

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 22nd March, 2001

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

#### ASSENT TO BILLS

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon Members, pursuant to Section 46(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, His Excellency the President has assented to the following Bills:-

No.	Title	Date of Third Reading	Date of Assent
1.	The Supplementary Appropriation Bill	18.4.2000	27.4.2000
2.	The Treaty for the Establishment of East African Community Bill	7.6.2000	11.7.2000
3.	The Capital Markets Authority (Amendment) Bill	13.6.2000	1.8.2000
4.	The Central Depositories Bill	13.6.2000	1.8.2000
5.	The Constitution of Kenya Review (Amendment) Bill	25.7.2000	3.10.2000
6.	The Constitutional Offices Remuneration (Amendment) Bill	14.11.2000	11.12.2000
7.	The Maseno University Bill	15.11.2000	11.12.2000
8.	The Appropriation Bill	7.11.2000	16.11.2000
9.	The Parliamentary Service Bill	28.11.2000	29.12.2000
10.	The Finance Bill	21.11.2000	29.12.2000

In exercise of his powers under Section 46(4) of the Constitution of Kenya, His Excellency the President has declined to give assent to the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill 2000 and has required the House to reconsider the same in accordance with Section 46(5). The proposed amendments submitted by the President for reconsideration are as follows, and I quote:-

#### Clause 2

"Under Clause 2, the Bill does not specify the extent of application of the proposed law, particularly in relation to existing loans or advances. Accordingly, I recommend that the Bill be amended to clarify that the proposed law shall only apply to new or renewed contracts for loans. This is a very fundamental provision which requires to be explicitly stated in the Bill to avoid legal disputes relating to interpretation on the extent of application of the proposed law."

Clause 3

Under Clause 3, the proposed Section 39A contradicts Section 4 of the Central Bank of Kenya Act which vests the responsibility of formulating and implementing monetary policy in the Central Bank of Kenya. This engenders the appropriate macro-economic environment for enhancing price stability and is consistent with the practice worldwide. Further, the proposed transfer of the monetary formulation function to the Monetary Policy Committee would render Section 4B and 4C of the Act anomalous. Section 4B provides for the submission to the Minister of a monetary policy by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank at intervals of not more than six months while Section 4C provides for regular consultations on monetary policy between the Minister and the Bank. The latter Section also empowers the Minister to intervene and direct the bank in writing to adopt such monetary policy as the Minister may specify for a period of six months.

In view of the foregoing:-

(1) I recommend that subclause (4)(a) of Section 39A which proposes to vest the power to formulate monetary policy in the Monetary Policy Committee be deleted and the following subclause inserted:- (4)(a) to advise the Bank on the formulations and implementation of monetary policy including the levels of Treasury Bill rates referred to in Section 39.

This will ensure that the Monetary Policy Committee is not seen as taking away the Central Bank's primary role of formulation and implementation of monetary policy.

(2) I further recommend that the membership of the proposed Committee under subclause 39A(2) comprises the following:-

- (a) The Governor of the Central Bank who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank;
- (c) Chief Economist of the Central Bank;
- (d) The Director of Financial Markets of the Central Bank;
- (e) The Economic Secretary and Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance who shall be *ex-officio* members; and,
- (f) Five other members, of whom at least two shall be women, being persons with knowledge or expertise in matters relating to monetary policy appointed by the Minister."

These amendments will be reproduced as a Notice in the Orders of the Day for hon. Members to consider. The House shall accordingly be required to proceed in accordance with the provisions of Section 46(5) of the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

In simple terms, Section 46 enjoins this House - in fact commands this House to either accept the recommendations of the President with or without amendment or order that the President do assent to the Bill as it was originally presented. If you take that latter action under the Constitution, that must be supported by a resolution of not less than 65 per cent of the total membership of this House, excluding the Attorney-General and the Speaker.

Thank you.

### MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*(The Vice-President on 21.3.2001)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 21.03.2001)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Who was on the Floor? Mr. Kuria, you still have seven minutes to your credit. Proceed!

**Mr. Kuria:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to reiterate that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has been responsible for the poverty being experienced in this country. The officers in charge of this Ministry do not assist parents in making headteachers accountable for the money they collect. There are schools in this country which collect between Kshs2 million and Kshs3 million in a year, which is left entirely to headteachers of such schools. Some of the headteachers do not recognise the members of the Board of Governors. They spend the money without a budget or approval from the Board of Governors. They behave like executive officers in those schools.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should audit the monies paid by parents to secondary schools. It is a fact that all monies to run secondary schools, except teachers' salaries, are paid by the parents. Those who audit this money are other teachers who have been promoted to the rank of Inspector of Schools. They are

not accountants, hence they have no knowledge of the accounting system. School headteachers are supposed to prepare the books of accounts. But they only prepare a balance sheet detailing expenditure and income. These books are not checked by any auditors. If this Ministry was serious, it should have appointed accountants to look into the accounts of secondary schools. As a result of this, we have had so many strikes because these teachers spend money anyhowly. Some do not even purchase enough food for the students or buy books and at the end of the year, all the students who sit for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) get "Es" and "Ds" because there are no teaching materials. When asked about the poor results, headteachers complain that there was not enough money to buy books. The Minister was trying to regulate and put levels of school fees in order, but was unable, because he was defeated by these executive teachers. Some of those teachers travel all the way from upcountry to Nairobi to talk directly to the Ministry officials at the Headquarters. They do not even go through the Education Officers or District Education Officers. They have godfathers in Nairobi. Some of those teachers have been in one school for the last ten years, and they have never been transferred. Nobody can query their performance because their godfathers in Nairobi cannot let them be transferred. Parents have cried for a long time without any assistance from the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other Ministry which has brought poverty into the country, is the Ministry of Water Development. This Ministry has officers who do not have the interests of the country at heart. They are only there to wait for the salaries, but do nothing. We were promised that by 2000, we shall have piped water in every household. We are now in 2001, but we have not achieved that. Those officers, including the Minister have done nothing. In fact, they only talk of having no money. But if you looked at the Printed Estimates, the money voted for this Ministry is enough to tap water and supply it to *wananchi*. They will even be able to drill boreholes in dry areas for irrigation. They have been coming up with policy papers without results.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, engineers and other people who have been assigned these duties are not helping the Government. In the first paragraph of the President's Speech, he talked of education and health. If you go to the Ministry of Health, you would notice that there is practically nothing going on. The doctors simply write prescriptions on papers and give them patients to go and buy the drugs elsewhere. In my area, there are about four health centres in operation, but they have not received any drugs this year. We only received AIDS kits which have been used on other patients. When we request for drugs, we are told that they are supplied from the headquarters. I am happy that the President sacked the Minister for Medical Services who had been telling us that there was a lot of money and medicine would be available, and yet nothing has happened up to now.

