in Nyeri and Nyahururu which have been opened. The depots in the other parts of the country have not been opened, and farmers in those areas cannot sell their milk. If this Government is really committed to ensuring that KCC is operational, then it should open the other KCC depots.

Finally, I want to touch on our forests. Yesterday was the last day that the non-resident farmers were required to move out of the forest. I understand that the non-residence farming policy

will not continue. Let me caution the Government that the protection of the forests is not only the work of the Government. It is done in collaboration with the communities living around those forests. If the communities living around the forests do not benefit from this resource, then there will be some problems. We have had forest fires and the communities have been called upon to assist. Under the non-residence *shamba* system, the communities have been running tree nurseries. In my area, we have several tree nurseries and the community has been planting the trees. If that policy is not going to continue, then those seedlings will go to waste, or be sold to the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the communities around forests will not be allowed to log and run small sawmills, they will not benefit from the forests. The Government has only allowed two companies to log; namely, Pan Paper and Raiply. This is not good enough. The Government must re-assess its policy and ensure that the forests benefit the communities around them. The small sawmillers around should be allowed to cut down trees from those forests, and also utilise the forests in various ways, so that they appreciate the importance of the forests.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Let me add my voice to the wonderful Address given by His Excellency the President, which indicated that the economy is growing, the investment potential is growing, and that the future is bright.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps, before I go on, let me comment on the issue of privatisation that was raised by the previous speaker. The Kenya Seed Company (KSC) and the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) were grabbed by unscrupulous people in the last Government. Those were public enterprises that were snatched through unscrupulous or dubious means, and that was straightforward theft of public property. Therefore, the NARC Government is in its proper right in following its commitment to the rule of law that those who flouted the rule of law must be prosecuted. Therefore, I support the Minister for Agriculture for bringing back the Kenya Seed Company into the domain of the public sector. We cannot do away with thieves if we do not get rid of the small thieves first. The thieves will continue to steal unless we get rid of them. The first thing we are going to do is to catch up with those who stole from the Kenya Seed Company, the KCC, and then other thieves that we may have come across.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): I think that you understand that the words you are using are not parliamentary terms.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): I want to comment on what the President said about the Constitution. Indeed, if any of us stood for Presidential Elections today, would he or she just become the President of this country? Would he or she be able to exercise executive powers in this country? The answer is that no matter how talented one is, for reasons of ethnic factors, it would not be possible. That raises a big question because every Kenyan should have equal opportunity in becoming the Head of State of this country. If one is from the Elmolo tribe, no matter how good he or she is, and no matter how blessed by God one is, he or she can only become the President of this country under the current system by default. If he or she went for general elections, then, she would not make it. Can we produce a Bill Clinton, or a Tony Blair? I do not think so.

Therefore, I think our Government system does not give equal opportunity to every Kenyan. The concept of a Prime Minister which gives an opportunity to every Kenyan to exercise executive powers is important. I add my voice to that of all the delegates of Bomas that they should pursue the issue of a Prime Minister as a viable alternative to creating executive space to all Kenyans.

The President said good words regarding the security of this State. My proposal is that everyone who can carry arms should have them so that we are in a State---

(Mr. Moi entered the Chamber)

without bowing at the Bar)

Mr. Nderitu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to know if it is in order for Mr. Moi to walk into the Chamber and bow right in the middle, rather than walking back and bowing at the right place?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Mr. Moi, you have to bow properly at the back of the Chamber.

*(Mr. Moi walked to the back of
the Chamber and bowed)*

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was in the middle of proposing that the private security guards be given guns as proposed by hon. Kajwang. While the thugs have the AK47 guns, the guards normally have *rungus*. How do we expect these two people to be equal in performing the same task? One is supposed to prevent the other from stealing. I propose that the private security guards be given guns so that they would automatically expand the security space. If they had guns, then thieves who are planning to steal from a bank or Mr. Moi's house would know that the guards there have guns.

