

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 16th October, 2001

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No. 263

COMPENSATION TO MR. GITHINJI'S FAMILY

Mr. Speaker: The Question by Mr. Paul Kihara is deferred. Next Question by Mr. Kariuki!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Thursday, last week, I asked a very important Question about some displaced people in Kieni Forest. Those people are sleeping in the cold without basic needs. The Minister for Lands and Settlement was not in the House then. So, the Chair ruled that this Question should come up today and I do not see it on the Order Paper. It is a very important Question.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, you should have consulted the Chair earlier.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not know that it was not coming up today. I have just obtained the Order Paper. I was promised that the Question would be in the Order Paper today.

Mr. Speaker: Order! You know I was not even here.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of that.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kariuki, check on me later because there is nothing I can do at this moment.

Next Question!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have a written answer to this Question. However, I wish to ask the Question.

Question No.405

SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR HIV/AIDS ORPHANS

Mr. Kariuki asked the Minister of State, Office of the President whether as a way of

eradicating poverty and other social ills associated with the increasing number of street children and HIV/AIDS orphans, the Government could consider building special homes and schools for street children and HIV/AIDS orphans.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kariuki, I understand from the Clerk of the National Assembly that the problem is that, Question No.405, which was addressed to the Office of the President, was transferred this morning to the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could you guide me? At the time I asked this Question, HIV/AIDS Programme was under the Office of the President. Therefore, I presume that the Office of the President should have an answer to that Question or even pass it on to the relevant Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe, somebody from the Office of the President can tell us what is happening.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Haji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question was brought to me this morning. After going through it, I found out that I will not be doing justice to the Questioner. Basically, the issue here is not HIV/AIDS, but that the Questioner has also asked about the establishment of schools and homes for street children. Since that issue comes under the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports, I directed the officers concerned to write to the Office of the Vice-President and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports, and get the correct answer.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, HIV/AIDS Programme falls under the Office of the President. The establishment of schools and homes for street children is taken care of through the same kitty; the Government kitty. Could the Assistant Minister kindly oblige by giving me an answer to this Question? It is a very pressing Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I suppose this Question has been with the Ministry for some time. This is not a Question by Private Notice. My advice is that if the Question does not fall in your docket, then in good time, you should consult your colleagues so that the Question comes to the House when it is scheduled to do so. In the meantime, could Mr. Haji liaise with his officers and his colleagues in the other departments, so that this Question will be answered on Tuesday, next week?

Next Question!

Question No.080

STREAMLINING OF CATERING INDUSTRY

Mr. Muchiri asked the Minister for Trade and Industry:-

- (a) whether he is aware that restaurant and bar owners are closing down their businesses due to the inordinately high taxation rates;
- (b) whether he is further aware that employees of bars and restaurants and small food outlets have never been trained by Utalii College since the introduction of the Catering Levy charges in 1973; and,
- (c) what action he has taken to streamline the management of the catering industry to ensure access to training for all stakeholders.

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Dr. Wamukoya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that restaurant and bar owners are closing down their businesses due to the inordinately high taxation rates.

(b) The Kenya Utalii College undertakes focused training programmes for small-scale and medium-sized establishments. To sustain the training, the college acquired a mobile training unit and has been able to conduct regular training sessions within the localities of the small and medium-sized hotels and catering establishments.

(c) Kenya Utalii College professional training is accessible to all qualified Kenyans and it is mandated to offer quality training to cater for hotels and tourism industry. In this endeavour, the college continuously reviews its training curriculum in full-time course programmes, in-service courses and training for medium and small-scale hotels and restaurants. Introduction of the mobile training unit and the focused training programmes for small-scale and medium-sized establishments ensure access to training for all stakeholders.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this Act was established, a crate of beer was costing less than Kshs100. The allowance that was given was to the sale of Kshs700. Today, a crate of beer costs Kshs1,400 and the taxation allowance is still Kshs700 up to Kshs21,000. The Assistant Minister has misled this House because you will find that the tax is higher than the allowance given by the legal notice. Could the Assistant Minister now consider waiving the legal notice that authorises the Catering Levy Department to charge 2 per cent on the gross sales and put it on the gross profits? That is what is impoverishing Kenyans.

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all that the hon. Member has said may not be of my concern. My Ministry is concerned with the fact that if you are getting a gross income of Kshs20,000 per month or Kshs240,000 per year, you will register with the Ministry and pay 2 per cent levy and then you will get the training that you need.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to part "a" of the Question, the Assistant Minister says that he is not aware that restaurant and bar owners are closing down their businesses and yet he says he knows that there is 2 per cent levy and there is also an element of 18 per cent Value Added Tax. If one takes 20 per cent of the meagre income from these small business establishments, he will leave them with almost nothing. Now that the Assistant Minister knows about those levies, could he confirm that he is being unfair to the businessmen in question?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, 18 per cent is not the concern of my Ministry because Value Added Tax goes to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to behave as if he

is so independent from the rest of the Government that he even forgets about collective responsibility? This is a responsibility that he should discharge as an Assistant Minister and, therefore, he should give an answer to the question!

Mr. Speaker: Well, I propose you put it in another way, that he is answering the Question for the Government.

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that I am answering the Question for the Government. That is why I am saying that if you register yourself with my Ministry for training purposes and then pay 2 per cent of your gross income, we are going to train your people. That is the most important thing that I can say here.

When I answered part "a" of the Question, I said that "I am not aware" and I made sure that I read part "a" of the Question, which stated that employees of bar and restaurants and small food outlets have never been trained. I am not aware that they are not being trained. Those employees are being trained. I am also not aware that those businesses are closing down.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House on part "a" of the Question which talks about high taxation? These businesses are being charged 2 per cent as training levy, 18 per cent VAT, service charge, and there is also *kitu kidogo*! In view of those taxes, could the Assistant Minister answer part "a" of the Question? Could the Assistant Minister consider consolidating those levies so that these people can make profit and remain in business?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Obwocha, that is a very interesting observation which could have been properly brought up under a supplementary question. But I am sure the hon. Member has heard you. Unfortunately, you are totally out of order! That is not a point of order!

Mr. Muchiri, ask your last question!

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister answer hon. Obwocha's question as asked?

(Laughter)

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware about *kitu kidogo*.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Dr. Wamukoya! What about VAT, service charge, 2.5 training levy? Have you heard about those?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not see the problem because that is what I had said. If your gross income is Kshs20,000 per month, you have to pay 2 per cent of that amount which should go towards covering the expenses of the mobile training unit and the services provided by the Kenya Utalii College. I do not understand how my Ministry is going to give free training to your employees when you are earning a gross income of Kshs20,000 per month.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Assistant Minister is missing the point. As an Assistant Minister in charge of tourism, he should encourage tourism and small businesses like small hotels as mentioned in the Question. Is he satisfied that he is protecting the tourism sector adequately when he allows such levies to be imposed on small businesses?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of 18 per cent paid in form of VAT is a tax imposed by this House and not by my Ministry. My Ministry is charging 2 per cent to make it possible for those people who want to be trained to get training. But if you want, you can reduce that rate of 18 per cent levy and other levies.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Murungi's Question!

Question No.039

COLLAPSE OF COFFEE INDUSTRY IN MERU

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Murungi not here! Next Question, Mr. Mwakiringo!

Question No.225

MEMBERSHIP OF JIPE MULTIPURPOSE SOCIETY

Mr. Mwakiringo asked the Minister for Rural Development:-

- (a) how many members the Jipe Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society has and why they are not being issued with their pieces of land;
- (b) why the management committee transferred the society's bank account from Kenya Commercial Bank, Wundanyi, to Mombasa; and,
- (c) what action the Minister is taking to ensure that members are allocated their land.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following reply.

- (a) Jipe Multipurpose Co-operative Society Limited has 2082 members.

The members have not been issued with title deeds for their pieces of land because the vendor is yet to transfer the land to the society. I am aware that the society has taken the vendor to court and the outcome of the case is awaited. I believe that once the case is determined, members of the society will be allocated the pieces of land.

(b) I am not aware that the management committee had transferred the society's bank account from KCB, Wundanyi, to Mombasa. What I am aware of is that the society's account is still at Taveta KCB branch under A/c No.124-018-194.

- (c) The issue will be addressed as soon as the case is finalised.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these members of the society are too many! The vendor was paid Kshs3.5 million in total on 26th May, 1989, and he never transferred the title deed to the society's members until 10 years later when they decided to take him to court. What action is the Government taking to ensure that these members get the title deeds because the land was free of squatters? If the land was fully paid for, what is the problem?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already answered the society has taken the vendor to court and there is very little we can do at the moment. We have to wait until the case is concluded.

Mr. Mwalulu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Question on the Floor of this House concerns my constituency. It is very clear that the members paid Kshs3.5 million and the land is there. I would like to say that 12 years are too many to wait. Could the Assistant Minister do something since we know that the so-called vendor is no longer out of the country and the land is still there? Could he move very first so that he can defuse the tension which is there?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, I have no influence over the court proceedings. Therefore, my Ministry will have to await for the outcome of the court case.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now common knowledge that we will not be wrong to tell our people to invade this farm and demarcate it. However, I know that within the Societies Act, the Government, if it is really committed to end the squatter problem in this country, can do something about it. Could this Ministry liaise with the Ministry of Lands and Settlement now so that the title deed is issued even if the matter is still in court? We cannot wait for long because this means that somebody somewhere has the money; it is accruing interest, and yet these people have not been allocated their land.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister liaise with the Ministry of Lands and Settlement to ensure that the title deed is issued to the members?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position still remains the same. I would like to advise the hon. Member to be patient until the outcome of the court case. Otherwise, there is absolutely nothing that my Ministry can do about this matter at the moment.

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I happen to have been in Taveta Constituency during the campaign period and found out that people there live in a pathetic state. The Chair has clearly heard the Assistant Minister say that he is waiting for the ruling of the court. But the Government has intervened several times in the case of Goldenberg. We have heard over the radio the Government saying that the case should be hastened. Why could the Government not take up this matter seriously so that these people could be allocated this piece of land?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that, that is not a point of order, but my Ministry will do whatever is within its reach to see to it that these people get their pieces of land.

Mr. Speaker: By the way, I would like to advise hon. Members. However much you would like to participate, please, observe the rules of the House. Do not misuse the point of order.

Next Question.

Question No.193

REHABILITATION OF MATEKA-MYANGA ROAD

Mr. Sifuna asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) whether he is aware that Mateka-Bumula-Myanga Road was badly damaged by *El Nino* rains and has not been repaired to date; and,

(b) what measures he is taking to ensure that the road is repaired without further delay.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Mokku): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Mateka-Bumula-Myanga Road was badly damaged by *El Nino* rains, and has not been repaired to date.

(b) My Ministry has included repairs of Mateka-Bumula-Myanga Road, D257, in its work plan for the 2001/2002 Financial Year.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the Assistant Minister's reply, could he tell this House the amount of money that has been set aside for this particular road?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road is estimated to take Kshs3.315 million.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be noted that each constituency in this country is allocated Kshs5 million. Last year alone, each and every constituency was supposed to receive Kshs5 million, but we only received Kshs1 million. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House when the balance of Kshs4 million for last year will be paid to each constituency to enable us construct roads, including the roads in Bumula Constituency?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which has been asked by the hon. Member who was on the Floor is not part of the Question which has been asked by Mr. Sifuna.

Mr. Omamba: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the *El Nino* project is causing great concern. It is not only in Bumula Constituency where roads were damaged by *El Nino* rains. What is the general policy of the Government on the roads which were damaged by *El Nino* rains, and were earmarked for repair but are, to date, not repaired? What alternatives does the Ministry have?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, any road that has been earmarked for repair and has not been repaired will be repaired when funds will be available.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has just informed this House that over Kshs2 million has been set aside for this road. Could he tell us now when the construction or the repair of this particular road will start? When will they start to repair the road?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I could correct the hon. Member, I said over Kshs3.315 million has been set aside. I also said very clearly that this road is earmarked for repair this financial year.

Mr. Sifuna: When?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road is earmarked for repair this financial year.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! I do not think we will hold the House to a specific date.

Mr. Sifuna: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has just given a blanket answer to this House. I want to know the date when they will start to repair the road.

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to be very honest with the hon. Member. I cannot give the exact date and time now, but this road will be repaired this financial year.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Ochuodho's Question.

Question No.207

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS IN RANGWE

Dr. Ochuodho asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) when the Roads C18 (Oyugis to Rodi-Kopany) and C19 (Kendu-Bay to Mbita via Homa Bay) will be tarmacked; and,

(b) how much money has been set aside for gravelling and maintenance of rural access roads in Rangwe Constituency this financial year.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Mokku): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The Roads C18 (Oyugis to Rodi-Kopany) and C19 (Kendu Bay to Mbita) will be tarmacked when sufficient funds become available.

(b) A total of Kshs5.5 million has been set aside for maintenance of rural access roads in Rangwe

Constituency this financial year.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Head of State visited Homa Bay District late last year, I told him that in order for me to be part of the co-operation, he should have these roads tarmacked. Over this weekend, the NDP boss was also in my constituency and I told him that if he wants me to be in line, he should have these roads tarmacked. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House the amount of money we need to tarmac these roads? I know that there is on-going work on one of the roads. I guess that Kshs54 million is being spent to gravel one of the roads. Why could the Government not just add a little more money to have the roads tarmacked? How much money does he require to tarmac the roads? Why could he not just add a little more money to have these roads tarmacked?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of the promises given. Actually, it is not the policy of the Ministry that a road is done for somebody who "co-operates". This is not the case.

(Applause)

I have said that Kshs5.5 million has been set aside for the repair of those roads. But, honestly, no money for tarmacking of those roads has been set aside.

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it? I hope it is a point of order, and not a question!

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know the amount of money that we require to tarmac these roads. This is because the Kshs5.5 million he has talked about is for Classes D and E roads. I am talking about Class C which is not included in the Kshs5.5 million. So, could he tell us the amount of money it will cost to tarmac these roads?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the estimate for that. However, I can avail it on Thursday, if he wants it.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to blackmail the Government that in order for him to co-operate, he should have a road tarmacked?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I would like to advise the hon. Members not to hold anybody, the Government or the House, at ransom!