We would like this Ministry to also consider the rural areas where we have no medicine, because the people in the rural areas pay taxes like others. What is really happening in this Ministry, when we have the money in the Vote for the medicine? My area has been marginalised by this Government, simply because it is a constituency where there are so many Government critics. But to criticise is to say that we do not have anything. We do not criticise for the sake of it.

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

**The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology** (Mr. Karauri): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

I commend the Presidential Speech which was well delivered. There are many things we must address, because the Presidential Speech cannot include everything. I personally wish to appeal to leaders, both in the Opposition and KANU, that when contributing, they should be pragmatic and tell us what could be done, for instance, to alleviate poverty. Mere condemnation will not take this country anywhere or help anybody.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have talked a lot about famine in this country, and we know that we have experienced famine almost every ten years, but we have done nothing about it. The money that is donated for famine relief is in excess of Kshs10 billion. That Kshs10 billion could be used to irrigate the dry areas. If we irrigate an area like North Eastern Province, it would be a net producer of food. We could even export food from there, especially fruits. That area is fertile. It is only water which is lacking. For how long shall we continue giving people relief food with funds that are in excess of what could have eliminated poverty completely? We should stop relying on rain water and put money where it is required. We should even ask the donors to give us money to irrigate the areas in the country that can produce food. We could even lease those areas to farmers who are serious, even from outside the country. They could irrigate those areas and produce food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must also strengthen agriculture. How do we do it? We could only do it by supporting the farmer. That is why I am happy that the STABEX funds will be released to the farmers. That will help them a lot. If we do not protect the farmer, we are simply paying lip service to poverty reduction or eradication. If we continue to import sugar, the sugar farmer will fold up. He will not be able to educate his children, and will remain poor. I do not know why we must blindly support liberalization. We are only allowed to export commodities that can be cheaply made in Africa to America. They do not open their market to everything that we produce. Why should we open our market to everything that the developed countries want to sell to us? We must think carefully before we accept everything the West is telling

us to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the fact that education is one of the causes of poverty in this country. I know I am an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, but there is nothing I can do alone. Leaders must discuss these issues and agree to reduce the cost of education in this country. We should have education that we can afford. For instance, why should we allow schools to put up churches in the school compound which cost them as much as Kshs20 million at the expense of the parents? It is as if those children cannot go to churches near the schools or they cannot attend masses in the dining hall or assembly halls. Why must we have those extra expenses? Boards of governors and parents associations are allowing this to happen. The poor parent cannot take his or her child to some of the national schools because of those unnecessary costs which have nothing to do with education. That for instance, why should a school have so many buses as if the children are on the road every day. It is sufficient to ask children - when there is a trip - to contribute even Kshs100. Why must parents be asked to buy so many buses for a school? Why a school should own a bus and a church in the compound.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is also something else which I find very curious, and that is why I said that leaders must discuss these issues and agree. That is, children in schools are told to buy blazers. Not many children under the age of 20 years want to wear jackets or blazers. Some blazers are quite expensive. In some schools, uniform alone that includes the blazer, shirt, socks, pair of shorts, shoes, hockey sticks and the rest costs about Kshs40,000 in addition to the fees. Parents have sold their land, cows and anything they can think of, to educate their children. They have been rendered poor. Why must we build monuments for education? Provided there is a blackboard, a good teacher, and the basic facilities, our children will just learn. Leaders must discuss and resolve these issues so that our people are not rendered poor by unnecessary education needs. I always hold the view that we do not even need school uniform in primary schools. Children at that age can go without shoes and uniform and be taught. In turn, parents will not be punished.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many roads in this country are very bad. It is unfortunate that Members of Parliament were told not to sit in the Roads Board Committees. There is nothing wrong with Members of Parliament sitting in those Roads Board Committees. When this decision was made in court, I read the Constitution three times. In this country, an elected Member of Parliament becomes a Minister in charge of a Ministry. What would stop another Member of Parliament from chairing a small committee? Where is the contradiction? The Minister for Roads and Public Works is an elected Member of Parliament, controlling all the money that is meant for roads in this country. He is not a signatory. Now, what would stop an ordinary Member of Parliament, like hon. Muniyasia, who has not been made a Minister, to be the Chairman of the Roads Board Committee. This matter must be reviewed because this Parliament enacted that Bill to ensure that money reaches the district level, so that the District Roads Engineer is not ordered from the headquarters to return the money. When hon. Members out there, they would act as watchdogs for the people and they would ensure that this money is properly utilised. This can only be so, if hon. Members of Parliament are not signatories to those accounts. This is just like a Minister who is controlling Kshs20 billion in his Ministry, but is not a signatory. I can assure you he gives direction on how much money should be spent on what, and how it should be utilised. He is also an elected Member of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy about the new direction in the District Development Committees. We have always complained about DDCs prioritising projects in the district. For instance, a District Commissioner in any district does not come from that district. All the heads of departments come from elsewhere. Now, those are the people who have been sitting in the DDC to prioritise development projects for that district. Now that it has been changed that the Chairman of the DDC can be a local person, there will be change. This is because the local people will have a voice in the DDC and will pinpoint their problems and give priorities for funding by the Government. In order to eradicate poverty in this country, we must all swear to fight corruption. There should be no lip-service about it. Let us fight it and ensure that these corrupt people are jailed. That is the only way. People learn by example so, they will not emulate people who have done wrong things.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Dr. Kituyi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. There was something I liked about the contribution by the Assistant Minister who has just been on the Floor; that we should not just criticise, but we should also suggest the way forward. I will do that: I will criticise and then suggest the way forward.