My time was taken up by the saga of Mr. Moi not bowing in the House. I, therefore, hope that you will add me some two minutes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of insecurity is important. I am in the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. There is a misconception that the 500,000 jobs are supposed to be created by the Government. The jobs are supposed to be created by the private sector. The private sector needs security, which is important. Everyone in the private sector is now talking about insecurity. The Government should invest heavily in security so that those in the private sector can feel safe. Security should not only be vested in the town centre, but in other parts of the City. My proposal is that we should invest heavily in security. This is because the returns in terms of more private sector investments and creation of job opportunities will be very visible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to comment on this issue regarding free and compulsory primary education programme. The heads--

(A mobile phone rang)

Mr. Moi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is an interruption. Mr. Nderitu's phone is ringing.

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

Mr. Nderitu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I have switched it off.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Proceed, Mr. Odoyo.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Thank you, Mr. Gideon Moi, for pointing out that Mr. Nderitu was interrupting my speech by receiving an unnecessary telephone call in the middle of the proceedings in the House. These interruptions by strangers like that one should be investigated.

On the matter of security, I wish to propose that a Member of Parliament, especially the one who is a friend of the intruder who sneaked into this House during the State Opening ceremony, records a statement with the police. That hon. Member from Nairobi Province is the one who showed that man the unscrupulous ways of sneaking into this Chamber. I wish to request the

Minister in charge of security to ensure that, that hon. Member, who is very well known by the Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Mrs. Mugo---

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is Mr. Odoyo in order to insinuate that I know that hon. Member? I do not even know what he is talking about. Could he correct his speech? Maybe even that hon. Member he is talking about does not exist. Please, withdraw those remarks.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw any reference to Mrs. Mugo. However, I wish to say that it was said that Mr. Maina Kamanda is a very good friend of the gentleman who sneaked into this House. Mr. Kamanda comes from Nairobi Province. Therefore, he should record a statement with the police, so that we can know the basis on which that man sneaked into the House.

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have clearly heard Mr. Odoyo, who is contributing, adversely mentioning an hon. Member of this House without bringing a substantive Motion to discuss his conduct. Is he in order to continue adversely mentioning the hon. Member without bringing a substantive Motion to the House?

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the allegation that Mr. Maina Kamanda is a friend of the man who posed a security risk in this House.

The major security problem in my district is the floods. Floods in Nyando District cause a security risk. They displace 30,000 to 40,000 people.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Your time is up!

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg support the Motion.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to thank the President for the eloquent speech that he gave on Tuesday. It becomes very difficult for a father to buy a newspaper; come home and sit under a tree within your homestead when your children are in the house screaming and fighting among themselves. It took Kenyans very few weeks to decide to elect this Government. All Kenyans agreed and voted for this Government, thinking it would be united and deliver them from evils. Today, the country is bedeviled by the same evils because the NARC Government has failed to correct the situation.

I have never heard of any country in this world where a Cabinet is going to meet tomorrow and the agenda is already known to members of the public. It is surprising that even before Ministers leave a Cabinet meeting, the public is aware of what was discussed. In a Cabinet meeting, anywhere

in the world, there must be collective responsibility. That is why when they are being appointed as Members of the Cabinet, they take an oath of office. That oath is not for granted. Therefore, how could a father sit there while children are fighting in the house and he does not care? He is supposed to ask what is happening in that house and take disciplinary action against---

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. As a good sign of collective responsibility, this hon. Member is imputing false and malicious issues on Members of the Cabinet. He says that hon. Ministers are rumour mongers; they peddle lies and fictitious stories. I believe that this hon. Member is a victim of the previous regime where he believed that the Head of State must interfere, including---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Mr. Odoyo, next time you stand on a point of order, let it be a point of order, and not a point of argument.

Proceed, Mr. Wanjala.