Mr. Sungu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The road to Mbita, C19, is as old as this country has been independent. It is of immense economic importance because it leads to an area with a great fishing potential. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the rationale for tarmacking a road classified as "D" and leaving the other classified as "C"? What is the rationale for classification of roads if you are going to leave "C" classification and tarmac "D" classification?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Kshs6,414,000 was earmarked for grading and routine maintenance of Road C19, Kendu Bay to Mbita via Homa Bay, in the 2000/2001 Financial Year. Although it has not been tarmacked, the normal maintenance and upgrading of the road is continuous.

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to avoid answering the question put? What is the rationale of classifying roads "A", "B", "C", "D", and then they tarmac "D" which is of a lower grade and leave out "C"? What is the rationale of the Ministry in doing that job?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, priority of funding roads comes from the districts and not from the headquarters. I want to give the responsibility to the hon. Member to give his priority from the district so that the Ministry can also look at it.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am delighted that Kshs5.5 million is destined for Rangwe through rural access roads this year, like in other constituencies. But we were expecting to get the same amount last year. Could the Assistant Minister tell us why we did not get the Kshs5.5 million from the Kenya Roads Board last year and where that money for Rangwe and other constituencies is?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I am speaking, Kshs1 million is being sent to every constituency. For the question he asked about the balance of last year, that money is not with the Ministry.

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to avoid answering a valid question? Where is the Kshs5 million not only for Rangwe, but for the other 220 constituencies? When is he disbursing it to the constituencies?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry releases to the constituencies any money that it receives from the Kenya Roads Board. So, whatever I will send to him is what we had received.

Mr. Speaker: For the second time, Mr. Murungi's Question!

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I apologise for coming late.

Question No.039

COLLAPSE OF COFFEE INDUSTRY IN MERU

Mr. Murungi asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that the coffee industry in Meru Central, Meru South and Meru North districts has collapsed and that more than 50 per cent of the coffee farmers are living below the national poverty line;

(b) what are the causes of the collapse of the said industry; and,

(c) what practical measures the Government is taking to revive and rehabilitate the industry.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the coffee industry in the greater Meru has collapsed. But I am aware that there was a decline in the coffee production in 1997/98 and 1998/99 seasons. The downward trend in production was, however, reversed in the 1999/2000 year when coffee production increased from 4,487 metric tonnes for 1998/99 to 7,422 metric tonnes in 1999/2000.

(b) The following are some of the factors that led to the decline of the coffee industry in the said districts:-

(i) Suspension of coffee prices support mechanism of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) in July, 1999, forced coffee prices to plunge. For the last two years, the coffee sales were in some cases below the cost of production, leading to neglecting and in some cases uprooting of the trees.

(ii) Adverse weather conditions. The years 1997/98 and 1998/1999 were characterized by an unexpected drought followed by *El Nino* floods which adversely affected the development of coffee berries, hence low coffee quantity and quality. The dry weather also created favourable conditions for insect pests especially the borers.

(iii) Inadequate and unaffordable credit to the farmers due to high interest rates. Competition from other industries/enterprises for limited resources such as land, capital and labour.

(iv) Politicisation, mismanagement of co-operative societies leading to delay of payments and splits. From the original 27 co-operative societies, Meru now has 117 co-operatives some of which might be uneconomical.

(c) The Government is taking the following steps to revive and rehabilitate the industry:-

(i) Creating an enabling environment for all stakeholders by reviewing the relevant Acts.

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is very sad because the coffee industry in Meru has actually collapsed and the farmers are only sleeping in their farms, because, ultimately, those farms are going to be their graveyard. The only practical measure which can be taken and which the Assistant Minister has not referred to is release of the STABEX funds. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has recommended that Kshs4.5 billion, of the Kshs6 billion currently uncommitted be paid to coffee farmers. Could the Assistant Minister explain to this House why the Government has only released Kshs1 billion out of the Kshs4.5 billion? Why has the balance of Kshs3.5 billion not been released? Is the Government waiting for coffee farmers to die so that this balance of STABEX funds is paid to them as funeral expenses?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just to correct the hon. Member, it is not even Kshs1 billion; it is Kshs500 million that is being disbursed at the moment. We are in the process of releasing the other funds.

Mr. Speaker: What about the other questions he has posed?

(Laughter)

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Question not only in Meru but throughout the country. In Kisii, the coffee industry is dead and almost buried. I think the same thing happens in Central Province. What practical measures is the Ministry taking to revive the industry?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that I have answered that question about what the Ministry is doing to revive the coffee industry. We have published the Sessional Paper No.2 of the year 2001, and as we all know, the Coffee Bill will be tabled in this House very soon.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell the farmers what to do to survive because, currently, they are getting nothing? In my constituency, I have advised the farmers to plant beans and intercrop them with coffee. What are his recommendations so that farmers can survive?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said in my reply, the Ministry appreciates that in the last few years, coffee farmers have been getting a raw deal and that is why we have come up with the Coffee Bill to streamline the industry. I believe, after we pass this Bill, the situation will be reversed.

Mr. Nyachae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us what the Government is doing to save coffee industry from collapse? Could he also tell us the cost of production, maintenance and the returns the farmers get from coffee industry in order for us to understand which direction the farmer is being taken?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stated very clearly that we appreciate the hon. Member's concern. In the past few years, the cost of production of coffee has been higher than the profits farmers have been making out of coffee. However, with the enactment of the Coffee Bill, the situation will be reversed.

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Kenyan coffee in the international market is rated very high in terms of quality. But here at home, as far as drinking of this type of beverage is concerned, Kenyans are more "colonial-minded" than is absolutely necessary. We are taking more tea than is absolutely necessary, mainly because of the British influence. Could the Ministry make it a point to promote consumption of our good coffee, first, locally, so as to help improve the pricing just as we do with other crops? For example, we are taking quite a bit of our own milk and maize, but we are not taking as much coffee as we could. Could the Assistant Minister undertake to look into this aspect?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of marketing has been taken care of in the Sessional Paper on coffee. And that is why we have created the Kenya Coffee Marketing Agency from the Coffee Board of Kenya. I think marketing is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders. Even we, as leaders, should sensitize our people on the need to consume local products.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Murungi.

(Several Members stood up in their places)

I would have loved to go round all of you, but I cannot. Mr. Murungi, or would you prefer Mr. Michuki in your place?

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me ask this one briefly, then the Chair can recognise Mr. Michuki.

Mr. Speaker: Okay! Mr. Murungi, ask your last question then.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important one.

Mr. Speaker: Next time round. I know this Question is very important and that is why I have given it more time.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources Committee recommended that Kshs4.6 billion of STABEX funds be paid to the coffee farmers. The Assistant Minister says only Kshs500 million has been released. Could he be very specific and tell us when the balance of Kshs4 billion will be released to the coffee farmers and not beat about the bush?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are preparing the new FMO after which the money will be released.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your indulgence, could I ask my question?

Mr. Speaker: Sorry. The time is up for that Question!

Mr. Michuki: Please, give me one minute to ask my question.

Mr. Speaker: Okay! If you plead with me, all right, but do not get used to it!

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. What is the Ministry doing to revive coffee production in the large-scale farms? Out of 32,000 hectares of farms, only ten thousand hectares are in production. The rest have gone to waste. Is the Assistant Minister aware that the foreign exchange earning capacity has, accordingly, been reduced?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, indeed, most of these STABEX funds are going to the large-scale farmers. For example, from the first disbursement of Kshs500 million, Kshs345 million will go towards large-scale coffee production. The remaining balance of Kshs115 million will go to the smaller and medium coffee estates.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has raised a very pertinent issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Angwenyi, you cannot do that in the House. You have to catch my eye.

Questions by Private Notice.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

DISBURSEMENT OF KYANGULI SCHOOL DISASTER FUND

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

(a) How much money has been collected on the Kyanguli High School Disaster Fund and how has it been used?

(b) When will the parents who lost their sons be compensated and how much will they be paid?

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Kikuyu not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Speaker: The Question by Mr. Kimeto is deferred to Thursday.

DISRUPTION OF KAPCHEPKORO SCHOOL HARAMBEE

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

(a) Why was the harambee for Kapchepkoro Primary School in Sotik Constituency by Councillor Maritim of Kapchepkoro Ward disrupted by police on 15th June, 2001?

(b) Could the Minister consider compensating Kapchepkoro Primary School Kshs300,000 expected to have been raised by the guests of honour that day?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Wanjala.

INVASION OF SUMBA ISLAND

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Ugandan Revenue Officers accompanied by their army personnel invaded Sumba Island of Lake Victoria on 11th August, 2001, and confiscated goods belonging to Kenyan shopkeepers?

(b) What urgent measures will the Minister take to stop further harassment of Kenya citizens and ensure their security?

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

(a) I am aware that Ugandan Revenue officers accompanied by their police officers strayed into Sumba Island of Lake Victoria, mistakenly taking it to be part of their territory and confiscated goods belonging to Kenyan shopkeepers.

(b) The Government immediately took up the matter with Uganda authorities who apologised for the incident and promised to ensure that such an error does not recur. The Busia District Security Committee has held several barazas on the Island to assure the residents of their security, while Marine Police personnel and Fisheries officers are patrolling the affected part of the lake.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have clearly heard the Assistant Minister agree that the Uganda Military Police strayed into Sumba Island which is in Kenya. The Assistant Minister says that Uganda authorities have apologised. They have gone further into our the interior and occupied the following islands: Sigulu, Lulwe, Siro, Wayasi, Hama, Remba and Mageta. In fact, they have erected their communication systems at Mageta. Mageta is in the interior of Kisumu Gulf. The Minister for Fisheries of Uganda Government has made an effort to tour those islands in Kenya. This Government seems not to know what is happening on the ground. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House what steps the Government will take to stop this invasion? It is a pity that our police personnel at Port Victoria do not have a motorboat or steamboat to patrol the lake. Ugandans have more than 300 steamboats in the lake. Our fishermen cannot go to the lake to fish. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House what urgent steps the Government is taking to save Kenyans who are being harassed and denied access to the lake?

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Kenya will do everything possible, as it has done for the last 34 years, to protect Kenyans in all corners of this country. As I speak here, the Kenya and Uganda border administrators are meeting at Kisumu. This issue is on the top of the agenda. However, I will hasten to add that I am not aware that those many islands mentioned by Mr. Wanjala have been occupied.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is playing hide and seek with this House. He was ordered to go and investigate and give a comprehensive answer and yet he is giving the original answer that he gave. Mr. Wanjala produced the same list he has just cited and the Assistant Minister promised to investigate and come up with an answer. The Assistant Minister is saying he does not even know and yet he was given those names last week. Is that not a hide and seek game? How can we allow this kind of thing to happen?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Maybe I could help the Assistant Minister. This morning I saw another Question by a

different hon. Member complaining about the invasion of Kenyan islands by Ugandans. Maybe it is a different Question!

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not playing the hide and seek game. I am six feet tall, and I am sure hon. Members can see me very clearly. As I said, the border administrators are meeting in Kisumu Town right now, and we are yet to know the outcome of their discussions.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I first spoke in this House, I said that we should have a navy in Lake Victoria so that we protect our side of the lake, but hon. Members who were here laughed. They thought it was a joke. Now, the Remba Island which we are talking about is in my constituency. The Ugandans come all the way with their guns and start taxing our people in Remba and Mfangano islands which are in my constituency. How can we allow a foreign Government to come with its arms and tax our people? Can we still be a country when our Assistant Minister comes here and says that he does not know what is happening and yet those Ugandans are armed? My area DC cannot take any action since he has no boat or gun.

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very serious about this issue. I think the Question was specifically with regard to one island, and I have provided the answer. I have even got the Question here, if hon. Members want me to read it. Therefore, if the hon. Member wants me to go further and find out about the other islands he is talking about, we are prepared to do so.

Mr. Keriri: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is misleading the House. Last week when this Question was raised, these islands were raised by Mr. Wanjala, and the Assistant Minister promised to go and investigate on the mentioned islands. Now he is saying that he did not come to answer a Question about those islands and yet he undertook to go and look at it. That is misleading the House and refusing to take this matter seriously.

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! This being a matter that really concerns the sovereign integrity of the nation of Kenya, it is my considered opinion that this issue requires the most utmost attention. I think the allegations being made by the hon. Member and other hon. Members in support, demand that utmost attention be put to this Question. I will, therefore, because this is a matter of the total interest of the nation, give the Assistant Minister more time, since there is nothing more urgent than to ensure that Kenya is intact, to answer this Question on Wednesday next week. I think that is adequate time.

Mr. Haji, would you like to say anything in furtherance?

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not disagree with you at all, but I would not let this matter be portrayed the way it is being portrayed. The question was: Is the Minister aware--

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! I understand what you mean; that the Question was with regard to one island. But, maybe, at the time this Question was framed, the invasion probably was on one island. Maybe more islands have been invaded now, which I do not know. This is why I want to give you more time so that you can come back and tell this House, as a matter of fact, whether there has been any invasion, and if so, how many islands have been invaded. So, I will give you time to go and find out the facts.

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We need your guidance on whether, at the moment, the Office of the President is in control when a whole Major described his own Minister as incapable of talking about security matters. That is why Mr. Haji cannot be competent.

Mr. Speaker: What are you talking about?

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was written in the newspapers yesterday that a whole Major told Maj. Madoka that he does not know matters of security. He should keep quiet!

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this is not a laughing matter. If the hon. Member is serious, he should supply the Ministry with the names of the islands in question, because they were not included in the original Question and we will respond accordingly.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think there is really a difference between an allegation that Kenya is being invaded, and when a person is alleging, for example, that goats have been stolen. Those are two different issues. This is a grievous matter. I think it is up to the Minister in charge of the security of Kenyans to go to those islands and come back and tell this House that, that allegation is false. It is not for the hon. Member to go there. After all, he may be captured! I will defer this Question and there will not be any further arguments about it until Wednesday. The Assistant Minister will come and tell us whether it is true or false.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kiangoi): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr.

Haji has only asked for the particulars of those islands. Is he not in order to do so?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think I maintain a very efficient staff in the HANSARD Department of Parliament, and I think all those islands that were enumerated by Mr. Wanjala are in the HANSARD. I will order the Clerk to give an extract of the HANSARD to Mr. Haji. That issue is over now!