The Presidential Speech affords us an opportunity to say things that we think are urgent, many of which he may not have said. I looked at that Speech again and I think that the most important things were not said at all. First, the President of Kenya said that we must be accommodative. He said we must listen to reason, regardless of which side of the House it is coming from. Those were very nice words. I remember during the last KANU PG the Press reported that the President said that KANU Members should only vote for Motions originating from the Government and I was very worried. I am glad that he did not say that on Tuesday. I hope that his latest statement represents his latest wisdom and that we will not have this ping-pong between what is said in certain enclaves and what is said before all of us, representing contradictions in statements by the same person.

I was waiting to see the President reflect on matters that are urgent on Kenyans' minds right now. These are three things: Insecurity, HIV/AIDS and forests. I was listening and waiting and I am still waiting. We might say that you cannot say everything, but that is not an excuse not to say the most important thing. His Excellency said, in his wisdom, that he has to reflect the most urgent pleas of the citizens of this country and that he has seen what we have suffered because of the destruction of our rain catchment areas. He would have said as a gift to these citizens, he is reversing the decision to excise 167,000 acres from Government forests. This matter will not go away. It cannot be partisan. It cannot be excused. It is a crime against posterity if this generation, out of their greed for land and their misguided assumption that settling squatters is solving the unemployment problem, will sacrifice 10 percent of our limited forest resources. It was a blunder made, but it is a blunder that can be reversed. It is not too late. It would help if the President could appoint as Minister for Environment, a Minister who does not act as the Minister for Settlement; that the dominant logic in his statement is about settling squatters and not about protecting our eco-system.

I fear that our country is facing a major crisis of insecurity. Apart from the problems we are seeing in the Northern Rift, among the Pokots and the Marakwets, there are other problems in other areas which have not been brought to the limelight. We have very many less dramatic crises which we are not paying attention to. The long-term conflict of a declining eco-system and the competition between agriculture and pastoralism is a major engine of crisis of insecurity that cannot be addressed purely on the basis of some elders sitting with other elders and saying: "Let us make peace." Certainly, ecological mistakes that were made have to be reversed if a balance is to be found for lasting peace between pastoralists and cultivators. Increasingly, when you see the development of urban residences in this country, we are all turning our residences into forts with wire grills, alarm systems and guards. We are all threatened by each other because we are busy slaughtering each other. When the UN statistics suggested that we have become a very insecure town, instead of addressing the problem as ours, we want to say that: "They are cheating! We are not as bad as that. We are not among the worst."

The challenge to us as leaders is to ask ourselves if we could be better than what we are and what is going wrong that we must address. How do we resolve the poverty problem as a cardinal step in resolving the insecurity problem in this country? How do we go beyond lip service to find a lasting solution to the proliferation of illegal small arms among petty thieves and robbers? This is what collective responsibility entails. What is more worrisome to me is that we are not addressing the way forward that other societies are addressing today. We are looking back to the primary production sector which is important. There is insufficient attention in our dialogue about the way forward on the new economy. Let us consider what has been rejuvenating the Western economies over the past decade. At the core of the engine for manufacturing millionaires in the rest of the world over the past ten years, is the information technology [Dr. Kituyi]

revolution; how to get hooked on to the internet. The super highway has left us behind. It is time for us to start thinking even on matters of education. We should make it compulsory that every school that has electricity must introduce the study of information technology. This should not be introduced as an examinable subject, but as a compulsory exposure subject.

If we turn our backs on the new engine of the world economy, we can do all manner of micro-politics, but settling squatters will not reverse the economic rot of this country. It should become necessary. We should not just sympathise with poor parents and decide that the way forward is to say that since the parents are poor, children will go to school without shoes. The important issues are: Can we, under these circumstances, find out how those people with old shoes can know something about computer skills? Can we find a structure and facility for retrenched persons to learn new skills for the economy? These are challenges for the way forward and I do not think we are paying enough attention to them.

It is good that the hon. Minister talked about the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA). It is a very important initiative. It may be insufficient for our purposes, but it is a very important step forward in America opening up a fraction of its market to us. I have two fundamental problems in our country about that. First of all, I want to appreciate and acknowledge the speedy role that the Minister for Tourism and Trade has played to ensure that, that opportunity is utilised by this country. However, there are two fundamental problems. In this country there is sufficient domestic potential to generate the textile resources to satisfy Kenya's quota in the AGOA possibility. I do not find it acceptable or even good for the country's interest that we should try to encourage investors from South Asia to come here and make Kenya a commercial ship of Bangladesh, off the shore of Africa, to export textiles assembled from here to America. We should look at ways of reviving the collapsed textile industry in Kenya as a basis of exploiting the opportunity offered by AGOA.

There is a second problem I have concerning this issue. Kenya runs a serious risk of even losing the possibilities of AGOA today. Whereas we have satisfied most of the procedural requirements, we are sliding further on governance conditionalities because AGOA also comes into this. Our inability to respect our own Constitution and the citizen rights of persons whose views you may not share, is not just ugly to us, but even to those who want to offer us opportunities.

It becomes such a shame for us as a nation that the incentive for us to disabuse ourselves of boasting around as leaders; the incentive for us not to send anti-riot police to beat up people because you do not like them and to chase hon. Kirwa from his constituency because you do not like him, does not come out of our own belief that good manners is good for us. It comes out of an attitude that, if you do not do it, those who potentially give us an opportunity might deny us that opportunity.

If at this turn of the 21st Century, as a country, we cannot tell ourselves that the days of bad manners, abuse of public office, using office to make it uncomfortable for those whose views we do not like belong to a past generation, no amount of goading by the IMF and the World Bank or intimidation by the possibility of losing our quota in AGOA will be sufficient in teaching us good manners. This generation will live to regret the lost opportunity due to that conduct. As we start a new Session I wish us to take this opportunity to genuinely commit ourselves to the expansion of democratic space and the demolition of the very popular bad manners that have characterised our conduct and diminished our standing in civilised society.