Mr. Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wonder how Cabinet Ministers can contest against each other and yet, tomorrow they will sit in the same Cabinet

meeting. They come outside here to play public relations. I know of a Minister who was issued with a permit to hold a rally and before he could hold it, his colleague was also issued with another permit to hold a rally in the same venue. Are these the same Ministers who sit in Cabinet meetings and tell us that they discussed issues of national importance? I think this Government has got over 130 hon. Members amongst whom the President can appoint Ministers, if the current Ministers are letting him down. Otherwise, Kenyans will not continue like this.

We have seen hospitals being inspected. We have seen roads being inspected all over the country. Even the roads in my area were inspected in February, 2003. Nobody is telling us when the construction work on these roads will commence. We are being told the roads are being inspected. Are they inspecting potholes? Are they inspecting hospitals where there is no bedding? Are they inspecting pipes which do not have water? What are we being told? This is very serious!

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Mr. Odoyo, it had better be a point of order.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): Is it in order for the hon. Member to expect the NARC Government to commence work on various projects before conducting inspection?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Mr. Odoyo, it does not make it a point of order by just using the words "in order".

Maybe, for the benefit of hon. Members, somebody must have breached something for you to rise on a point order. I am sitting here so that you draw my attention that a Member has breached something. That is what I want to hear from a point of order, not an argument.

Proceed, Mr. Wanjala!

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in an African state, there must be some degree of dictatorship. Today, because of the free hand that our President has given to the Cabinet Ministers, corruption is thriving and nobody is talking about it.

Recently, his Excellency the President was invited to Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, to preside over a national HIV/AIDS Women's Conference, whose Kshs30 million budget was corruptly spent. This conference was supposed to have been attended by representatives of women from the whole country. Unfortunately, women from Budalangi Constituency were not represented in the conference.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to insinuate that the money was corruptly spent? I was there and I saw how well this money was spent. Women were given very vital information on HIV/AIDS scourge. With respect, the hon. Member must also know that women have a stake in this country. So, the Government can use some of its money to educate women on the dangers of HIV/AIDS scourge.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe women have a stake in this country. However, they should not be used to perpetuate corruption in this country.

(Mrs. Mugo consulted loudly)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order, Members! Mrs. Mugo, here, the debate goes on in a very orderly manner. Hon. Members do not just shout at each other. If you have a point of order, just rise in your place and if you catch my eye, I will give you a chance to speak.

(Ms. Mwau stood up in her place)

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is it? There is no point of order. I am the one on the Floor!

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order, Ms. Mwau! You do not just move to the microphone and say: "On a point of order."

Proceed, Mr. Wanjala!

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I talked with the people who were organising this event---

Ms. Mwau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the hon. Member substantiate? Is it in order for him to insinuate that women were used for corrupt deals?

Could he also table evidence to substantiate his allegation?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a proof to what I am alleging, the hon. Member who was on the Floor of the House is a member of NPK. The Minister for Health is also a member of NPK. Other hon. Members who were organising the conference are also members of NPK. Why were hon. Members allowed to organise this event when we have civil servants?

Ms. Ndungu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to insinuate that there are hon. Members in this House who belong to parties that are not represented in this House?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge in this country that this Government is a product of a coalition of parties.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the hon. Members waste more of my time, I would like to move on to the issue of security. Fishermen at the lake should be given arms---

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mrs. Mugo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Order, Mrs. Mugo! As a matter of fact, I gave everybody a chance to raise a point of order, but every time, people failed to raise points of order. So, you should not interrupt somebody's contribution just because you think you have a point of order to raise.

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

Order, hon. Members! This is a timed debate. We cannot continue like that.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, fishermen in Lake Victoria are being robbed of their fishing gear, just as motorists are being carjacked on our roads. The governments of neighbouring countries provide security to their fishermen. The fishing industry generates Kshs5 billion in revenue annually for this country. Therefore, the Government should arm our fishermen in Lake Victoria so that they can protect themselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, today, the upsurge of crime in this country is worrying. I fear that at one time, hon. Members, especially those who are not in good terms with the Government, might be eliminated. It will be alleged that there was an upsurge of crime all over the country. Then they will cite examples of other people who died in similar circumstances. So, it is time that the security---

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is completely out of order to allege that the Government is eliminating hon. Members. Could he, kindly, withdraw that statement?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say that the Government is going to eliminate people. I said that sometimes, those hon. Members who are not in good books

with the Government can be confronted by thugs and the people will implicate the Government. It is time that insecurity is contained.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, we appreciate the free primary education---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Your time is up!