Mr. Nyachae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think this is a very serious matter. Kenyans who are supposed to be protected by this Government are terrified all around the lake. The water and the islands belong to Kenya. The Chair's directive is okay but we want to add that the Assistant Minister must visit all the islands before he comes back to give us an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think I have already made a ruling and my ruling will not be flogged. It will remain alive. It is not a dead horse to be flogged. So, anybody trying to say anything on that issue is flogging his or her own dead horse. Mine is alive. The order remains: Wednesday next week. No more debate on this issue!

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you! What is the point of me making an order if we must keep on repeating it? Wait until Wednesday!
Next Question!

(Question deferred)

ATTACHMENT OF THIKA HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Education the following Question by Private Notice:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware of the serious crisis facing Thika High School, with auctioneers threatening to attach school property among them the school bus and other movable assets over a Kshs7.1 million debt to suppliers?
- (b) Could he explain the nature of the debt and a breakdown of the various creditors?
- (c) What urgent measures does the Minister intend to take? to ensure that the school property is not attached so as to avert possible unrest by students?

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Karauri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) I am aware of the crisis facing Thika High School with auctioneers threatening to attach school property over a debt of Kshs7.1 million.
- (b) The nature of the debt of Kshs7.1 million is goods and services provided by various suppliers.
- (c) The Ministry has taken urgent measures to pay off the debt by granting authority through the Thika District Education Board, for the school to charge an extra Kshs2,000 over and above the present school fees guidelines.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very serious that this debt will be paid by Thika High School. Could he tell us how this debt came about because the parents had paid all their money? How did it arise?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought the hon. Member should know about that because he is a member of the Board, but the suppliers are those who have supplied duplicating papers, pencils, laboratory equipment, beans and a lot of other things.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have an auditing arm of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology which is supposed to audit the books of all schools in the country. Could he produce the audited statements of this institution for the last three years?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that has nothing to do with the debt because neither the Board nor the school management has said the books have not been audited. There is no question of auditing there. It is lack of payment of debts.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that I will postpone this Question. Time is up!

(Question deferred)

Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read
being 15th Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

The Minister for Mineral Exploration (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair to enable me to initiate debate on Vote 21 of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

First and foremost, it is important to note that the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was established in September, 1999, following the merging of the then Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Ministry of Natural Resources.

As hon. Members are aware, access to adequate and reliable supply of portable water has been established as a key component of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Strong links have been established between lack of access to improved water supply and poverty. About 80 per cent of Kenya's population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture and livestock farming for which water is an essential input. Availability of water for human, livestock and agricultural use is, therefore, key to poverty reduction. However, Kenya is a water deficient country since demands outstrip the stock of renewable fresh water. Effective water resources and management, including intensive water conservation initiatives are necessary to ensure availability of water for stimulating economic growth in the country. The Ministry will undertake several major programmes whose objective is to improve the provision of adequate and portable water to the population for domestic, livestock and agricultural use. In addition, it will promote the protection and conservation of water catchment areas in order to enhance sustainable management of water resources. In order to restore the water conservation structures that have silted or have been damaged over the years, the Ministry intends to spend Kshs132,590,949 this financial year in 30 arid and semi-arid districts of Kenya.

As hon. Members are aware, the floods that occur annually in the Kano plains and the lower reaches of River Nzoia result in flooding of large tracts of cropped land, displacement of population groups and damage to infrastructure. In order to mitigate against the effects of the floods, the Ministry intends to spend Kshs52,081,296 on the rehabilitation of flood-controlled dykes in Nyando and Busia districts. The water supply situation in the country has been improving at a low pace over the years, and cannot sustain domestic and industrial water demands. This situation poses a threat to Kenya's economic and social development. In order to address this problem, the Ministry intends to spend Kshs152,338,000 and Kshs150 million on rehabilitation of rural and urban water supply schemes respectively to improve their coverage and level of service delivery.

I am, therefore, requesting the House to approve a total expenditure of Kshs711,426,000 in the Development Vote, and Kshs1,033,571.93 in the Recurrent Vote for the Water Department. I also expect the water situation in the country to improve substantially through the concerted efforts of a National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation under the Ministry. The corporation plans to undertake construction on dams and related water supply projects that will increase output capacity of its water supply in the line that we take; the distribution network of some of the water supply under the corporation will be rehabilitated and expanded in order to extend their coverage areas.

To enable the corporation carry out these projects, I am requesting this House to approve Kshs631 million for this purpose. Agreeably, the water shortage situation in the country cannot improve unless there is a well-trained labour force to operate, rehabilitate and put up infrastructure for providing additional water in this regard. The Kenya Water Institute is charged with the responsibility of human resources development for the water sub-sector. In the last 40 years, the institute has contributed immensely to the national economy through capacity building, so as to ensure provision of good quality water and management of water supply. The institute is being transformed into a semi-autonomous training college. It is expected to contribute to the national economy through capacity building by ensuring good quality and sufficient water. It requires a gross allocation of Kshs66,604,324 for both Development and Recurrent Expenditure to carry out its training programmes during this financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has also been receiving substantial support from a number of friendly countries and multilateral development partners towards development activities in the water sub-sector. In this regard, I wish to express my gratitude to them for their combined support during this financial year, which amounts to

Kshs868,090,000. Most of these funds will go towards supporting sector reforms through rehabilitation, construction and management of water supply projects.

The Ministry has been undertaking water sector reforms initiated in line with Sessional Paper No.1 of 1999 on National Policy on Water Resources, Management and Development. The policy objectives outlined in the Sessional Paper will be realised and guided through stated strategies prepared by the Ministry. The country's strategy on Water and Sanitation Services, now in its final drafting stage, focuses on the required institutional framework necessary for long-term stability in the water sector, capacity building, private sector participation, financing and water provision for poverty alleviation. Through the strategy, a policy objective on decentralisation of operational activities from central Government to other local actors, including local authorities, the private sector and community groups, will be fulfilled in order to improve efficiency in the provision of water services.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has embarked on a study to identify the most appropriate options for private sector participation in water provision. Studies for Nairobi Province are currently on-going while terms of reference of the study for Mombasa and the rest of the country are ready. The study for the identification of utility management options for rural piped small and medium towns water supply and sanitation commenced recently. It is recognised in the National Water Policy that the current Water Act, Cap.372 does not adequately address many of the proposed reforms. Towards this end, the Ministry embarked on amendment of the Water Act in order to give these reform initiatives legal basis. It is expected that the amendment of the Water Act will soon be brought to this House for approval. In order to address the water resources challenges identified in the National Water Policy, the Ministry has embarked on the preparation of integrated water resources management strategy. The Strategy will focus on providing a framework for managing Kenya's limited water resources in a socially and economically acceptable manner.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is mandated to administer the Forest Act, Cap.385 of the Laws of Kenya. This entails the management and conservation of public forest estates, catchment areas and directing forest development countrywide. These functions include, *inter alia*, the implementation of appropriate management practices on forest ecosystems and the supply of forest-based products while enhancing ecological functions of forests. About 2.7 per cent of the country's land mass is a gazetted forest. Due to its high potential, this area is under constant pressure or increasing demand for agricultural land and other economically viable uses. The widening gap between the demand and supply of forest products has also led to the depletion of existing forest resources. In order to reverse this trend, the Ministry has formulated the National Forest Policy, which stipulates that farm forestry is now the way forward. From now on, forest products will be made available to the people from outside the gazetted areas.

The Government intends to involve stakeholders and communities in the joint management of gazetted forests. It is also planning to lease forest land to the private sector or institutions for wood growing as an incentive to the arrangement. The Ministry will be willing to share benefits accruing from the joint management with the private sector. The broad objective of the forest sub-sector is, therefore, to provide continuous guidance to all Kenyans on sustainable management of public forests and potential forest lands. It also involves mapping and surveying of all forests, sustainable conservation of wildlife habitats and ensuring sustainable utilisation of natural resources. In order to achieve this objective, the National Forest Policy and the Forest Act have been revised. I hope all hon. Members will support the new Bill when it comes to this House for debate. Before the National Forest Policy is fully entrenched in the water sector, the Ministry will continue conserving the existing forest cover through planting of harvested areas, protecting forests against fires, pests, diseases and other destructive activities such as agro-forestry development. In order for the Ministry to accomplish the above activities through the Forest Department, I am asking for an allocation of Kshs780,949,080 in the Recurrent Expenditure and Kshs78,584,200 in the Development Expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Forest Department carries out its duties hand in hand with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). The Institute strives to enhance the social and economic welfare of Kenyans by conducting user-oriented research for the sustainable development of forests. The research activities are centred around farm forestry, natural forestry, dryland forestry and industrial forestry plantations. Towards this end, I require Kshs319,317,152 for both Recurrent and Development Expenditure. This is to assist the Forest Department to mobilise local communities to conserve forests, plant trees and carry out soil conservation activities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation intends to promote conservation work by linking the various social and economic activities that lead to the sustainable use of the country's natural resources. This will be done by way of creating awareness on environmental conservation, development of demonstration plots, promotion of conservation programmes and quality review. To be able to accomplish these activities, I will require Kshs23,651,399 during the current financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the issues that is now of global concern is environmental conservation, through the National Environment Secretariat. The Ministry is responsible for environmentally sustainable national development. That will be done through integration of environmental concerns into national planning and management process, and provision of guidelines for development that is environmentally friendly. To enable the Ministry to enforce good

governance of the environment, the Government is implementing the National Management and Co-ordinating Act, 1999, which came into effect on 14th January, 2000. One of the most important characteristics of that Act is that it confers to every person in Kenya a right to clean and have a healthy environment. That is a radical departure from the sectoral approach which limits public participation in the enforcement of the law.

That provision is further reinforced by the establishment of the National Executive Council, which is mandated to oversee the operations of several organs that have been created by the Act, including the Public Complaints Committee, Environmental Tribunal and the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). Of special mention here is NEMA, whose plans for establishment are at an advanced stage. NEMA is a corporate body and as a Ministry, we look forward to giving it the requisite support for effective implementation of the Environmental Management and Co-ordinating Act. Recently, the Ministry has been rationalising the environment sector with a view of ensuring that NEMA performs all its core functions without interference. Kenya is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. One of the major obligations for our country in the implementation of the Convention is to prepare and submit national communications to the secretariat of the Convention.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kenya is also a party to the Vienna Convention on Ozone Depleting Substances and the Montreal Protocol on Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances. That involves the strengthening of institutions and management of ozone depleting substances. Kenya, being a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Government is obliged to reduce the loss of biological resources in both territorial and aquatic environment. Those activities are carried out on selected cross-border sites in Turkana, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta districts, in order to implement several national plans on the management of our environment. Recently, this House passed the National Environmental Management and Co-ordinating Act.

The other important aspect of environmental conservation is pollution control and waste management. Those issues are increasingly becoming major problems in Kenya due to the increase in population, urbanisation and industrialisation. Those problems have to be countered through employment of various measures including awareness creation, capacity building, monitoring analysis and development of environmental standards. The Ministry is developing economic instruments to enable the Government apply the polluted phase principle.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to be able to address those environmental issues, I am asking for an allocation of Kshs216,886,821 for both Recurrent and Development Expenditure. May I, at this juncture, dwell on one of our major objectives, namely, the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project. The project is being implemented by the three-sister East African countries under the spirit of the East African Community. The objective of the project is to restore a healthy, valid lake ecosystem that is inherently stable, and that can support itself in a sustainable way. There are many human activities in the catchment areas. The activities of the project cut across many Government departments and institutions. The Ministry is the focal point and, therefore, provides the overall co-ordination and implementation. The main components of the project are fisheries management, fisheries research and water hyacinth control. The components also deal with water quality management, catchment, afforestation, wetlands management, integrated soil and water conservation, capacity building and national secretariat. The gross expenditure of the project for this financial year will be Kshs817,329,719.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members may note that 90 per cent of those funds shall be provided by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA) through the World Bank on equal proportions, while the 10 per cent balance shall be provided by the Exchequer.

The other very important sub-sector within the Ministry is the Mines and Geological Department. It plays a big role to make the mining industry a major player in the country's goal of industrialisation. It is increasing its contribution to the country's GDP. The department also facilitates geological exploration and promotes exploitation of mineral resources for socio-economic development. The country's mineral policy is aimed at promoting mineral resources development through private sector participation and maximisation of benefits accruing from the exploitation of minerals in a more environmental friendly way. Kenya has a great potential for both metallic and non-metallic industrial minerals as evidenced by the fact that 90 per cent of the country has been geologically mapped. In the year 2000, the sub-sector generated earnings amounting to Kshs5 billion, which represented a marginal increase of 2 per cent. However, mineral exploration and exploitation has slackened due to lack of incentives and an outdated Mining Act. **[The Minister for Mineral Exploration]**

Nonetheless, there has been an increasing interest by foreign companies to explore for metallic minerals such as titanium, lead, copper, tin, zinc and precious metals like gold, silver and platinum. To encourage mineral exploration products and exploitation of the emerging opportunities, the Ministry, in collaboration with stakeholders, has embarked on a major review of the Mining Act, Cap.306 of the Laws of Kenya and formulation of a new mineral policy, in order to create a competitive environment for the mining industry worldwide. The main activities include conducting systematic geological mapping, mineral exploration, carrying out assessment and evaluation of already identified mineral occurrences and establishing and maintaining an elaborate mineral database that will be available to local and

foreign investors, and for academic purposes. In order to undertake these foregoing activities, I request to be allocated Kshs45,886,033 in the Recurrent Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, allow me to mention one more important service that the Ministry is providing through the Department of Resources Survey and Remote Sensing. The department contributes to environmental learning and sustainable development by producing timely anticipated data products and services. The department continuously creates a reference database on land and related resources. In addition, the department undertakes the mapping and collection of commission and data-related to socio-economic and infrastructural facilities. In this regard, the department deserves Kshs78,922,237 to accomplish the various activities lined up for the financial year. As the hon. Members have observed---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! Your time is up.