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Marrirmoi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion on the Presidential Address.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will direct my contribution straightaway to the issue of insecurity in this country. I do not have strength as I am talking now, because of what happened on that fateful day; the 12th of March, 2001, when my people were massacred. As I speak now, over 10,000 people have been rendered homeless and are living in the cold in their home areas just due to cattle rustlers. Who are these cattle rustlers? As hon. Members of the august House, we need to discuss the issue of security in this country. Let us not take it lightly because those who were massacred are Kenyan citizens and are children of this land who have the right to live and do what other Kenyans are doing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Murkutwo Location, 45 people including children, teachers and women, who have nothing to do with cattle rustling, were massacred. Let us be serious about this issue of insecurity. I am requesting the Minister concerned to try and tackle this issue of insecurity in Marakwet East Constituency and Marakwet District as a whole. We should also look at what the Constitution says about the rights of Kenyans and what the laws of this land say about cattle rustling. This is because we should not take the question of massacring people in my constituency as a mere act of cattle rustling. These are groups of gangsters who should be followed. We should also establish where they come from and where they live. Moreover, we should find out where they get dangerous firearms from which can overrun a full police station. This is a very serious matter which should not be taken lightly. Cattle rustling in Marakwet East Constituency has economically reduced my people to beggars. It is unfortunate that some of us who are agriculturalists and semi-pastoralists are facing a lot of problems and we need to look at this issue of insecurity seriously. Sometimes people talk and say many things, but here we are dealing with human life which is being lost.

Mr. Speaker, we need to control incidents caused by cattle rustlers and we should not take the matter lightly. For instance, when over 2,000 people are regrouping, where are those people responsible for the maintenance of security, like the assistant chiefs and the chiefs? I am at a loss!

**An hon. Member:** You should resign!

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Marrirmoi) Mr. Speaker, the issue of resigning does not even arise here. Let us tackle this issue of cattle rustling and establish what exactly should be done. It is not a laughing matter! Some of you might have lost your uncles and sisters because we are generous, developed and we have married from all areas of this Republic. So, it is not a laughing matter, but a very serious one which needs to be tackled with a lot of care. Even the Departmental Committee responsible for security in this country should sit down and---

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to keep mourning and mourning over incidents occasioned by people from his own Government?

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Marrirmoi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I knew what Mr. Gatabaki was going to say because he sounds like a madman. When he talks that way, I disagree with him and I may ask the Chair to go and check to establish whether his conscience is really okay.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Gatabaki, the Member of Parliament for Githunguri Constituency, should not play around with the issue of security in this country. This is a very serious matter and we have to tackle it. These are the kind of people who wish to see such calamities happen so that they can have something to come here and talk about. As Members of Parliament, we need to sit down and eradicate this insecurity in this country completely so that Kenyans can be free to move around and do development activities. You can imagine a situation where over 2,000 pupils are not going to school. Let us not politicise this matter, but instead we should try to tackle it. It is my concern as a Member of Parliament for that community to defend those who were affected. This matter should be looked into. We should even re-visit the cattle rustling issue so that we do reach a situation whereby we should be saying that, "a cattle rustler has just passed nearby driving animals away". This is not the issue of mere cattle rustling. These people might be commercial businessmen who sat somewhere, and decided to use the same loopholes used by cattle rustlers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really requesting this august House to look at this matter very seriously and come to the

aid of our people because they are living in the cold now. I am happy that the Minister in charge of internal security visited the area and saw for himself what happened and I am sure he is doing something about this issue of cattle rustling. I do not have much to say about this issue now, because I am just waiting to see what action the Minister in-charge of internal security is going to do with regard to the killings of these innocent Kenyans.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kerio Valley is a very good destination for tourists because and it has rich tourists attractions, but this issue of cattle rustling has rendered this area useless and the people have deserted their homes. For how long are we going to wait and see schools and institutions remaining closed due to insecurity in the area?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now I am confused because of what happened in Kerio Valley. I am very serious and I need the support of the entire House so that we can eradicate insecurity in this country. We want to discuss this issue and bring it into its logical conclusion. We cannot accept to lose life just because of some people practising cattle rustling. I need to be told who these people are; where they come from; where they sleep, and where they keep the sophisticated weapons, which they use. Do they have a right to massacre people?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to hear contributions from hon. Members of Parliament from those areas condemning these activities of insecurity in the region so that we can join hands together to eradicate such activities in the area in order for it to develop like other parts of Kenyan.

**Mr. Mwenje:** There is insecurity in Embakasi also!

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Marrirmoi):** Hon. Mwenje may talk about insecurity in his constituency, but what we are experiencing in Marakwet East Constituency is a very serious thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really concerned about this issue and I request the Government to pursue those culprits and bring them to book. We need to hear that somebody has been taken to a court of law regarding the killings in Murkutwo Location and charged with murder. This is the way forward. I am happy because the Minister in charge of internal security visited the area and was concerned about the killings of the children and I hope this should end in forthwith.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request to Members of Parliament who are really concerned over this matter should come out with something to offer to these people who are suffering, like a blanket or anything, instead of just talking about the matter. Let us really show that we are concerned about this matter because we have lost our people through these activities.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

**Mr. Gatabaki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address.

Today's Motion is about thanking the President for the exposition of public policy. I have no quarrel with the previous speaker who dwelt at length on cattle rustling in this august House, while responding to the Address by the President. I wish the President listened to one of his Assistant Ministers who rose up severally on the issue of cattle rustling and he would be ashamed to have that hon. Member as one of his Assistant Ministers.

However, for the first time, I listened to the President throughout his Address. I did not walk out. I respected the President because I wanted to hear what he would say about the 22 years of his bad Presidency. When the President departed from his written Address and spoke from his heart, his intention was very clear. I listened to him throughout and, thereafter, I had the opportunity of repeating the words of the President to hon. Nassir and hon. Biwott. I told them that the President said that he would retire. Therefore, I told them that this idea of telling him that he should continue ruling into eternity is their own. They are inciting the President of the Republic of Kenya. There is no reason for him continuing beyond the year 2002. However, the President should have been categorical in indicating that, come the year 2002, he will quit and go back to his Kabarak home and look after his sheep and goats.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say this because of the kind of uncertainty created by the succession talk. During lunch time, I had the opportunity of telling hon. Raila Odinga that my daughters keep listening to one o'clock news to hear whether the hon. Raila Odinga has been named the Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya. When I came here to listen to the Presidential Address, I did not expect the Benches behind me to be occupied by these National Development Party's (NDP's) characters. I expected them to be Back-Benchers on the KANU side.