Mr. Wanjala: With those few remarks, I beg to support.

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

First of all, I would like to join my colleagues in thanking His Excellency the President for the Address he gave us on Tuesday. I think it touched on very many fundamental issues. The only disturbing thing about it is that it did not quite emphasise on the main problems facing Kenya today. If you go to any part of this country, you will be confronted by two main problems; namely, poverty and unemployment. I think those are the two main problems that are affecting Kenyans today. I expected the President to focus on how we are going to find jobs for our young men and women in this country. One of the things I expected the President to emphasise on and go into greater detail is the issue of agriculture. I know that most of my colleagues have mentioned about agriculture in this country and agriculture is truly a very important industry. In my view, if we were to look at the agricultural sector, it can be an avenue for job creation in this country. I think we have talked about this time and again and we have said that farmers need to be paid well. I know that where I come from in Lugari, we are a little grateful to the Government because our maize prices this year have been a little better, but we want it to be a lot better than that. I think the efforts that go into producing one bag of maize and the time that is spent, and the expectancy of the farmers, do not warrant the prices that we got. But better still, I would like us to add value in whatever we produce.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this is something that we have talked about time and again, and to me, it is turning out to be more of a rhetoric. I think the Government is not taking issues seriously. We need to add value in our primary products. I would like to see agro-based industries springing up in the rural areas. I would like to see a situation where we do not just export or sell whatever we remove from the farms.

On the issue of agriculture, I would like to also add my voice in saying that we are grateful to the Government for having revived the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). But where I come from, I do not see the factories functioning. I think it is more in name than anything else that KCC has been revived. I think the nearest KCC to my constituency is in Eldoret, and I do not see any activities taking place there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was a bit disappointed that the President did not mention about infrastructure in any great detail. We do not need to belabour the point that our road network is in a pathetic condition. I remember, in the last Session, we passed a Bill where the Government was supposed to provide machinery for road construction to every district. I do not know how far this has gone. We would like to be told because in most of the places we come from, our roads are in a terrible and bad condition.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the co-operative movement. In a liberalised economy like ours, I think the only saviour for the marginal farmers is the co-operative movement. I know the President mentioned about over 10,000 co-operative societies in this country, and I know in my constituency there are so many that I can mention, but all those co-operative societies are in name, but on the ground, most if not all the co-operative societies, as I speak, are now dead. I think the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing needs to do more. He should not look at the numbers, but should come down and see whether those co-operative societies are actually functional or not. I can say that maybe the starting point is to take over the liabilities of these co-operative societies. I think time has come for him to take that bold

step the way he did with KCC and be able to take over the liabilities and settle some of the credits that the co-operative societies owed the Co-operative Bank. He should restructure the co-operative societies, and in that way, they can serve our farmers. Otherwise, there is no point in us talking year in, year out that we have 10,000 co-operative societies and yet, on the ground, there is nothing functional.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the *shamba* system because, about 50 per cent of my area in Lugari is occupied by the forest. I know the Minister has said that he does not want anybody in the forests as from today. He has said that all those people need to move out of the forests. We have argued and said that there can be found a way. I am glad the Assistant Minister is here. A way should be found to restructure the *shamba* system, rather than chase people out of the forests. We are talking about poor people who, over the years, have depended on the forests for their livelihood. We are now going to chase them out of the forests, just the same way we did with the people who were manning the *matatu* industry. We are going to throw them out in the world and tomorrow, we shall turn around and say that there is thuggery and crime and yet, it is us who have caused some of it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like us to look at how best the people could exist around those forests. I would like the Ministry to make the forests friendly to the people. I would like the people to be friendly to the forests, rather than looking at the forests as alien structures where they cannot step in or even graze their animals. What is wrong with the animals grazing in the forests? We know the people who destroy our forests. They are the people who do the logging and the multi-national companies like Rai-Plywood and the Pan African Paper Mills. They are not those poor farmers who go to look for firewood in the forests. They are not those people who are planting a few vegetables in the forests.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking and the Assistant Minister is very busy. I would like this issue to be taken seriously.