The Minister for Mineral Exploration (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting for a gross amount of Kshs5,881,966,666.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to second the statement on Vote 21 for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sometimes we say that we all know the importance of water while, in fact, very few people really appreciate its importance. I believe that the people who appreciate the importance of water most are the rural women, particularly those from the arid and semi-arid areas who have to travel many kilometres to fetch water, sometimes for hours or a full day. The importance of water cannot be over-stated because any socio-economic development of a country cannot be said to be moving forward without provision of water. Water is an extremely critical effort in all social activities of a human being.

Water and environment are inter-twined like sisters and brothers because without proper management of environment, it is difficult to talk about water. It is most fortunate for Kenya because, as I speak now, Act 385 which takes care of environment is already being implemented to improve the management of the entire environment throughout the country. Similarly, the Water Act is being reviewed and I hope that it will be tabled soon in this House for approval. Both these Acts will go a long way in managing the environment and subsequently water.

When the Ministry of Water Development was created in 1974, which is nearly 27 years ago, the population of Kenya was fairly small. The economic activity of Kenya was still in infancy stage, particularly the agricultural and horticultural sectors which have ever since developed to such an extent that the availability of water required for those sectors is extremely scarce. Therefore, in the very near future, the management of water in this country will be extremely crucial. If we classify countries throughout the world and call the one with the best water supply category "A", the one with good water supply category "B", the one with fairly good supply of water category "C" and the last one with very poor supply of water category "D", I would say that Kenya is between categories "C" and "D". This is because if we project the water requirement in every sector, particularly the domestic and agricultural sectors in the next 10 to 20 years, you will find that Kenya will be extremely deficit. That issue can only be tackled by proper management.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to note that most of the hon. Members here are very keen in water affairs and in supporting the Ministry. They are keen to promote their projects and the Government, is indeed, happy. I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have supported the Government in various water schemes. I believe that in due course, when all the arrangements for better management of our resources, including water are in place, particularly the institutional framework to manage these resources Kenyans will appreciate better how to manage their resources. I do not want to anticipate what will be contained in the Act, but I would like to assure the House that the Government policy is geared towards wananchi managing their own resources. When resources are managed close to wananchi, then they will also appreciate them. They will also be made to participate in various projects.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to say that wananchi are responding very well in all aspects of our development. I hope that the hon. Members will continue to give the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources the support it has been given all along.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Munyao, are you the Official Responder?

Mr. Munyao: I am, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. You have the Floor!

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the real shadow of these two Ministers plus another one who is not there.

(Laughter)

This is a definite proof that one Member in the Opposition is equal to three Members in the Government.

(Applause)

I will compliment the Minister who was earlier reading the statement because other than shadowing the Ministry, I am also a member of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. I know him to be in charge of Mineral Exploration. He had to read the issues concerning water and, by extension, those concerning the environment. You did very well and I want to compliment you through Mr. Speaker, and assure you and your Ministry that we will support the Vote.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, there is a confusion for the three Ministries to be clumped together. Three Ministries doing one little job is a total confusion. This is because one Minister stands and talks about some things which he has got to read. The other one, who is a professional engineer, stands and talks very good and fluent language. Another one is not here and he is actually not even--- It is high time we voted money to Ministries we can see and touch. Why clump three Ministries in one docket, whereby some of them do not know where they work? Do they work in corridors or offices? It is fairly true!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me tackle these issues the way the Minister introduced them because he started with water. I agree with the Minister who seconded the Motion and he is a professional who knows issues pertaining to water. It is very true that water is essential. It is also true that water is life. However, can we have a policy on water which we can follow? This is because today, it looks like this Government has no water policy. This is because if we had a water policy, surely we would have something that we would follow. It looks like we get water through rainfall and instead of harvesting enough to be able to use it later, we let it go to waste. It is so worrying that every rainy season, like the one we are anticipating, rivers in areas which never get water fill up the first day but you see the water running all the way into the Indian Ocean, which is an area which does not need that water. It is so shocking and we feel so bad. If the Indian Ocean was a company, then arid areas like North Eastern Province and Ukambani would be the biggest shareholders because we contribute more water to it. The Indian Ocean does not need water. We need to harness that water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has just developed some methods of harnessing water. The Director of Agriculture has been busy trying to help farmers. However, can we go out and promote a system and method where this country can harness and store water? This is because the kind of rainfall we have in this country is too much, compared to that in those countries which give us regular famine relief. We can control and harvest a lot of rain water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good to have clean water for drinking. It is also important to have water for irrigation. We can afford to have water for the above purposes if we had a good water policy. Most of the engineers in this country, including the Minister for Water Development, were educated elsewhere and not even here. He knows how to implement simpler and cheaper methods of harnessing water. This is in particular, construction of simple dams. You build bridges over rivers and you block the river. It also becomes a bridge in order for people to cross over to the other side. This should be done, so that, that water which is there can also flow back to the mainland. I remember the time we were looking forward to accessing the Mount Kilimanjaro water. Over 30 per cent of the cost of that project would have been saved if we had blocked the Athi River from Thika here to Mbasukulu. That is, block it about three to four times before it reaches the Indian Ocean and also control those smaller tributaries if I may use hon. Kamotho's language. The tributaries should be prevented from going to the main river, so that the water table is raised in the other area. That way, this country can benefit because we need that water.

We borrowed a lot of money from the Italians to undertake the Mount Kilimanjaro water project and yet, today, we are not even getting enough water. I managed to literally walk from Nolturesh on Mount Kilimanjaro up to Sultan Hamud, and even Athi River here. This is because there was a Question here which sought to know why we had invested in that project and yet, the water is not reaching the designated areas. Mr. Speaker asked the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources to visit that project. We went and found out that it is due to poor management and the way the water line is drawn, such that, that water will never even get there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is shocking because I know the Minister and his senior officers in the Ministry of Water Development know what to do. What we need is for the Minister for Water Development or this Government, because he might not be receiving enough support, to wake up and support the frustrated officers in the Ministry. The staff in the Ministry of Water Development know what they can do. Give them freedom and they will design and implement water programmes. This is because, at the moment, we know that they are sitting on that knowledge and, perhaps, even

the Minister is also doing that. They are not getting enough support. We can have enough water in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the taxes paid by wananchi, this country can afford, at least, one dam per constituency every year. I challenge the Government because in the Democratic Party Government, I have promised that once we are in power, and it will be very soon, we will be able to provide two dams per constituency every year. So, it will mean providing ten dams for a period of five years. We have got the money and the ability. Why can we not provide, at least, one dam per constituency? When we are talking about dams, the other day we toured Zimbabwe and the southern part of Africa. You find big lakes which are used for irrigation. This country has already identified free areas of land which can be used for these kinds of dams. We need water and if that is so, what are we going to do?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the water in Tana River is going to waste. We should be able to use that water. It is a shame for this country to go borrowing or expecting to get famine relief from some countries which get lesser rainfall than Kenya. Some of those countries are Israel and Hong Kong which do not have much land. This is all due to our wrong policies. Our policies on some of these issues are upside down. I ask the Minister, through the Chair, to try and give this country clean water. In fact, the other day, this House was embarrassed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were here when the Minister for Local Government was trying to say that this tap water that we are drinking here is clean water. I think it is from that time that we discovered this anomaly. This is because we told him that Nairobi water is mixed with sewage waste and nobody gets clean water. He argued here for two days and two days later, I found a bottle of clean water in his own car, while he had assured the House that every water you drink is clean. It is embarrassing. We need clean water. We are going to support good policies. Before a Bill is brought to this House, particularly Bills on water and environmental matters, we usually get a policy Paper. The relevant Departmental Committee discusses it and makes its recommendations. However, the Committees recommendations are not acted upon. What has gone wrong? We are ready to support the Minister and his officials but we want to see things happening.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Water Development has lamented about water shortages. How can we have sufficient water when his counterpart is busy clearing all the forests? We have been wondering about the origin of the policy of depleting forests. We all know very well that forests provide us with water. Forests are also a beautiful vegetation cover. We are now clearing all the forests in the country. Portions of Mount Kenya, Mount Elgon, Mau Narok and Karura Forests have now been cleared. How do we conserve water by clearing forests?

Is the Minister not shedding crocodile tears when he laments about lack of sufficient water? While the Government claims to be committed to water conservation, it goes ahead and allows the clearing of forests. The two cannot go together. The Government holds a spade on one hand and claims to conserve water while on the other hand, it holds a panga and clears forests. We must have a Government whose left hand knows what the right hand is doing. As it is now, as the Minister for Water Development laments that we do not have sufficient water, the Minister for Environment is very busy felling trees. Some individuals in Government find this to be an easy way of making money. Where are we heading to? Everybody knows what is happening to our forests.

Recently, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources toured certain areas to see for itself where trees have been felled. What worries us most is that, as officers of the Provincial Administration tell wananchi to stop felling trees, some individuals are licensed to ferry away wood products from forests. Where are we heading to that way? Could the Government harmonise these issues so that its agents can speak with one voice? Let this Government earn some respect for sticking to its policies. Currently, this Government is a mere talking shop. One talks about somebody and vice-versa.

If you travel on the Mombasa, Nanyuki and Nakuru Roads, you will be shocked by the number of lorries ferrying charcoal from various areas. Where do the owners of those lorries get all that charcoal from? The Government order is: "Do not burn charcoal unless you do so from trees in your own farm." Where do these traders get the lorry-loads of charcoal from? All this happens in full view of Government agents. There are about 18 police barriers between Mito Andei and Nairobi. All the lorries that pass through those barriers are new. There could be about 17 police barriers between Mount Kenya region and Nairobi. In all these barriers, the police stop lorries ferrying charcoal only for verification purposes. They then allow them to pass. Where are we heading to? Could the Government be serious?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although these activities still continue, the Minister tells us that they are conserving water. The people can see these things happening. The Minister has talked about his intention to protect forests. Could he tell us how he is going to do that when many of his agents are felling trees in the same forests that he intends to protect? Between ten and 15 years ago, the Forestry Department used to maintain tree nurseries in most forest areas. However, this responsibility has now been passed over to local communities. The Ministry no longer maintains any tree nurseries. How is the Ministry going to replace all the forests he has talked about? We had better be serious. How can a whole Government Minister talk about things that are not practicable? Is it not embarrassing for the Minister to claim that the Government is going to conserve forests and water? How is the Government going to do this when the felling of trees continues?

The Minister also talked about the Soil and Environmental Conservation Commission. If any commission should be abolished, that is the one. I do not want to go deep into this matter. However, I believe that soil and environmental conservation can best be managed by somebody who appreciates the environment itself. If the persons on that commission are being paid from public coffers, let it be abolished. I would like the Minister to tell us how many reports he has received from that commission to justify its spending of public money.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to discriminate so officially, with contempt, somebody with disability when we know that environmental protection does not need eyes?

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must have heard what I said. Also, the HANSARD will bear me witness that I have not talked about anybody. I talked about soil conservation. I was echoing the Minister's words. Perhaps, the Minister for Energy was not here when I talked about this matter. The issue he has raised is on his mind, and I am not party to it. I have, very genuinely, talked only about what the Minister for Environment said.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Munyao, you said that environmental conservation should be managed by somebody who can appreciate the environment.

Mr. Munyao: Exactly!

Mr. Speaker: Proceed!

Mr. Achola: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Munyao said that he would not like to go into details about the management of soil conservation. But why should he not?

Hon. Members: But he has a right not to do so!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Achola, it is neither your business nor mine to tell a Member how to contribute to debate.

Proceed, Mr. Munyao!

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in any case, the hon. Member should appreciate the fact that I belong to a political party which believes in democracy. Democracy allows one to go to the extent he likes.

This House Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has done a lot on the issue of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). This is a very important Authority, on which a lot of responsibilities have been vested. As we enacted the Act, we knew that NEMA would become operational at the beginning of this financial year. We are now in October, but the Authority is not operational. What are we waiting for? We would like to know. We had agreed that Members of Parliament should be involved in the selection of members to the District and Provincial Environmental Conservation Committees because we wanted the membership of those committees to be determined by elected leaders rather than the Provincial Administration to enable them operate effectively. NEMA is very important.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a shame that every time there is a conference on environmental issues, the relevant Ministers do not attend. They come here, sit for five minutes and run away, leaving behind civil servants.

This country is missing a lot due to non-representation of the Government at such conferences. Whenever an international meeting takes place, our Ministers do not represent us adequately.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day, we had a meeting at Gigiri attended by representatives from about eight other countries. I was shocked to see other Ministers from those other countries sitting in the meeting from seven o'clock in the morning to about seven o'clock in the evening. Our Ministers just went there and walked out to attend to their businesses after a short while. Could we have a special interest in our environment? In those meetings, very important resolutions are passed and our Ministers do not follow them up.

When the Minister for Mineral Exploration was speaking, he touched on mining. Although we have a lot of minerals, we would like the Minister to confirm one or two things when replying. It is now said that we have huge titanium and diazonium deposits at the Coast. The issue of titanium mining is very clear. When this issue came up in the House, we tried to question the Minister about it and he tried to evade answering whether titanium mining has been licensed. If you go down to Kwale District, you will find that there are people who have been displaced because the company involved has constructed a loading bay, through which titanium would be shipped and exported to other countries. Other minerals would also be shipped and exported to other countries because the miners do not want to clean them here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the simple mathematics that we have been given in this regard, we are told that the available mineral deposits at the Coast are about 6 billion metres of titanium at about 75 kilograms per metre. That gives us about 450 billion killogrammes of titanium. We are even told that Uranium is also available. We have been told that the estimated value of titanium in Kwale could be about Kshs450 billion. The value of the zirconium is estimated to be about Kshs405 billion. You get uranium from some of these minerals and so, it is likely that we can get uranium. That will add up to Kshs855 billion.

If this country invests in exploration and mining of some of these minerals and then sell them as final

products, it would cost us less than Kshs2.25 billion. We should invest in equipment so that we can process and sell these minerals as ready products. If we did this, we would be making in excess of Kshs854 billion. What other investment can give us such a big amount of money? We are crying because we would like to get more money to invest in the country. We have been chasing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Kshs26 billion when this Government can collect over Kshs200 billion through taxes. Where else can we get this kind of money from?