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Gatabaki in order to refer to NDP's Members of Parliament as "characters" when we are hon. Members?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! That is totally out of order. Mr. Gatabaki! You must respect your friends and colleagues and refer to them in dignified and honourable terms. I, therefore, order that you withdraw immediately, and apologise, the use of the term "these NDP characters".

**Mr. Gatabaki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, considering that they sit in the Opposition side and tell the President that they want their party to merge with the ruling party, they do not qualify to be---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Gatabaki, you have no choice in this matter. It is an order and thou shall comply with that order before you utter any further word! Proceed and apologise!

**Mr. Gatabaki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of time, I regret calling my colleagues "characters", when they are distinguished hon. Members of Parliament from NDP.

However, the issue in this country is political stability. No country on earth can ever hope to go forward unless the political institutions and the systems of Government are secure, and the leadership of that country provides the political leadership and stability. As I speak, nobody knows for certain the future of our nation, when the President will leave office and the fate of the Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya. Nobody knows for certain whether there will be Ministers tomorrow or not, why the President has not replaced the late hon. Lotodo and hon. Anangwe, and whether we are going forward.

**Mr. Raila:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Gatabaki in order to talk about respect for institutions in this country, when he himself, does not respect his party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP)? Is he, therefore, speaking as an hon. Member of GEMA? Is he in order to deceive the House?

**Mr. Gatabaki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is talking about GEMA, but GEMA is a political system on its own and it controls 70 per cent of the economy of this nation.

However, I am talking about the political stability. Nobody knows for certain, the fate of the "Dream Team". Nobody knows whether Dr. Richard Leakey will continue in office and where we are going to. Even when the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), come to Nairobi, they come to ask the President of Kenya to provide the political stability this nation deserves.

I do not think the Presidential Address requires any exposition because it is not an exposition of public policy. It is a litany of what the President has failed to do. We have no business being politically and collectively involved in the misdeeds of this system. Ours is to retrench this system. The duty of the President is to present the failures of his system and what he intends to do to put an economy that has collapsed back on track. Our economy is growing at 0.3 per cent. This is almost negative growth rate. President Moi is responsible for that. Twenty two years of his leadership is what has brought this country to its knees. He has no business looking to us for sympathy. He does not require sympathy; he needs to come and tell us what former President Yeltsin told the people of Russia on the eve of 1999, that he was quitting the Presidency of the Russia in order to give a new person a chance. President Moi should have that capacity instead of taking this country again and again to the quagmire of political instability and economic paralysis. Above all, I wish to say how angry I am about this system. You can look at the person who has squandered the opportunity of leadership.

We are looking at a country which has 60 per cent of its people living in absolute poverty. If there are violations of human rights, is there greater violation than that? Please, you should not forgive this system for the mess it has created for Kenyans. Here it is wanting to have another five-year-term in power. It wants to have another five-year-term to reduce its people to that kind of impoverishment.

I wish we could use the next few months to try to convince this system and President Moi that time for him to quit, and for KANU to recognise the evils it has committed, has come. He should stand up and do what the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere did. He stood up and told his people: "My dear citizens, I have failed; forgive me and I have quit the office of the President of Tanzania". This is what leadership and greatness are all about. They are not about hanging on in office until a country "dies" because of bad management.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I wish to categorically condemn President Moi's Address in the strongest language possible.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity, to say a few words about the Presidential Speech. From the outset, I think the President covered almost all the aspects that affect our communities. I would like to echo the sentiments expressed by hon. Marrimoi, and condemn in the strongest terms possible, the attack that took place in Marakwet the other day, where so many Marakwets were killed by their neighbours; the Pokots. We must find a lasting solution to the perennial cattle rustling problem in those areas. The reasons why that area has not developed is because the people are engaged in the game of cattle rustling, and other practices that should have gone with civilisation. There are gangsters who are not cattle rustlers, who buy guns from the neighbouring countries, and from within our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, still on the subject of insecurity, I would like to request the Government to establish a Police Commission. I have said that before on the Floor of this House, and I would like to repeat it. It should be established to look into the terms and conditions of work for our policemen. The policemen earn very meagre salaries. Their salaries are not enough to educate their children. They even sleep in one room! The salary that a policeman gets is almost equivalent to that of a watchman. It is a very serious issue. If we want to have security in this country--- For example, Nairobi Province is inhabited by so many foreigners. If we want to keep our good name, we must look after those people. The only people who can look after them are the security people. So, their remuneration, education for their children and transport needs to be looked into.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we talk about the alleviation of poverty--- We have held so many meetings and seminars