An hon. Member: Tell her!

Dr. Kibunguchy: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very bitter because, as we are talking now, almost 3,000 people have been thrown out of the forest in my constituency. The Minister and the Assistant Minister are insensitive to the plight of those people. I ask the question: What harm can an animal grazing in that forest cause? I want the Ministry to come up with a policy where--- People come and log in our forest in Lugari. I want those companies to plough back a little of their profits to help the communities living around the forests. The way it is now is that, those people come with huge trucks and spoil our roads and bridges, which are usually temporary, and then walk way and make their profits! We are being told that we cannot even get firewood from those forests. We are not even supposed to step there! I say this: We must learn how to make forests friendly to the communities. Otherwise, the communities will take those forests as their enemy. You know what happens when you take something as an enemy! You want to destroy it!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope I have passed that message. I would like the Ministry to be sensitive to those poor people. The Ministry should understand that there can be found a way where those two entities can co-exist comfortably and friendly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Your time is up!

Mr. Karaba: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Speech delivered by His Excellency the President last Tuesday. In his Speech, which was very well balanced, he was very careful by mentioning various issues relating to our country. He was able to articulate, more so, on the free primary education, which the NARC Government has freely given to Kenyans. It is true because I, as an educationist, have noted with a lot of satisfaction that, 8 million children have already been absorbed in free education. That is up from 7 million. So, if you

took one million children who, otherwise, would have gone without education, this is a very great success to our NARC Government. So, I pay tribute to the Government.

It is also important to note that with the increased number of children in schools due to free education, we are experiencing a very serious shortage of teachers, and I do agree that the Government should also be responsible for providing quality instead of quantity in form of education. So, we have teachers who are dying and others are retiring and we need to make sure that they are replaced. We seem to have a shortage that has led to over-crowding of students in classes. You may find one classroom with more than 120 students and cannot even cope with the teacher-pupil ratio given by the Ministry of Education. One teacher is supposed to take care of about 40 students in class, but these days, you find that a teacher is taking care of 120 students, which is a bit on the higher side.

The other thing I also noted in the Speech is the issue of agriculture. It is true that the Ministers for Agriculture and Co-operative Development are doing quite well. The President mentioned that maize, wheat, milk and the sugar industry had been given more attention. But what I noted is that tea and coffee farmers are not very happy and so are cashewnut and sisal farmers. Nothing was mentioned about them in the Speech. So, we are wondering what is going to happen, knowing that coffee is a major cash crop in this country. I would wish to see coffee and tea come back to their rightful positions as the major cash crops in our country.

A lot has been said about insecurity. This is true. On the day the President was reading his Speech, a stranger entered the Chambers unnoticed. This was a security lapse and this reminded me of a case in South Africa where the Prime Minister was killed by a person who just entered the House the way our intruder did. That man killed a Prime Minister in South Africa and the same thing could happen to our President here. So, I think we need to be very careful when we talk about security. Crime is rampant in the rural areas. It is now a common thing to find a gang of about 20 or 40 people going round the villages at night, trying to ransack the homes of innocent people and most people have even run away from their homes in the rural areas to the urban centres. Security should be beefed up. I recommend that the Government needs to recruit more police officers so that we are secure in our homes. If this happens, I am sure even our investors from overseas would invest more in our country. This can also create the jobs that we are always talking about; the 500,000 jobs per year.