We are asking the Minister to stop companies from carrying away raw materials to go and purify them in their countries. This leaves no trace of what else these companies may discover in these raw materials. He should let everything be done here. All investors should come and invest in this country. They should process whatever they want in this country and we should invest in joint ventures. In any case, in countries such as Mozambique, which have titanium, when it comes to investment, they take 80 per cent from the total investments. We can also do that because the deposits are ours and the land is ours. So, the investor should come, we establish a company and the Kenya Government takes 80 per cent from the total investment and 20 per cent goes to the foreigner.

Finally, I want to mention one or two things in so far as the environment is concerned. The plastics industry has been a big investment in the country. We want the Minister to come up and tell us what control he has over the plastics industry. Even outside Parliament Buildings, an area which is well-maintained, you will find so many plastic containers around. These plastic containers do not decompose. What policy does the Ministry have on the disposal of plastic materials? We need plastic bags for packaging, but what should we do with them after use? These containers do not decompose and we want to be told what should be done with them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go to Wakulima Market, you will find that it is the dirtiest part of the City. Machakos Bus Park and every other area in Kenya has become very dirty. We are blaming the Nairobi City Council and other county councils, but this is an issue that is affecting the entire country. Could the Minister come up with a policy on how to dispose these waste products? These waste products are too many and we must have a breathing space.

In Athi River Town, we have got a few factories and industries. If you walk along Athi River, you will find that its water has turned green. You will also find that about five kilometres, on each side of the river, not even a single bird can live there because of the smell emanating from the river. I wonder what residents around that area do. The smell emanating from industries and factories is a health hazard. Could the Minister visit these areas in order to see for himself what is happening? Nairobi River is so near and even if the Minister does not have petrol, he can walk there and see for himself what is happening there. Let us cycle to Athi River tomorrow and see what is happening. The Minister should visit the area surrounding Wakulima Market and see how dirty it has become. This shows that Ministers never go round to see what is happening. It beats reason when a Question touching on the environment is asked in this House and a Minister answers it as if he does not live in Kenya. This is simply because Ministers never go round to see what is happening before they come to answer Questions.

The area next to Wakulima Market has become a health hazard. We do not know whether diseases caused by industrial pollution are curable. Industries such as the blanket manufacturing industries are emitting gases which one cannot describe. You cannot know what gas is formed after mixing several gases from various industries. Some of the industries along the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway are manufacturing oils, butter and clothes and all their waste products drain into Athi River. These waste products drain into Athi River and also into the Indian Ocean.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion bitterly. The Minister should get the money if he can explain what he intends to do with it!

Dr. Omamo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. Kenya is a country and Kenyans have the moral duty to lead the world in developing and conserving a wholesome environment which leads to abundant life here on earth. Kenya's beauty is not by accident. Kenya is hosting the headquarters for the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and, therefore, it must play a leading role in letting the world see an environment that is wholesome. As I have said, the world must be shown an environment that permits human beings to have abundant life.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was not by accident that the headquarters for the United Nations Environmental Programme was brought to Nairobi. Kenyans worked for it and at that time, devoted and committed Kenyans, who had a vision for their country convinced the international community that the headquarters can only be located in Nairobi, if it is to be in the developing world. I remember those days, some 29 years ago, Prof. Wasao and the late Prof. Ominde, were there arguing in favour of Kenya. Dr. Njoroge Mungai, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, gave us the green light. Ambassador Joseph Odera-Ojowi and Odera Jack-Ochola were there arguing in favour of Kenya. Dr. Otieno Djujolo, Otieno Thrombosis, Otieno "Trypanosomiasis" were there convincing the international community that the headquarters should be in Nairobi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work of the leader of the Mission was easy. I remember my work was just to make sure that when you stood up to speak, you only spoke sense all the time. The role that Kenya and Nairobi must play for the sake of the international community must be seen to be played.

I would like to remind the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources that Ministries that represent the Kenya Government and those which prepare Votes for the Kenya Government must be serious. They must demonstrate commitment in improving the physical environment, which includes fighting air and water pollution. At the moment, that commitment is not being seen. If it was to be seen, why is Nyando River being polluted by effluence from sugar factories when we have always told the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources about that and nothing is being done? Why are they not doing anything? Are they committed to making sure that Kenyans drink clean water and that Kenyan rivers are not polluted?

Let me ask the Chair this question and I am sure you will agree that I should ask this question. Why is Webuye Pan Paper polluting the whole area? Corrugated iron sheet roofs are rotting and the Ministries are informed about it everyday, but nothing is being done. I wish I could use another language so that I could be more emphatic. But why is action not being taken? Why do we want to give lip-service to the environment? When we talk about soil and water conservation, there are areas where we can salute the farmers. In some areas in Machakos District, you can salute farmers there because they are trying to do their best. But what about farmers in other areas? The environment must include everything. If the activities of farmers are going to ruin the environment, the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources must be like the mother Ministry because the activities of other Ministries affect the environment. If it is to do with the issue of water, the Minister of Water Development should take action. Why do we pay lip-service to the destruction of forests?

When the Minister was moving the Vote of this Ministry, he reported that, according to him, the area under forest cover is 2.7 per cent. This percentage is below the total percentage of Africa, which is 10 per cent. It is much below the world average percentage. Why are we paying lip-service to afforestation when forests are being destroyed? The destruction of forests has been drawn to the attention of our Ministers and I am sure they have seen some of these forests being destroyed, either when driving on the ground or when they are flying in the air. What are they doing about it? Why do they not tap the forest resources?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was very delighted the other day when I saw relatively elder people from Meru doing something to stop destruction of forests in some parts of Meru, where a certain species of a tree was being destroyed. The elders were showing concern, but what is the Government doing about Malava Forest in Kakamega? That forest has a peculiar tropical rainforest species that is only part of the larger forest which you can only find in Uganda and it stretches westwards. In Kenya, that forest species is found only in Malava Forest. Why is it being destroyed? What are we doing about it? Why are we giving a lip-service to afforestation?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that time has come when the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and other Ministries put their heads together and had an educational programme to teach Kenyans about the environment. They should start teaching Kenyans at a time when it is easy to teach people about the environment. There are stages when it becomes very difficult to teach people. I want to suggest that the best time to teach people about the conservation and cleanliness of the environment is at the nursery level. Let us have programmes at the nursery level that will teach Kenyans how to fall in love with a clean environment. If you leave it too long, it will be too late!

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Ndicho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to say a few things about this Ministry in support of the Minister getting the money that he is looking for. Going by what the Secretary-General of DP, or the Shadow Minister has just talked about, the dirt that has engulfed the whole of this country is worrying. Go to any town and you will find that rivers are polluted. You will also find that the air is polluted. The question every visitor and Kenyan in this country asks is whether there is a Ministry or a Minister in charge of environment. That is the question the tourists ask. I know the Minister might be busy because of politics, but what are the technocrats at the divisional and district level doing? What are the technocrats at the provincial level and the Ministry Headquarters doing? They should be seen to be doing something. I am of the opinion that this Government should not have Ministers as Members of Parliament. We should adopt the United States of America (USA) mode of Government, whereby Ministers are not tied down by what goes on either in their constituencies or any other area. Let Ministers be appointed from outside this House, and let this House be for Members of Parliament to articulate policies. If we have that kind of a scenario, the Minister will not be involved in politics and other issues in his constituency. Instead, he will concentrate on the policy issues of his Ministry. I think that is the only way out. Therefore, I am tempted to bring an amendment to the Constitution so that a Minister is not a Member of this House, but is appointed from among Kenyans to articulate issues from that Ministry. If we had that kind of a scenario, we would not be talking about how deplorable the environment is in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Shadow Minister touched on almost everything that we were to talk about. I would like to say that we, in Thika, which is a big industrial town, are suffering because the amount of air pollution from the factories there is too much. There is a lot of pollution in River Chania, and yet the Ministry officials in Thika District

have not done anything. I raise those issues during the national days and nothing happens. We also ask Questions in this House and the answer we get is that the Ministry or the Government will look into the matter and that is the end of the story. So, let the Minister, at least, do something. This House will pass the amount of money he wants, like it has done in the previous years. But why do we not see some change this time round? Is the Minister aware that, in Mombasa, tourists are having a rough time at the beaches because of pollution? This is affecting the tourism sector. You might try to do so many things in order to attract tourists, but there are certain things that should be done properly. One of these things is to clean the environment in Coast Province. I would like to inform this House that all the dirt from the Indian Ocean is sometimes swept into the coastline, and yet the Ministry and the Government have got no system in place of cleaning that area. Why do they not have technocrats; people who are well-informed about these things? We would like to see a clean Kenya, just the way it was left by the white man.

I would now like to touch on forests. Every speaker in this House has complained about depletion of forests. I would like to give a suggestion: Let the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Transport and Communications go back to the system of installing concrete and metallic poles in order to save the forests. If you go round this City, you will find that the electric concrete poles that were left by the white man are still intact. I would like to inform this House that even the metallic pylons which supply electricity from Uganda are still intact. Why could the Government not devise a method to ensure that the trees that are cut in the forests in Mount Kenya, Malava and elsewhere are stopped? This will save our forests. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) should use concrete poles. This is being done in Uganda, Tanzania and Congo, which have big rain forests. These countries have saved their forests by exploiting other methods of getting electric and telephone poles. Why do we have to go to our forests and deplete them? This falls under his docket, and he should ensure that, that is done.

On titanium that was talked about here, we are worried that this Government will give foreigners that gigantic investment of over Kshs800 billion just because of greed and selfishness of some few individuals. I support what Mr. Munyao said; that the Kenya Government can buy or hire the equipment that could be used to extract that mineral. But because of the greed of some people in the Ministry and the Government, all that will be left to foreigners who will extract everything from the Coast, load it onto ships, go and refine it in another country. Since this country also needs those products, we shall buy them at very high prices. We should mine this mineral, process it and sell the end products to these foreigners. This is what was done even after Independence, when all the gold, minerals and artifacts were extracted by the white man, taken to Europe where they were refined and then Africa bought the end products at very exorbitant prices. This was the case and yet the minerals belonged to us. So, we would like to see the mining exercise at Coast Province being done exclusively by Kenyans. This is because this mineral belongs to Kenyans and it was given to us by God. If the Chair will allow me, I will say what the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta said one time; that nobody can *tunya* us that one; it belongs to us. So, this time round, let us have that mineral as our property. Mr. Minister, you should not allow it to be extracted by foreigners. This is because some of us know about the under hand deals and what is being negotiated. Could the Minister ensure that, that mineral is mined by Kenyans and let 80 per cent of it benefit them? As Mr. Munyao has said, if we talk of Kshs800 billion, we could become another World Bank and start lending money to African countries. If we become independent, we do not need to kneel down to every Tom, Dick and Harry.

(Mr. Kalweo laughed)

All we are telling the Minister, who likes to laugh--- For example, he is laughing now, and yet this is a very serious matter! The Minister will be laughing here and the mineral will be taken away by foreigners. He should take this matter very seriously. It is because of his laughter that the whole country is very dirty and all the forests are being depleted. Let the Minister be serious!

The Minister for Mineral Exploration (Mr. Kalweo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Ndicho is deviating from the debate and now he is talking about me. What have I done? I have taken note of what he has said, and we have several people here who are taking notes.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I think he is just telling you how bad he feels about the environment. Are you suggesting, by any chance, that he should be crying?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suggest that he should be crying with the rest of Kenyans and the visitors who come into this country, and they go home disgusted.

An hon. Member: Shauri yako!

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

(Laughter)

An hon. Member: You are on the Floor, how can you raise a point of order?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can hear how irresponsible the Minister is by telling me; "shauri yako". I wish the President knew that some of the Ministers that represent his Government both here--- Mr. Munyao was also complaining sometime ago that some Kenyan Ministers refuse even to attend very important meetings and I know he meant Mr. Kalweo.

Mr. Speaker: Order now! Address me!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister should take this matter very seriously.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I sympathise with Mr. Ndicho because--

Mr. Koskei: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it fair for two National Development Party of Kenya (NDP) MPs to follow each other, while we are here?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I am the Speaker!

Proceed!

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has already taken a bit of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you can see from the other Members who have spoken, most Members in this House feel very strongly about this issue of environmental protection. Water is a very precious commodity. Water is life and if we cannot conserve our environment, we run the risk of having no water at all. That is the reason why the issue of water management becomes very crucial. The issue of environmental protection is the very key. When I talk about environmental protection, we do not mean that environment must be preserved or conserved as a virgin. Members of the public are under the misguided notion that if you cut a tree, then you are just destroying the environment. Cutting trees does not in itself mean that you are destroying the environment. We cut and replenish by planting more trees. This is very important.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a large part of our country which is called arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL). Most of this part of our country receives abundant rainfall. But when it rains, the water is allowed to just flow into the oceans. When the dry spell comes and there is drought, people suffer and animals die. We have said so many times in this House that we should develop systems of harvesting water when we have it in abundance so that we can use it during the drought period. This is an issue which we need to take much more seriously. The issue of waste water management, particularly in our urban centres is also very crucial.