in this country, and came up with ways and means of alleviating poverty. But I think it is high time we went into action. We should put in practice what we have discussed. We should construct dams because in our country, we have a lot of rain water. If we harvest that water, and stop it from flowing into the Indian Ocean or Lake Victoria and into the River Nile, we will be able to alleviate poverty. We have many rivers in this country. Those rivers need to be harnessed so that we could have water in the dry areas; that is, North Eastern Province, Samburu, Turkana and parts of Keiyo. The land is very arable and suitable for the growing of cash crops, grains and other crops. I know Dr. Omamo could be a witness to that because he was once a Minister for Agriculture, and he knows those areas. Those areas have potential and could produce enough food for our people, and even have a surplus for export. But that can only be achieved if we are serious!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our officers in the field are very hardworking. But we have others who are corrupt! We must get rid of corrupt public servants. We should not hide or keep people who are enriching themselves by stealing from the public coffers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to farm inputs, they are very expensive. Rains have now come but the price of seed maize, which is our staple food, is beyond the reach of an ordinary farmer. Right now, a bag of seed maize weighing 25 kilograms costs Kshs3,300. No farmer can afford to buy a bag of seed maize to go and plant! Equally, the price of fertiliser is very high. A bag of fertiliser costs Kshs1,350. We should help our farmers. If we do that, we can reduce the level of poverty in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), we need to re-introduce the loans to farmers. Loans that have been advanced to farmers and have not been re-paid should be written off. If we cannot write off the whole amount, we can write off the principal amount, so that our people can plant enough grains to feed the nation. The cotton industry, which was almost dead, is being revived. I am happy that the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development is working round the clock to rehabilitate that sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country could earn a lot of money by encouraging tourism. I would like to congratulate the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry for working very hard to publicise tourism in this country. As we speak now, I am sure there are many tourists who are coming to our country. If we can improve our security, tourism could flourish and we could get a lot of money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would now like to speak on the issue of importation of grains. I think we should penalise people importing maize, sugar and wheat from countries which are not members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). I am sure that we have not exhausted our stocks of maize and wheat from the recent harvest. Some unscrupulous traders are using the COMESA arrangement to bring in sugar from other countries, purporting to have imported it from the COMESA region. So, we must be watchful. The Kenya Bureau of Standards should also be very careful and ensure that commodities being imported into this country are fit for human consumption. Some of the commodities being brought into the country are not fit for human consumption.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Ngure:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with part of the President's Address, and also highlight its shortcomings, especially its failure to address some of the country's natural resources that have not been tapped appropriately. But, first of all, although hon. Gatabaki is not in at the moment, allow me to appreciate his sentiments that the quality of the leadership of the National Development Party (NDP) does not only impress him, but has also impressed his wife and moved his daughter. I would advise the hon. Member that the road to NDP is open even for his daughter, and that the leadership of the NDP in this country is clearly defined. So, he should not have sleepless nights over it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from a fish producing area. In his Address, the President paid tribute to the fact that the European Union (EU) now accepts the exportation of fish from Lake Victoria to its member countries. He noted that we are now going to enjoy exporting fish to the EU. But are we prepared to exploit that natural resource? How are we going to reach the EU market if we do not have roads leading to the beaches, or electricity in those areas, and if our people have no access to money to enable them develop fish production? I would like to see a situation where the fisherman feeds fish from lake into the factory and onto the aeroplane that takes it to Europe. Although the EU now accepts our fish, the indigenous fisherman will remain poor due to exploitation by middlemen, who do not even know how to fish. The fisherman spends sleepless nights in the lake, but when he brings his catch to the beach, the price for his fish is determined by somebody who did not spend even a minute to catch the fish. We can only arrest this situation by introducing electricity and access roads to the beaches, to enable the fisherman to bargain for good prices.

While addressing the issue of the drought, the President said that we have been endowed with rain and that we can now grow food crops. However, I would like to point out that some people, and particularly those in my constituency, did not benefit from the *El Nino* Fund despite the fact that they were as affected as those who benefited massively from that Fund. Those people did not benefit from that Fund because any of their produce was destroyed, but rather because streams in their areas overflowed their banks and they did not know how to swim. So, they could not move around

normally. Those people lost absolutely nothing to the *El Nino* floods, but they gained enormously from the *El Nino* Fund. So, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the Government to consider Bondo, my home district, when it distributes the "residue" of the *El Nino* Fund.

Besides that, although we have planted, following the recent rains, we have not yet reaped any produce from those farms. So, the exercise of relief food distribution in that area should not have stopped just because the rains have fallen. We do not eat rain. When you see that rain has fallen in my constituency, you should not stop the distribution of famine relief food. That supply was meant to replace what we lost during the drought. So, when we consider some of these things we wonder why our areas have not been considered as arid and semi-arid areas. I know that I do not look like somebody who comes from an arid area. However, I have, in me, the potentiality of leadership; that is why I look like this. But my people live in very unproductive areas. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to consider my district whenever it allocates funds for relief food supplies to arid and semi-arid areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I speak here, Muhoroni and Miwani Sugar Factories are collapsing. Why should the sugar industry collapse? Sugar-cane farmers are owed enormous amounts of money. The farmers grew cane, harvested and delivered it to the factories. The cane was crushed, sugar produced and the stores of those factories are empty. Why have the farmers not been paid? Next time, we might bring to this House a Bill for enactment into a law that will require factories to only charge farmers for crushing their cane and hand over the sugar to the farmers to sell.

Factories cannot claim not to have made money when it crushed farmers' cane, produced and sold sugar. We are appealing to the Government, particularly when we still have the Kenya Sugar Authority (KSA) in place, to look into ways and means of reviving the sugar industry, particularly Muhoroni and Miwani Sugar Factories. Those factories can do that, simply, by converting what they owe to the Government and the farmers into equity, raising money afresh, repairing the factories and letting them to be, once again, productive. Those factories are the life-line for cane production. Even if we shout ourselves hoarse and continue to succumb to the demands of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the sugar industry will not be revived. We cannot rely on the Bretton Woods institutions. The two institutions will only dictate to us the terms and type of Government we should have. The person who becomes the President of this Republic will not make any sense to us, because he will be furthering the interests of the World Bank and the IMF. Those are the fellows who always want to dictate to the poor.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the road network has been talked about. We have talked about African Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA) and there is no need of talking about it, if we cannot revive the cotton industry. We cannot talk about AGOA when the KICOMI has collapsed; we cannot talk about AGOA when we think that our quota will be fulfilled by some (Ceylonese ?), as investors. What we should do is to develop the cotton industry. We must ensure that the cotton farmer is paid for his cotton when he delivers it. When the farmer will know that he will get money for his cotton when he delivers it, first of all, he will grow it and he will not inter-grow it with maize. At the moment, the farmer inter-grows cotton with maize because he wants to guarantee himself food, because he is not sure whether he will be paid for the cotton. That is what brought about the collapse of the cotton industry which is the backbone of the economy of many parts of this country. To some of us, it is the whole mark of our wealth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion, but the Government should look at the country in total and not sectionally.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Achuka:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to this Motion about the Presidential Address. What the President recommended in the Speech was reasonable and beneficial to the country, if it is implemented.