Something else that the President did not seem to articulate was the issue of irrigation. This is something that can create a lot of jobs. We have unemployed people all over the country. I have in mind swamps like Lorian, Kano Plains and some areas along the Coast that can be reclaimed or irrigated. I was, therefore, thinking that if the Ministry is going to increase the food stock in the country and also create the jobs that we are talking about, it is necessary to think about reclaiming some of these areas which, otherwise, are lying idle, and also encourage the communities living in the neighbourhood to produce and increase the amount of food in the country. That is possible if there is going to be planning for the cash crop economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also note that there has been a lot of unemployment in the country and this is as a result of lack of faith by manufacturers from outside the country. However, I think that since now we seem to have good relationships with the outsiders, it is possible to introduce what we call agro-based industries; more so the cottage industry. This will enable us to have very many small industries which will cater for those villagers living out there. This way, we are going to have more people employed in our industries, be it agro-based or any other industry that we are going to have in our villages.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

The Assitant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife (Prof.

Mathai): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. I rise to warmly congratulate the President for the excellent Statement that he gave us on Tuesday. He touched on very many issues; many of which are extremely important and need a lot of attention. I was particularly touched by his concern for security because, indeed, as many hon. Members of Parliament have mentioned, security is a great concern in this country at this time. I have particularly been concerned by the fact that it is quite easy to kill people who are innocent. I would like to appeal to our policemen that despite the fact that we are concerned about security, we must do something about shooting to kill people because we suspect they are criminals. During the Bomas of Kenya discussions, we had a session on whether or not we should abolish capital punishment. Eventually, we said that we wanted to abolish capital punishment because we wanted to respect life; we said that everybody has a right to life. It is extremely unjust and unfair to kill a person just because you suspect them to be criminals. We know that there could be mistakes and innocent people could have been killed. This matter needs to be looked at very seriously so that our police force can take a different outlook in trying to deal with criminals.

I also want to address the issue of drugs. We know that there are people in this country who are giving drugs to our children. We also know that the Government is doing a lot to try to uncover the ring. But I do not believe that it can be so difficult to unearth the people who are importing or growing drugs in this country and passing them to our children. We know of people who allow our children to inhale glue. There is absolutely no reason why our system should allow drugs and alcohol to literally kill our people. I know that the provincial administration, and in particular the police, have been accused of participating in facilitating in the drinking and taking of these intoxicants. I would like to appeal to the provincial administration to make extra effort and ensure that drugs are not allowed to reach, especially our schools. What kind of generation are we raising when drugs and alcohol in sachets can find their way to schools near kiosks? It should be possible to create a law or enforce laws that are already existing and say that any alcoholic drink will be put in a bottle big enough so that a child cannot put it in their pocket. It should also be possible to close down bars and other places where alcohol is sold to children. It is possible to see children enter into a bar. I do want to appeal also to members of the public, especially parents, to discourage their children from going to bars. We, as parents, are now responsible for our children. How can we allow individuals to destroy our children by allowing them into the bars? Why can we not just do something and stop those people selling beer in those bars in our shopping centres and villagers, especially where they do so to school children? This is a very serious matter because, no matter what we do; even if we give free primary education, if we cannot protect our children, then we shall have failed as adults.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to address a little bit the issue of forests. Several hon. Members have addressed themselves to this issue and they have shown concern about the forests. We all appreciate the fact that forest are very important to our economy. As we all know, that is where we get water and timber. I want to assure members of the public, especially those who are in the forests and, indeed, those who are referred to as non-residential cultivators, that, as I speak here, the Government will not force them out of the forests at this time. The Ministry has, indeed, created a task force. That task force is looking into different ways of how we should manage our national resources. Whatever we do, we will use our people, especially those who live near the forests, to create groups and associations in order to help the foresters re-afforest and rehabilitate our forests. We want to encourage our people to, indeed, perceive those forests as their forests and not Government forests. The Government is only a custodian of those forests. Our people are the owners of those forests. So, instead of going into the forests to destroy them, please, work with the foresters. We know that we have very few forests as at the moment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will remember that last year, we suspended practically all the foresters. About 300 of them have already been reinstated, but we still have many more to employ. The process is going on. So, I want to appeal to members of the public to assist the Government, not only through the production and planting of seedlings in the forests, but also through what we call community forest association so that our people can become co-owners and co-managers of the forests; the same way they used to do before the British rulers chased them from the forests. We want to reverse that. We want our people to be able to enjoy the forest products, but we also want them to protect those forests. I would particularly appeal to those people who live near forests and the non-residential cultivators to, please, stop cultivating on the very sloppy areas because that creates landslides and soil erosion, hence definitely destroying that very valuable product.