It is distressing to note that Kisumu Municipality is discharging raw sewage into the lake and yet, I know for a fact that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has offered, for a long time, to help us to rehabilitate the sewerage system in Kisumu. These are issues which the Ministry should take more seriously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concerned about the so-called Nile Valley Agreement. This Agreement was signed in 1929, when most of the countries that constitute the Nile Valley today were under colonial occupation and yet, we are told that we are bound by the provisions of this Agreement, which was negotiated without us being represented. Because of this, we are all the time being blackmailed about the use of our own water. The best example is waters of Lake Victoria. Nearly two-thirds of the water comes from the Kenyan side of the lake and yet, we are being told that we cannot use that water to carry out irrigation on our side. Why should we conserve our water for the Egyptians' use? The Egyptians use it to irrigate their land there and they grow wheat, sugar-cane and rice. They export sugar to us. As I am speaking, Egypt is now in the process of trying to construct an underground tunnel under the Suez Canal to take the water to Sinai. This is an agreement, which we must insist, needs to be renegotiated.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry is the major consumer of water, because as I said here last week, 70 per cent of our electric power generation capacity is hydro-based. As we experienced over the last two years, when our dams dried up, we resorted to power rationing. That is the reason why we are very concerned about environmental protection. We need to take this issue much more seriously. Excision of our forests is resulting in the lowering of the water levels in our rivers. But it also results in soil erosion. Excessive soil erosion translates ultimately into silting of our dams. So we need, therefore, to do prevention rather than go for cure. Prevention is protecting our environment by stopping excision of forests and planting more trees in our catchment areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent a constituency that also suffers severely from water shortage. You know yourself, as a resident of Lang'ata, that a number of our residents in Karen-Lang'ata area have problems of water. Some of them depend on boreholes but those who are on the mains suffer perennial shortages of water. Something needs to be done about this perennial shortage of water in Nairobi City. We know that the installed capacity that we have is sufficient to supply the entire population of Nairobi. But we know that a lot of this water is wasted. Most of the water which is already treated is wasted outside the periphery of the town in irrigating land. Something needs to be done

about it. There was a move to privatise management of water in the town. I understand studies were carried out, agreements were prepared and then, they were put in shelves. The Minister for Water Development needs to make a decision in one way or the other. If we are to go the route of privatising the management of City water and whether we are going to give it to the Chinese, Japanese, British, the French or the Belgians, we should do it. But if we are not going to do it, and if we do believe that we do have the capacity to improve the management of water in our City, then let us travel that route. Let us then develop that capacity. At the moment, the collection is very inefficient. The City Council has now resorted to disconnecting supply to residents so that they can collect the so-called arrears. It is unfair to punish innocent citizens for a fault which is not of their own making. It is the City Council itself which failed to collect the money. When they want to realise that money, they now resort to extortion by disconnecting water supply to innocent residents of the City causing a lot of inconveniences to children and women who need water more than the men themselves. Therefore, something needs to be done as a matter of urgency, because words alone will not suffice.

The hon. Minister has talked about flooding from Nzoia and Nyando rivers. Those river systems have been studied since 1953. There have been feasibility studies carried out on flood control and water management of Nyando and Nzoia rivers. About ten different studies have been carried out by consultancy companies. The amount of money which has been paid out in consultancy fees far exceeds the amount that is required to carry out those works.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us talk about the management of water hyacinth in Lake Victoria. Now, for a while, water hyacinth weeds have disappeared because of the mechanical harvesting. But it is something that is likely to recur. At the moment, there is equipment lying idle in Kisumu which may be disposed of if this Government does not take immediate steps to acquire it. The equipment was used to carry out mechanical harvesting of water hyacinth weeds. I want to appeal to the Government to take immediate step to buy that equipment before it is transported to Malawi, where the contractor wants to take them to go and harvest water hyacinth on Lake Malawi.

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

Mr. Koskei: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute on the Vote of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource. The Ministry plays---

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Murathe! I think hon. Members must respect the Chair. Mr. Murathe, you must respect the Chair! Proceed, Mr. Koskei!

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Ministry plays a very crucial role in as far as the conservation of the environment is concerned. As I stand here, I would like to join my colleagues who raised the issue of conservation of our environment in this country. We know that forest or environmental conservation is actually very critical if we are to control desertification in this country. Despite the fact that the Ministry is doing a good job, it needs to do much more to conserve our environment.

An hon. Member stood up here and raised an issue about banning of harvesting of forest products. Like any other crop that is planted, we need to harvest trees. Here, I am not really talking about the natural forest. I want to zero in on the trees that are planted by the Government. The Government got a lot of money to plant trees. And I believe that it is yet to repay the money that was given by the World Bank and other donor agencies. Since the ban on harvesting of trees was imposed, trees have been falling and rotting. They are supposed to be harvested after 30 years. If you went to any forest plantation, for example, right from Kiambu to Rift Valley, you will find that this Government is actually losing money simply because of this ban on forest harvesting.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it beats all logic because this Ministry is served by experts who are aware of what needs to be done. So, when we really impose a wholesale ban on harvest of planted plantations, are we really doing ourselves justice? This is because we are losing a lot of money that we could collect in terms of revenue. We need to harvest trees in those plantations so that we can raise money to carry out other development activities. The Government should not go out of its way to beg for money from the donor communities. As I stand here now, trees worth millions of shillings are actually being wasted in the forest plantations. So, it is not really in order for the Ministry to come and ask us to approve money for them and yet, on the other hand, they are not ready to sell forest products. It is a pity that trees are rotting in the forests. If this Government would lift this ban, we could raise more money to conserve our environment by way of planting more trees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should resort to the shamba cultivation system so that we can plant more trees. We know that this system is not very effective in the sense that there is no clear-cut policy by the Ministry. At one time, the Ministry said people were free to partake shamba cultivation in the forests. That is our people were given pieces of land in the forest plantation to plant crops and, at the same time, they were supposed also to incorporate planting of trees in those shambas.

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to ask the hon. Member to declare his interest in forests? Is he a miller or not?

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is besides the point---

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think there is a demand and it is within the Standing Orders that you declare your interest. Do you have any interest in the selling of trees?

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I am simply saying is that besides my interest in the industry---

Mr. Speaker: Order! The rules of the House must be obeyed, Mr. Koskei. Do you or do you not have any interest? If you do, declare it. I will not stop you from contributing. The rules demand that you declare your interest and proceed from there.

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you heard me clearly, I declared my interest. I said that besides the fact that I have got an interest in the industry, it does not stop me from saying that trees are rotting in the forests.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Proceed, Mr. Koskei.

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, those trees are rotting because this Government has imposed ban on harvesting. Those trees have over-matured and they need to be harvested.

The other issue I want to raise is about water. Here I am really concerned with what has turned out to be the issue of water supply *vis-a-vis* local authorities. Of late, many of the local authorities are actually privatising the provision of water to their residents in towns. You realise that the outbreak of water-borne diseases is rampant in the local authorities. I believe this is because of those local authorities that supply their residents with untreated water. As a result, water-borne diseases are a common occurrence in urban centres. The privatisation of water supply is a good idea, but I tend to think that it should be done in a more organised manner. In Nakuru Town, it took the intervention of the Government to ensure that residents got water. What had really happened was that councillors in Nakuru Municipal Council had decided to privatise water. But instead of doing it in the right way, they formed their company where they had shares. The privatization of the provision of water was not meant to provide services to people, and that is why I have said, that the Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Local Government, should lay down procedures on how water privatization takes place.

I would rather, instead of local authorities being allowed to form water conservation companies, private companies should be mandated to provide clean water to the residents of various towns.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the Rural Extension Programme, the Ministry should provide seedlings to farmers to plant. It is true that a time will come when those trees will not be available. It would be better if farmers were encouraged to plant these trees through provision of seedlings by the Ministry. It does not make sense for the Ministry to post Divisional Forest Extension Officers to various districts, and not provide the officers with the money to enable them start tree nurseries. They really would not be doing any job if they do not start tree nurseries and provide seedlings to the farmers. At the end of the day, if the farmers do not have any seeds, the forests will always be a source of forest products.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not believe forest plantations can provide enough products for the people. As a result, there will always be constant conflicts between the farmer and the Forest Department.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about forest excision. For example, in my constituency, because there was need to settle our communities, there was also need to excise our forest plantations. I believe this supersedes conservation because this was a community that the Government did not take any deliberate action to settle. It was in order for the Government to excise part of the forests for the communities.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of considerable regret that after we make contributions here for two days, this Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources will end up having a sum of Kshs3.7 billion voted for them to go and spend. It is a pity that there is nothing some of us can do to actually stop the allocation of any money to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. I say that because of the outrage and the outcry across the entire country because the destruction of the forests which this Ministry is facilitating. This is a matter that hurts every Kenyan who is concerned about posterity and the future generations of this nation.

If it were possible, this Parliament would refuse to pass this Vote. This is one Ministry that should be folded up. This is one Ministry that does not deserve a single cent being voted by this Parliament for them to spend.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware that perhaps the Ministry officials are powerless. The decision in terms of the destruction of forests under the name of excision and settling Kenyans is a decision that is made elsewhere much higher than at the Ministerial level. Why does the Ministry facilitate? Why do they not refuse?

Why does the Minister not refuse to facilitate this forest destruction? This is not just in one area. I toured Baringo District which is an arid and semi-arid area, and even the forests there have been excised and are being allocated to farmers. We are destroying this nation. The cost which we are going to pay is very heavy. The damage we are inflicting on the eco-system is beyond words. Why is this Ministry doing this? If you travelled across the entire country from Mt. Kenya to Mt. Elgon to those forests in Baringo and everywhere else, the destruction is immense. It is staggering. One is left speechless.

The only thing I can think of is that somewhere this Government is behaving like an occupation force. It is only a foreign force that concurs another country that will destroy a country to the extent to which the destruction of the forests is being done in this nation. It is like the German Army during the Second World War. The way it would move in; it is a scorched-earth policy that would be pursued. Destroy that nation! That is what we are doing. That is what this Government is doing. It is pursuing a scorched-earth policy in terms of destruction. I am not giving a threat, but I would like it to be on the permanent record of the HANSARD that those in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources who are facilitating this and implementing these orders, together with those who are making the decisions to destroy our forests, and, therefore, condemning future generations to poverty are committing crimes against humanity. One day they will have to be called upon to account. We have got to put a stop to this destruction of our forests. We should stop crying about water and rationing of electricity while we simultaneously continue, at full throttle, in the destruction of the forests. Something somewhere is very wrong. We should not be told that we are settling those who are landless.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to accept as a nation and this Government has to accept as a Government that there will never come a day when we will be able to give a piece of land to every Kenyan. We have got to come up with economic policies that will make people get jobs without thinking that everybody must have a piece of land and must eke a living out of land. Those policies are short-sighted and short-term, because we are creating a desert and there will come a time when those two to three acres of land which you are now giving out will not be able to sustain any of the families to whom they are being allocated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what happened to the old policy where, in terms of the planted forests as opposed to indigenous forests, we used to have Kenyans who did not have their own pieces of land being permitted and employed by the Forest Department to cultivate those areas of the forest where the harvesting of the mature trees had occurred? They would be allowed to cultivate as much area as one was able to. These people were able to feed their families and educate their children from the income they derived from the portions that they were able to cultivate. They would plant maize, beans and potatoes in return for planting tree seedlings. After they planted the seedlings, they would continue cultivating and inter-planting their maize for two to three years. When the seedlings grew to a particular height and it was no-longer possible to interplant the crops, they would be moved to another area of the forest where trees had matured. The process would go on and on. This is how many people lived in the forest and co-existed with the eco-system for many years. In fact, from the late 1930s, that system was working very well. Why was it abandoned in favour of a pretended policy that you can settle every landless Kenyan? Why do we not ask this Ministry to go back to that system that had a very good balance between afforestation and according an income from the forest? This is one Ministry that truly does not deserve a single shilling being voted by this House. When we are talking about natural resources, one of the major resources is the Lake Victoria. I heard Mr. Raila mentioning the waters of Lake Victoria. It is the largest fresh water lake in the whole world. We are not sufficiently exploiting that lake, and I would like to suggest through you to this Ministry, that they need to liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and the Office of the President, because as you know, before they gave us Independence, our colonial masters, Britain, entered into a treaty with Egypt that prohibits Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from utilising the waters of Lake Victoria, even for such things as irrigation. That is why Egypt has stationed an engineer in Entebbe who goes on checking the levels of the River Nile on daily basis. I see it as a lawyer; that a Treaty like this one that is so adverse to the interests of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, cannot be binding on the sovereign states of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. It is time--- What does Kenya, for example, gain, whatsoever from that Treaty? What benefits do we get? Now that we are regionalising the management of affairs in this nation, time has come for the countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya to renegotiate the terms of that Treaty. We in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are entitled to charge some cess on Egypt; so that they pay us in return for the use of the waters of the River Nile. If they do not agree to renegotiate that Treaty, now that we are going to have the East African Legislative Assembly, we should abrogate that Treaty and say that it is not binding whatsoever. I would urge that this Ministry liaises with the Office of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and gets a resolution to that.

Those who have contributed have already talked about pollution which is a very major issue. One feels ashamed; go to countries like England where previously, the River Thames could not have fish. You can now fish almost on any stretch of the River Thames because of the application of the environmental laws. No factory is

permitted to empty its effluence into the River Thames until that water is recycled to the point where it is almost fresh. You go to Eastlands---

With those words, I do beg to strenuously oppose this Motion.

Mr. Kathangu: Nashukuru sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Kwanza ningependa kusema ya kwamba Mungu alifanya kazi yake na akampatia mwanadamu maji, hewa na udongo. Jambo kubwa ni kwamba mwanadamu huyo anatakiwa aangalie kwa makini kwamba asije kuchafua ama kuwanyima wengine vitu hivyo vitatu. Ni lazima mwanadamu avisimamie, na ikiwa hawezi, basi angojee kifo kwa sababu hizo vitu vitatu ndivyo uhai wake. Wakati tunapozungumza hapa, wengi ambao wanatoka katika Wizara hii na Wizara nyingine ambazo tunazungumzia hapa, wanangojia hili Bunge ipeane fedha ili waende wakatumie. Mara nyingi, tutakuwa tunazungumzia zile fedha kwa sababu ni nyingi, na kwa sababu ikiwa zile fedha zinaweza kutumika kwa njia ambazo ni nzuri, basi nchi hii inaweza kufaidika kwa njia kubwa.

Mimi ningependa kusema ya kwamba ikiwa nchi yetu imechagua Serikali, Serikali hiyo inatakiwa iangalie kwa darubini kuona kwamba vile vitu vitatu; hewa, maji na udongo havichafuliwi; kwamba vile vitu vitatu vinasimamiwa kwa njia iliyo bora na viwe safi kwa wanadamu kutumia. Ikiwa darubini hiyo imeharibika, ni lazima Wakenya wafikirie ni jinsi gani wanavyoweza kubadilisha ile darubini, na kama sivyo, tutapotea kabisa.

Wengi wamezungumza hapa. Tunashindwa ni kwa nini Serikali na Wizara zake zimekuwa zikituambia ya kwamba zinasimamia mambo ili nchi hii ijimudu kiuchumi na kijamii. Wale ambao wako katika Wizara hizi ni watu ambao wamesoma, na wengi wao wametumia fedha ambazo zinatokana na kodi ya nchi hii na wakatumia zile fedha na wakati huu, badala ya kuwa darubini nzuri kwa kusimamia vile vitu vitatu ambavyo ni uhai wa binadamu katika nchi hii. Kazi yao imekuwa kukaa vitako maofisini, na hawajui ni kitu gani kinachoendelea. Wanapoketi kwa maofisi kule, wanangojia wale ambao wanaitwa maofisa wa nyajani ili walete mali ambayo imeporwa kwa misitu, ndani ya maji na kuuza mashamba na kuchukua yale mashamba na kuletewa asimilia kumi ya mali ambayo yameuzwa.