I would like to touch on the security in the country. We will all agree that security is life and development. I would like to say that we cannot move from one place to another and do anything without security. The security situation in the country is worrying and the wananchi of this country are afraid and worried. This is because security has deteriorated. I would like to say that people live in fear because there is insecurity all over the country. The Chair must have heard of skirmishes some time back in Tana River, Isiolo, Wajir and Marakwet, where more than 60 families were massacred. This is a major problem facing the country.

*(Laughter)*

This is not a laughing matter. It is very shameful for a blessed country to be destroyed in this manner. I would like to give an example of Turkana South Constituency, which I represent in Parliament. Within three months, the Pokot living in Kenya in collaboration with those living in Uganda, have made more than 20 raids and killed more than 68 families.

**An hon. Member:** They are here!

**Mr. Achuka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people injured many people and drove away all the goats.

*(Mr. Poghismo moved from his place  
to sit next to Mr. Nyachae)*

**Mr. Shidiye:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Achuka to threaten his Pokot colleagues in the House? I can see hon. Poghismo almost running away.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Achuka, did you threaten hon. Poghismo?

**Hon. Members:** No!

**Mr. Speaker:** I thought you were---

**Mr. Achuka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think hon. Shidiye is ignorant of what I am saying.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Poghismo:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It will not be in good faith for my colleague, hon. Achuka, to refer to the Pokot as having killed the Turkanas. Those are thugs and they [Mr. Poghismo] must have been bandits who did that and not the Pokot. Would it, therefore, not be in order for him to just spare the Pokot and use the words "thugs" and "bandits"?

**Mr. Achuka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expect hon. Poghismo to accept the truth.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Members:** Yes!

**Mr. Poghismo:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Let him say his piece and I promise that I will give hon. Poghismo the next chance. Proceed, hon. Achuka.

**Mr. Achuka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Poghismo is the one who manoeuvres and he is responsible for these raids.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Mr. Achuka, I have given you an opportunity to express your views but you must do so in conformity with the Standing Orders, which bar you from discussing the conduct of an individual hon. Member without a Substantive Motion. I will not allow you to discuss Mr. Poghismo. Talk about the problem of the people of Turkana. That is why I said on Tuesday, I will give every hon. Member a chance to speak about the problems of his people. Proceed, hon. Achuka!

**Mr. Achuka:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for advising me. I would like to say that when all these animals were taken away and the families were killed, the security personnel were there. What is wrong with the security system in this country? Do they not mind beefing up security or are they ignorant? Are they "insecurity promoters"?

*(Laughter)*

I am saying this because we have all the security personnel who have the capacity to contain that problem, but they are reluctant and do not plan to look after the property of wananchi and their lives. In my constituency, the areas where raids constantly take place are Nakwamoruk in Kainuk Division and Lokori in Lukwamosi, where 14 women were killed by our neighbours; the Pokot. This is a very serious issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, Mr. Achuka!

**Mr. Poghismo:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have reasons to believe Mr. Achuka is misleading this House. The Pokot could not have moved to the villages in his constituency and killed people. There are bad people in that community who may have moved there. I think it is misleading to think that the Pokot in their totality moved into that village. I think the word "Pokot" should not be used here.

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Who are you informing?

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): I am informing Mr. Poghismo, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would you like to be informed, Mr. Poghismo?

**Mr. Poghisio:** Not by that hon. Member!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Have you accepted?

**An hon. Member:** Yes!

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. How else do you explain when the Pokot are attacking Marakwet, Samburu, Turkana and other people, as if we are at war?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order all of you! One thing that will not happen here is tribal warfare. So, I warn all of you! I am not going to be accused in the same way as the police by the hon. Achuka; that I have promoted warlike activities in this Chamber. It will not happen. So, all of you are going to be disciplined. Listen to each other and reply to each other. Much more important, go back home and reconcile the people. Proceed.

**Mr. Achuka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of insecurity in the country is very serious. The Government should take measures to address the problem before it becomes dangerous! If the security personnel have failed in their responsibilities, let the Government appoint another body and the security services be privatised. Let every community mobilise its resources to have security systems in place since the security personnel have failed. We cannot continue to be frustrated and killed because of lack of security.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

**Mr. Poghisio:** I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I would like to congratulate His Excellency the President for the Speech that was very well balanced and one that focused on the state of the nation. If the Speech covered the state of the nation, there is no way anybody can argue that it is not a good speech because it did cover what the nation is like at that moment. The President is entitled to that kind of **[Mr. Poghisio]**

Speech. I agree that was a very well balanced Speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issues touched in that Speech, the ones that come to the fore right now and those that are very hot on the Floor, have to do with insecurity. Therefore, I would begin with that. The job of a politician, especially Members of Parliament of these days, must be a tough one. A person who is a Member of Parliament must be working and if he is not working, he has to be seen to be working. I find that is what my colleagues from Turkana are doing, trying to prove that they are working. The truth of the matter is that cattle rustling is an age-old practice. By the turn of the 20th Century, the Turkana were already armed to the teeth with modern weapons when other pastoralists did not even have guns. So, they are more experienced in ownership and handling of guns than any of the other pastoralists put together. In fact, that is why my colleague, hon. Achuka, left the Army to come to this House.

**Mr. Achuka:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think hon. Poghisio is insisting and misleading the House by referring to cattle rustling as a very old system.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, because Standing Order No.1 gives you the power to make the final decision on certain issues, I would advise in future that my colleague actually tries to communicate in the other language allowed in this House. The reason I stand today and speak to Kenyans as a nationalist---

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Each one of us must be proficient in two languages before we come to the House. Is it in order for any one of us to restrict another on which language of the two he should use when he contributes?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! He is totally out of order! I think Mr. Achuka was clearly understood by the House. Proceed!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with you. I think the HANSARD staff will have a hard time writing his speech.

**Mr. Shidiye:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Poghisio to mislead the House? Hon. Achuka passed the proficiency examination to come to this House. He is equally a competent person.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Mr. Shidiye, who told you to help me? You are out of order! Proceed!