I know that many people would like me to say that the Government will buy those seedlings. I cannot, at this moment, say so. However, I know that there are many organisations, including such organisations as the Greenbelt Movement, which would buy those seedlings although they do not have enough money. So, I am not sure that they can take every seedling that is available. However, I also think that whether those seedlings are bought or not, members of the public should take it as their own responsibility to plant trees, and especially during the coming rains.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to Christian leaders in this country to urge their followers to plant trees during the Easter holiday. This is a time when we all appreciate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ who was crucified on the cross made of a piece of wood. Somebody must have gone to the forest, cut a tree and made a cross on which they crucified the Lord. So, if every Christian, and they are millions in this country, plants a tree seedling during the holy week of Easter, we will plant millions of trees. That is the only way Christians can express their gratitude to the Lord for being saved by His blood. This is a time Christians should thank the Lord by replacing the tree which was cut to make a cross on which he was crucified.

By the way, as much as possible, plant an indigenous tree and not the exotic trees, for example, eucalyptus and cedar trees which are not very good for the local biodiversity. If you plant an indigenous tree, the birds and insects will nest there and the Lord will be happy because you will create a habitat for his creation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I do express my gratitude for the Presidential Address.

Ms. Ndung'u: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President for his Address to this august House.

(Ms. Ndung'u spoke from the Dispatch Box)

I think it was a very well thought-out and analyzed Address which touched on national issues, some of which I will touch on in my remarks to support---

Mr. Osundwa: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to speak from the Dispatch Box when we know she is not a Cabinet Minister or an Assistant Minister?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): By the way, that is not allowed. Back-benchers speak from the microphones provided at the Bank Bench. This is actually provided for in the Standing Orders. The Dispatch Box should only be used by Cabinet Ministers and Assistant Ministers who sit in the Front Bench. I am glad you know that now. Please, correct that situation.

(Ms. Ndung'u moved to the Back Bench)

Ms. Ndung'u: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. On that point, I think I raised this issue with the Speaker yesterday. I said that it is critical for new hon. Members of Parliament to undergo proper induction. I have seen some Back-benchers speak from the Dispatch Box and that is why I went to contribute from there. But if that is not allowed, it is the responsibility of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly to take us through the Standing Orders so that we can know exactly what we should do.

(Applause)

I would like to touch a bit on insecurity, which is critical in our country. One of the fundamental issues which we must address is on the causes of insecurity. In 1990, we had an influx of refugees from Ethiopia and Somalia. In 1994, we also had an influx of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi. Invariably, in 1990, we had an influx of mass movement of people running away from armed conflicts. Thereafter, soldiers followed them across the borders of Kenya. As a result of this, we have genuine refugees and camps of ex-military men. For example, we had ex-military men from Ethiopia in Kakuma Refugee Camp. In certain areas of Nairobi, we have ex-militia men from neighbouring countries. In Eastleigh, we have ex-military and militia men from Somalia. Critically, these people are not refugees and cannot qualify for refugee status. These are highly trained soldiers who I think now engage in criminal activities. We should not protect them---

*(Mr. Mukiri consulted with
Mrs. Mugo and Mrs. Ngilu)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! Let that hon. Member take his seat. Proceed, Ms. Ndung'u!

Ms. Ndung'u: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should not give these persons who live in this country illegally an opportunity to train---

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Ms. Ndung'u, you will contribute for eight minutes next time.

It is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until Tuesday, 6th April at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.