Ni vigumu sana saa nyingine kufikiria ni jinsi gani Waziri anasimamia Wizara yake, lakini kusema kweli, mimi ninaona kama saa nyingine, anayeteuwa Mawaziri ama anayepeana mawaidha ili Mawaziri wateuliwe, ni watu ambao ni waporaji kama maofisa wa nyanjani. Kwa sababu kama sivyo, ni kwa nini Wizara ya Mazingira kama hii inaangalia maji yakichafuka Kenya nzima na watu wanakufa kwa sababu ya typhoid? Kwa nini hawaulizi sababu gani katika kila pembe ya nchi hii kumejaa mashimo na maji ambayo yamekwama? Maji hayo ndiyo yamekuwa blanketi na nyumba za mbu. Katika Kenya, ugonjwa wa malaria umekuwa kama ukimwi, na kuna Wizara ya Afya na wanajua ya kwamba mahospitali hayana dawa. Ni wajibu wa Serikali kuangalia jambo hilo. Waziri Kalweo ni mzee na amekuwa akipelekwa kutoka Wizara moja hadi nyingine. Mimi nauliza: Hamjaona ya kwamba kutoka kwa Wizara hii baada ya miezi miwili kuenda kwa Wizara nyingine baada ya miezi miwili, unaenda kwa Wizara ingine, hakuna kazi mnaweza kufanyia nchi? Haijaonekana hiyo. Kabla ya yeye kujua msitu umekatwa, ashaondolewa na kupelekwa kwa Wizara ya Michezo. Tena kabla ya yeye kujua ni nani alivunja rekodi ya dunia katika michezo, ametolewa hapo na kupelekwa kwa Wizara ya Biashara. Tena kabla ya yeye kujua ni nani aliiba, ametolewa hapo na kupelekwa kwa Wizara ya Kilimo. Itakuwa namna gani ikiwa wafanya kazi wa Serikali wanabadilishwa kazi hivyo hivyo. Katibu wa Kudumu hawezi kusimamia mambo ya Wizara yake vyema kwa sababu hajui atatolewa hapo lini. Tunapozungumza hapa, ni mzuri tuseme wazi kwamba hakuna Wizara ina makosa. Wakati tunapoojia hapa, ni lazima tuseme ya kwamba anayewateuwa ana makosa makubwa kwa nchi hii na Maofisa wa Serikali na Mawaziri hawataki kusikia wala hawatafanya chochote. Kazi yetu kama Wabunge imekuwa kama kasuku; kusema tu.

Kazi yetu ni kusema, na wale maofisa wanaketi pale na kutusikiliza! Huo inakuwa kama wimbo na sisi sote tumechukuliwa kama vifaranga vidogo. Hiyo ni hasira kubwa. Mwisho, kile kitu ambacho kitafanyika katika nchi hii na Serikali hii ama Serikali ijayo itajaribu kuzuia, na itakuwa vigumu sana ni hasira ya wananchi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mzee mmoja na bibi yake wakisambaza hekima na uzuri wa mafuta ya Kasuku-- Mzee anashika chapati, anauma na kusema "ni ngumu sana". Bibi anamwambia, "umesahau kupikiwa na Kasuku." Mawaziri walioko hapa wanacheka kwa sababu wanaona sisi ni bure!

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, Serikali yetu imeshindwa kutekeleza kazi. Wananchi wanajua Serikali imeshindwa na kazi na wanasema hivi kutoka Runyenjes: "Mwisho uko karibu. Sisi hatutangoja kifo kutoka kwa Serikali inayoharibu uchumi na mazingira yetu tukiangalia. Sisi hatutangoja kifo. Labda tufe pamoja!"

Ahsante sana.

Mr. Kajwang: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I will be very brief in my contribution.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country is divided into arid, semi-arid and high-potential areas, because of the climatic conditions in those regions. I consulted an Atlas map in the library a few hours ago, and found out that rain between 20 to 30 inches falls in places referred to as "semi-arid". Areas in Kajiado, Gilgil, Baringo, Maralal, Garsen, Moyale, Lokichoggio and Marsabit are semi-arid areas. But they receive between 20 to 30 inches of rainfall per year. I also looked at a radius of ten kilometres around Lake Victoria, and found out that it receives rainfall

of between 20 to 30 inches. But the area around Lake Victoria has not been designated as "semi-arid". This is interesting because areas that have been designated as "semi-arid" in this country receive a little more rain than the area around Lake Victoria.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policy of this country in addressing semi-arid areas is biased against those who live ten kilometres around Lake Victoria, from Busia to Muhuru Bay near Tanzania. The policy of this country has been biased against those people who live around the Lake because the benefits which go to those who live in semi-arid areas do not go to the Lake region. I know this has been done because the policy makers have never come from the Lake Victoria region. I want this corrected by the Ministry so that it can start addressing the problems affecting those who live around Lake Victoria, just like they are addressing the problems of Lokichoggio and Marsabit. In fact, I found out that around Moyale where the Minister for Agriculture comes from, there is a little more rain. It is a high potential area!

The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Godana): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I inform the hon. Member that I come from Marsabit and not Moyale!

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, a few kilometres from Marsabit Town is a green area. There is rainfall of between 40 to 60 inches and yet, Marsabit, Moyale and Lokichoggio are, according to the policy makers in this country, semi-arid areas. So, you can see the problems we have. I wanted to put it clearly so that the policy makers who sit here, will address this problem. When they come back here with the next Budget, I want to see some money going to the semi-arid areas, including ten kilometres around Lake Victoria.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plastics industry in this country has not been regulated, to the extent that it produces polythene bags which are convenient for our use in supermarkets and elsewhere. They are convenient and cheap but they cannot be disposed of very easily. In other countries which have faced this problem, they have put a levy on the people who produce plastic bags and materials. That levy is used to collect polythene paper and it is either, incinerated or recycled. But this country has left the people who produce this paper without any levy whatsoever. In South Africa, Nigeria and every country under the European Union they have a levy on plastic products. I think we should have one in place because it is killing a lot of animals in Kajiado North where the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs is the Member of Parliament. The animals there eat grass together with polythene bags and they die. The industry must address that problem!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these things would have been done but corrupt officers have been a stumbling block. Let me give you an example of corruption with regard to a road in Eastlands which I usually use because that is where I live. Jogoo Road was made a dual carriageway for a distance of 1.5 kilometres, with a bridge where a train would pass under. It was contracted out to Krishan Behal and Sons. The chief executive of that company is called Sunil Behal. That road was supposed to be completed by February, 2001. Several Ministers have gone there and threatened him but thereafter, those Ministers disappear and keep quiet. I do not know what is done to them. But somehow, when they threaten, some work is done and then it stops. Hon. Morogo, the Minister for Roads and Public Works was there and threatened to blacklist that company. In fact, at one time, this company was blacklisted by the then Minister for Roads and Public Works, hon. Kones and at least, that is one good job which Kones did. Eng. Mwongera, who was arrested the other day, gave that company's certificate back and it is now in business. But what I am saying is that corruption in this country is destroying our environment just as it is destroying--

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Nooru): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Kajwang talking about the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources or the Ministry of Roads and Public Works? He has taken ten minutes to discuss the completion of this road!

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that corruption is destroying our environment. The amount of smoke and dust emanating from that road is destroying our environment! This is because of corruption and nothing else! I understand that the bridge is already sinking even before it is completed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot allow one Indian to destroy this country and continue bribing our Ministers and Permanent Secretaries (PSs)! They all make a lot of noise and then they are paid! We must do something about the contractor! As we do something, that road must be completed by another contractor. That contract was supposed to cost only Kshs283 million. Now, the cost has gone up to over Kshs300 million! He is supposed to be paying a fee called "liquidated damages" for delaying per day. He has not paid a coin! But we are still suffering and wasting a lot of fuel which is costing the Government even more money in foreign exchange, because of one man who cannot complete the road! If we cannot fight corruption in this country, our forests will continue to be destroyed. There will be no water, electricity and roads.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Omingo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute.

(Mr. Kajwang consulted loudly)

I seek protection from, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, from Mr. Kajwang's interjections.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Order, Mr. Kajwang!

An hon. Member: Go home, Mr. Kajwang!

Mr. Omingo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Vote. First, I would like to say two things regarding the permanency of PSs. They are never permanent! When a PS does an excision of forests, he is moved quickly to another Ministry to cover up what he has done. I think it also moves across the board to what happened recently, when Mr. Nyenze, popularly known a while ago as the "Minister for Excision", was moved to the Ministry of Heritage and Sports! How do we hold him accountable? Today, we have Mr. Kalweo--- Well, I have respect for him! But Mr. Kalweo is sitting in that Ministry with about three other Ministers! How do we account for that? Who are we giving this money? Perhaps, if a Ministry had one or two Ministers, even the budget would have been lower. Unfortunately, when we restructured our Ministries, the Government on the other side of the House has Ministers sitting like passengers in a matatu. There are three or four Ministers sitting on the same seat. You do not know who delegates to who and who runs what! Today, if we were to hold Mr. Nyenze accountable for what he did--- He has already been taken to another Ministry!

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Order, hon. Members! You are reminded to consult in such low tones as to enable others to participate in the proceedings!

Mr. Omingo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me that protection! How do we hold Ministers or PSs accountable for their deeds? Going back to my earlier statement, during the earlier times, I call them the good old days - perhaps I was younger and knew how sweet they were - the PSs and civil servants were people of integrity. Today, they are appointed for political expediency. If you are superb in provincial administration and serving the powers that be, you will remain there for a little while. If you touch the vine nerves, you are transferred. We are saying: We want a system where people are going to be accountable for their deeds. We want a system where people will stand to be counted and do deeds that will live after them! Unfortunately, I do not know--- I am yet to know that for the last ten years, what this Government would have done especially on a forest, that it will leave behind to be accounted for, after it leaves.

When we talk about corruption, the list of the people who get those properties and lands that are excised from the Ministry--- If you ask them for the list, in the pretext of serving and settling people who are landless which we all recommend--- I remember one time when the then Minister for Environment was asked to table the list. It was very difficult for him to lay it on the Table. What was the reason? The list was full of politically-correct boys! The problem here is the fact that corruption is now a culture of this nation. Somebody does not care how many millions he will acquire illegally or otherwise, even if he walks through a pool of human blood to attain them. He is then regarded as a hero in the society.

When we talk about power rationing, it touches on the life of the industrial sector in this nation. We have got nice gentlemen sitting across here. They went to school, but if you ask them about the policy on industrialisation and power supply, they will not give you an answer! They watch things happen simply because it does not matter how you make your money, but how hard you have downtrodden other Kenyans.

When we talk about power supply, it is true that when the forests are destroyed, the water catchment areas and dams dry up. Then we say: "We have a problem of this and that because we are lacking water supply." That is a resource that we can easily protect and nurture. This nation is such a wonderful nation! If I take you back, I was reading some programmes in one of the Scandinavian countries. The population there is about five million. To each human being living in that nation, there are 15,000 trees; which means that they are "giving birth" to more trees than human beings! Trees are life, water and power supply! Could those people stop, think and reason for a while and ask themselves, "where are we taking this nation?" As one of my colleagues said, it can take us many years, but the truth of the matter is: You will have to stand and face your sins, no matter when. Time will come when each one of us will answer for his sins.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember that when we introduced a Bill here for peace and reconciliation, they shot it down. That means that they wanted to proceed and have clashes for political posterity that will protect their interests. At the end of time--- Today, Japan is paying for its war crimes 40 years down the line. Watch! We are also watching! When time comes, I believe things will unfold and nobody will be spared. What we are saying is that, it is only fair for this nation to get what it deserves. Why do we rape our environment? The politically-correct good boys receive some of that land and they do not utilise it! Give somebody 10,000 acres and let him utilise it. There is some land which is lying fallow. They fell trees and cut timber out of them. They make money

and do not plant replacement trees in the forests. We are saying: "If you must cut down trees, could you, please, replant?"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, what we are requesting from this Government--- Why do we not have sanity and order? Why do we not have an accountable system? If I must address Mr. Kalweo there, let me also know at what level he sits with Mr. Ng'eny. Let me also know where the other Minister sits and who is in charge of what! We are working like if we are in a market place! I feel that we require some sanity and direction. We should remember one crucially important thing--- I would like to send this message to the Government of the day. Let us not drive our economic vehicle using the rear view mirror. That has been the problem of this nation for a long time. People just check where they have come from. They do not steer the nation to where it is supposed to go. The end result of checking the rear view mirror is economic clash, bad roads, rape of forests and hospitals without medicines. That is because we are hind-sighted.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Temporary, Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to contribute to this particular Vote because this is one Ministry which I strongly feel should have a higher profile in marginal areas like where I come from. We need to develop a culture in this country of having a clean environment. Civil servants, in particular, need to be ahead of that kind of a culture. In all respects, we need to protect our catchment areas. Turkana District is very dry now. The water table is much lower than what it was before. The people entrusted with the duty of advising the Government, the local communities and the NGOs that are willing to assist cannot even get the basic formula of water power. The Ministry has to be serious when sending officers to some of these arid areas. That is the area where we need real expertise. You will find that the issue of posting officers to these areas is being treated in the same colonial mentality because it is seen as a form of punishment. We need water in these arid areas. We also need competent and serious officers who want to do a good job in these particular areas.

We have a natural resource known as Lake Turkana where there are conflicts arising from fishing. Due to the scarcity of fish, our fishermen have to move from Lake Turkana to the other side of Loyangalal, in Marsabit District, where people are being killed and goats confiscated. Despite all this, this particular Ministry, and the Ministry of Agriculture, are not taking any action. These are very serious issues affecting the livelihood of our people. Today we are celebrating the World Food Day, but we have agreed, as a country, that 11 million Kenyans live below the poverty line. How well do we ensure that our people are provided with basic needs before we start thinking of other serious issues of development? Right now we cannot protect some of our resources. Pastoralists in particular, have two key resources; pasture and water, which this Ministry has to tackle very seriously. We should actually have pastures for animals.

This country has invested heavily in tea and coffee plantations, but what are we doing for the livestock sub-sector? This is basically an arid country. We cannot be proud of 20 per cent of our land mass that is covered by agriculture. The idea that we could intensify agriculture died in the mid-1970s. This means we have to bring marginal land into production. We have to seriously look at the issues of soil productivity and water. Year in, year out, when there are water problems in Nakuru Municipality which in my view, can attract resources including human resources, that is the time when the Permanent Secretary will go there. You will find that no PS or Minister for Water Development will come to Turkana and I dare say so in their presence. Since the UNEP Programme came up with the issue of desertification in the 1970s, no action has been taken. We are expanding deserts in this country instead of protecting our environment so that we can keep deserts out of this country. Only once in a while, during celebrations, we visit either Samburu or Turkana just as part of show business.

Mr. Kihoro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister aware that the Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation will get Kshs5 million from the Vote to do rehabilitation of degraded areas in Turkana?

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware of this, but the taste of the pudding is in the eating thereof. All I am saying is that I am also aware that there are many policy documents and Sessional Papers which are never implemented in that part of the world. That is why I am challenging the attitude by saying that even if the intention of the Government on policy documents is very clear, the record for implementation is so shoddy and poor. That is my concern. At a time when we should be talking about protecting our environment, we are actually allowing desertification to creep in. These plastics are killing the few of our livestock that are surviving. We have brought them to towns because of the dry conditions and they end up eating plastics. We are destroying our livestock on that basis.

There is a new phenomenon developing whereby we are creating refugee camps in arid and semi arid areas, for example, at Daadab and Kakuma Refugee Camps. They are using a lot of fuel wood which is a resource that is already scarce in that particular environment. Why do we not make it a condition for UNHCR that, for every firewood harvested from this district, they should also try to do serious afforestation programme. That is the basic theory of

conservation; that when you take away something you contribute something in return. Why are we not encouraging communities around them to benefit from this? We are destroying our environment by giving protection to refugees. At whose expense are we doing this? There is an assumption that: "Garissa and Turkana are not a part of this country, therefore, let us dump the refugees there."

On mineral exploitation, all you need now in this country is to get a licence with Kshs2,000 and then you can extract all the minerals in this country without anybody wondering about the benefits that accrue to the local communities. The Asians are exploiting our local people and yet the current legal framework makes us completely impotent to take any action against them. We need to address this issue of legal and institutional framework so that when anybody exploits a resource, it actually benefits the local community. That is the only way we can move forward as a country, secure and protect our environment. These environmental issues are very serious. When we are talking about political legacy and succession, we should realise that there are more serious concerns about the environment. Apart from talking about "dot com", we should also talk about conservation of resources. Let us also talk about rain water harvesting in marginal areas. It is not just the scientific and academic endeavours which we only read in schools, there are more serious efforts by the Ministry to ensure that rain water harvesting techniques are introduced in these areas so that the little rain that comes will be conserved and used properly so that our people will continue having rain.

Lodwar Town has no water now because the water table has gone down. The Ministry keeps on recommending the digging of shallow wells, but we need boreholes. When we want to construct a borehole the bureaucracy involved is so long. We need to relax some of these rules in areas where we need to get water. It is very difficult even to get that technical expertise to identify which area has water. People keep on digging only to discover there is no water after they have gone 100 metres deep. It is a waste of resources. This does not need any policy implementation. The Director of Water has to be concerned about the competence of staff. We have complained about this issue as leaders and yet people think we are just joking. One of these days they will migrate to these other areas and they will turn them into deserts and not forests.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Ms. Karua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise in support of this Motion. We certainly need to conserve our environment and natural resources. However, I will join those who have lamented about the performance of this Ministry. I think the only good thing I can think about this Ministry is their policy of handing over water projects to the community to manage. Even this is not being implemented fast enough but the Ministry clearly lacks a water policy for this nation. We have not seen any consistency in the Ministry trying to ensure that the population has safe and clean drinking water. This task has been left to the community and it is too difficult for it to achieve. We need to see a policy where the Government sets aside money to ensure that the citizens of this country get safe drinking water and keep them away from water-borne diseases.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry is leading in degrading the environment when they should be conserving it. Other Members have said it, and I want to repeat; that we are concerned at the rate at which our forests are disappearing. The Ministry is an active participant in allowing land grabbers to enter our forests and carve out land for private use, without any corresponding effort for reforestation. It is also not possible to carry out reforestation programmes when the land has been given out for private use. We need to see the Government getting serious about conserving the environment.

Another very serious shortcoming of this Ministry is with regard to natural resources. I have in mind the case of Tiomin Kenya and Tiomin Canada. This Ministry has allowed the exploration of titanium in Mombasa without regard to the objection by the local people, leaving them to go to the court to get temporary reprieve. Any country that respects its citizens, the protest on the scale of what has gone on ever since Tiomin Canada came to Kenya and started prospecting for titanium in Mombasa, this Government would have put the project on hold, taken the views of other stakeholders and also disclose the details of their environmental assessment to the citizens. That way, we would be able to know the Government is entering into a conscious deal. Most Kenyans believe, and I also do believe, that this particular titanium project is for the benefit of foreigners and a few Kenyans who equate themselves to the whole country. It is not fair that because just one or two powerful people are benefitting from what this company is doing, they should be let to continue degrading our environment and robbing Kenyans of their natural resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, in Article 2, that no country shall be deprived of the right to chose their economic destiny. When our natural resources are left to be plundered by foreigners in cahoots with a few individuals, we are being deprived of the right to chart out our economic destiny. We all know that titanium is a very valuable mineral and we know that it would change the lives of, not only the people at the Coast, but of Kenyans in general if a deal is entered into, which is for the mutual benefit of the company concerned and Kenyans. However, now the arrangement in place is only for the benefit of foreigners and a few Kenyans who have agreed to mortgage the country. We are calling for responsible policies from this Ministry. We would want to see the project halted not just because there is a court order but because the Government has

taken responsibility and wants to listen to Kenyans. It is time this Ministry disclosed the details of the agreement between Tiomin Canada and Tiomin Kenya, so that Kenyans can analyse and see whether it is for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also know that this Ministry is supposed to enhance the awareness of the population on environmental matters. We are yet to hear the farmers in the countryside being told of the harmful effects of the various pesticides they are using or how to avoid contamination of rivers. We routinely see farmers washing pumps that have been used for pesticides in the rivers but the Ministry is not doing anything. It is sad when the Government has a policy on paper but does not implement it. It is now generally believed that the many ailments being suffered by farmers, among them throat cancer, may be related to the use of pesticides. We are asking this Ministry to take responsibility and leadership and ensure that, farmers have the right information on what to use and how to use it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would also want to see local authorities involved in environmental conservation by this Ministry. We would want to see local authorities running tree nurseries to enable the people within the local authorities to plant trees for their own use which will in turn save the forests. This is because once the farmers have their own trees which they can use, then they will not look for the species in the forests which are now being harvested illegally for private use. The only way to avoid this as I have stated, is to involve local authorities in environmental conservation which will also enable the Ministry to reach the people at the grassroots with greater ease, than when they expect that their officers on the field will be able to communicate with each and every person within the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would want to see this Ministry go back to the drawing board. We are supporting the Vote today but we would want to see them come back with a clear and concise policy on the issues that have been discussed here by Members, among them environmental conservation, minerals and natural resources and water conservation. In this country and especially the part of the country I come from, most farmers are relying on horticultural products which require irrigation. We need to see a policy on the use of water for irrigation. If it is not well managed, water is not an unlimited resource; it is a scare resource. We would want to see the Ministry encourage in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, the use of piped water for irrigation. This is because in that way, we lose less water to the ground and also encourage modern methods of irrigation.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the contribution of this Ministry to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in relation to farming by irrigation, or is this Ministry leaving the issue to the people who need to be rescued from poverty? With their input, the Government would be able to commit some of the resources available for poverty eradication, towards improved methods of irrigation which ensure efficient management and use of water. This Ministry is also affected by the lack of co-ordination by this Government in the various Ministries. I have heard Members complaining about semi-arid areas. The bulk of the money to improve semi-arid areas is in the Office of the President. The Office of the President is collecting all the projects where there is money, even when they do not have expertise to implement these projects. We want to see projects that relate to semi-arid areas that are for introducing modern methods of irrigation and construction of dams. We want to see that money moved to the Ministry of Agriculture and if it is relating to the water use to this particular Ministry, so that our people can reap maximum benefit for the monies voted in this House. However, as long as we continue concentrating all the big projects in the Office of the President, the money will continue disappearing into the bottomless pit that the Office of the President has become.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mkalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I rise to support the Motion so that the Ministry can have the funds it requires to finance its operations this financial year, but with a very heavy heart.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is supposed to support the poverty reduction strategy by ensuring that certain basic facilities are provided to Kenyans. However, the Ministry does not do that. In areas such as Nyanza, Coast and North Eastern Province, 60 per cent of the population live below the poverty line because the Ministry has failed to provide some basic facilities.

During the colonial time, a lot of dams were dug and boreholes sunk. However, these facilities have been neglected. Most of the dams are now silted, and the Ministry has not made any effort to de-silt them. The Ministry has also neglected all the boreholes that were sunk during the colonial times, and many of them have sunk. In Kinango Constituency, Kwale District, many dams and boreholes have remained unattended to. People in that area nowadays buy a jerry can of water at Kshs100 due to non-implementation of projects by the Ministry. Once the Ministry gets the

money we are going to approve, therefore, it should de-silt the neglected dams and construct new ones to facilitate agricultural activities in that area. The Ministry should harness the water that drains into the Indian Ocean for profitable use. I have noted with a lot of concern that the Ministry spends a lot of the money allocated to it on "duty travel" and not on the projects for which it is intended. So, I would expect the Ministry to table a report at the end of this financial year, showing exactly the development projects it will have undertaken. I will not be surprised if I find that 60 per cent of the Ministry's money is spent on travel, and not on the intended projects. The Ministry should try very hard to tap rain water. It should not let the water drain into the Indian Ocean. The proposed Mate Dam at the Coast can easily harness a lot of water for livestock and human consumption in the entire region. That project has been put on paper but the Ministry has done nothing about it. I, therefore, call upon the Ministry to construct Mate Dam by next year, so that people in that region can use its water for development.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last one week, Kinango Hospital has had no water, yet the hospital has patients. You find that even the people in Makinon Road area, through which the Mzima Pipeline passes, are not allowed to use the water from that pipeline. Water is pumped to Mombasa through that area, but the people living there are not allowed to use it. I would, therefore, like the Ministry to review its stand and make water available to all Kenyans. The existing water facilities should be repaired. Mzima Pipeline, for example, leaks a lot of its water. A lot of its water gets wasted only for the Ministry to claim that there is no water. Marere Pipeline has been leaking all through. There has been no replacement of the old pipes with new ones to ensure that water reaches its destination. The Ministry should, therefore, make water available by putting up water tanks and dams, so that the people's living standards can be uplifted.

The Ministry is short of planning as far as afforestation is concerned. It should support tree planting efforts at all public institutions so as to maintain the current rainfall pattern in the country. The Forestry Department should provide the public with adequate tree seedlings for planting so as to avoid desertification. Israel is a very dry country but it produces adequate food, and has enough water, for its people. Israel has been leading the world in exports of flowers. Currently, Kenya leads in that trade, but it ought to have been leading ever since having had naturally good soil as well as sufficient water. I would, therefore, request the Ministry to focus more on water provision so that more flowers can be grown for export, so that the country can realise more foreign exchange from floriculture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shimoni Cave at the Coast has remained unattended to. That cave can easily attract tourists and bring to this country the much-needed foreign exchange. It is for that reason that I request the Ministry to think of providing some funds for facilities such as Shimoni Cave and promote the tourism industry. Whereas there may be good plans in place, the Ministry's personnel have really been failing this Ministry. I have specific examples to prove this. One of these is the construction of a dam at Mtangombe in Kinango Constituency; the Government of Kenya and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have put some Kshs1 million on that project, but the Ministry gave the project to a dubious contractor who went there and did a lot of nothing. I was there on Sunday. The job that was done by the contractor for Kshs1 million is not worth Kshs70,000. I have been reporting the matter to the officer in charge of water development in that District, but nothing has happened. I wonder why action has not been taken against such an officer.

Another example I would like to cite is Silaloni Dam, on which more than Kshs6 million was spent. However, the Dam has been haphazardly constructed, and the Ministry official in that area have done nothing about it. UNICEF even gave the officer in charge a free vehicle, but he uses it to travel from Mombasa to Changamwe on a daily basis. The vehicle's Work Ticket shows that the vehicle travels from Changamwe to Mombasa and to Kwale every morning and back to Changamwe in the evening. You wonder whether this officer serves two districts. His work station is Kwale, but he travels to Mombasa everyday using his official vehicle. Even if you report the matter to the Ministry, no action is taken. Does it mean that even the Ministry's Headquarters gets something from whatever this officer does in Kwale District? If the Minister confirms that he also gets something from that officer, I will be happy and forget about the issue. If he does not, I expect some disciplinary action to be taken against such officers.

Also, I would like the Ministry to ensure that its officials carry only passengers who pay bus fare. By this, I mean that they should be productive; whatever money we approve here, we should see the intended projects being implemented.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Murathe: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister--

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you protect me from Ms. Karua?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): You are protected.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry should speed up the implementation of the water policy once this House approves it. The policy Paper on water is currently being scrutinised by the Departmental

Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. The National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) should become operational. Probably tomorrow, we will scrutinise the specific amounts of money that have been allocated for re-forestation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk of the good job the Ministry is doing in water rehabilitation, we are also talking about the water catchment areas.

From the Ministry's Vote, we see that no money has been allocated for seedlings.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Mr. Murathe, you will have eight-and-a-half minutes tomorrow when the House reconvenes.

Hon. Members, it is now time for us to interrupt the Business of the House. So, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 17th October, 2001, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.