**Mr. Poghisio:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When I hear Kenyans speak as if they are trying to create animosity and hatred for a people called the Pokot, I have to stand up and speak. I think what has been going on in this House since

yesterday, including the speech by the Leader of the Official Opposition, is to put the blame squarely in the place where it does not belong. Cattle rustling is done by bandits or wrongdoers or criminals who should be isolated from any community and sent to jail. It is not the community that must be condemned. I think they are spending a lot of time misleading the world that the Pokot are bad people. Generally, the Pokot are ideally good people except for the few bandits. The Marakwet, if the world must know, started by killing Pokot children.

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Marrirmoi): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is he in order to mislead this House that the Marakwet killed children? I am not aware of that!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Order, hon. Members! You must give Mr. Poghisio a chance to be heard.

**Mr. Poghisio:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. For the same reason that it is painful when I said that the Marakwet killed children, it is the same reason that it is painful to say the Pokot did this and that. It is not the Pokot or the Marakwet, it is the criminals in those societies who have committed those crimes. We cannot allow them to govern or rule us. We cannot glorify them and that is what we seem to be doing here. When I listened to KBC Radio and Television, saying that the Pokot raided these people and killed so many; the same people who are supposed to be the sources of information do not know how to classify the good citizens from the bad ones. Those people belong in jail and we condemn their activities. They should be isolated and not glorified. I heard the Minister of State, Office of the President, live on television, comparing those people who carried out the raid with animals. It is possible that he was quite emotional about it, but at least, he had time to think about what he was going to say. When he comes, he should take the earliest opportunity to apologise over those remarks. Human beings are human beings, and there are bad and good ones. If we go by what is in the recorded tape of his speech where he says that the Pokots are animals, then, hon. Members from those areas must be "barking" here. This is because as it was said, they are representing animals, but the truth is that they are representing human beings. I think they are hon. Members who represent honourable members of the society.

I would like again, to come to the remarks I read in a newspaper which were attributed to my colleague from Turkana Central.

**Mr. Achuka:** On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Poghisio, would you like to be informed?

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in which language?

**Mr. Speaker:** Any language!

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Achuka, try Kiswahili!

**Mr. Achuka:** Bw. Spika, acha niseme yafuatayo. Ikiwa wavamizi 600 wamevamia watu wengine, ni nani ambaye amehusika? Ni mtu mmoja au ni jamii yote?

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that information was not necessary as you can tell. My colleague from Turkana Central was saying yesterday, that the Government has armed the Pokots against the other communities. That is an insult, and an insult goes either way. It is an insult to the intelligence of any person in this country because it raises this question: Who has armed the Turkanas and Marakwets who are fighting each other? Those are the kind of questions one should be asking himself or herself. If the Pokots have been armed by the Government, then, the Marakwets and Turkanas have been armed by the Government. So, what is the big deal? I think some of the utterances are akin to what I said; people trying to prove to their people that they are working through their utterances and cheap publicity. I would like---

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think you overruled hon. Achuka; that he cannot discuss hon. Poghisio. Hon. Poghisio says that we cannot discuss about the Pokot community and goes ahead to mention Marakwets as a community. Then, he went ahead to discuss me; that I am trying to prove to my people that I am working. I do this job with a lot of pleasure. I do not need to prove to anybody and at least, not to hon. Poghisio.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. Order! I think I have given hon. Members from the warring communities enough time to ventilate over that issue, but I think that if we proceed further on this line, we will be promoting war-like activities from the Floor of the House. I think it is the duty of this National Assembly to temper everybody and we must stop that now. I think enough is enough, and let us now talk about something else!

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Poghisio has not finished yet!

**Mr. Poghisio:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to suggest something here; that the leaders from these communities must get together and get their acts together. Nobody condones cattle rustling. We should do away with it, but the Government has a hand in that. The Government must invest in the interests of these groups so that they can be pacified, in order for them to live in peace.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the person who has been standing longest is hon. Mwenje!

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Speech must be read together with other speeches which the

President has made elsewhere, since it is meant for all of us to consume it. If you read it together with what has been said elsewhere, the President was almost clear that it has come--- Indeed, he referred to a Government which is coming and which is not his. He said that when the other Government comes, he would expect that both sides of the House would be working together. Towards the end of Kenyatta's era, if you said that Kenyatta was old or if you dreamt that Kenyatta was old and might be dying, you could have been charged with treason. Equally, now that the President has made his position clear, it should be the same; that any person seen or giving an indication of inciting the President to continue to rule this country should be charged with incitement. I think it is time that some people were charged with inciting the President to continue ruling this country. Let it be very clear that, even if the Government does not take them to court, we shall provide for private prosecution of those who are inciting the President to continue ruling this country and they will be charged with incitement. They are known, and they know themselves.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after all, regarding an incitement charge, I was recently charged with inciting some people to attack the Minister for Local Government, hon. Kamotho. If you can incite a Minister, then, there is no reason why somebody should not be charged with inciting the President. The President was quite clear here that even if we have divergent views, we should tolerate one another. If that is the case, why is it then that those expressing divergent views, like the Mageuzi Group, are being beaten thoroughly by the police for simply expressing their divergent views? Is that a sign of tolerance? Are they being tolerated? What is said here should be practised outside and, therefore, if anybody gives a divergent view, he or she should be tolerated.

A number of hon. Members have been reduced to cripples and their hands have been broken. They have been beaten by the police for simply expressing divergent views. If what the

**[Mr. Mwenje]**

President said here is being practised, why are they then being beaten by the police? Why is it that when hon. Kirwa expresses divergent views in his area, he is being stopped from holding a public meeting or even a Harambee in his own constituency? Let us practise what we are saying here, but not just say it by mouth, and then we do not practise it. When a situation of that nature arises, you will find many police officers going to such meetings in three lorries. The other day, I was taken to Loitokitok by ten police officers, and yet you cannot get police officers to sort out problems facing the Pokots, Turkanas and Marakwets. Where were the police officers when those things were happening? Were they simply taking hon. Mwenje to Loitokitok?

*(Laughter)*

Why must we waste public funds in doing such a small thing when we have a real problem that should be addressed? Why is somebody getting scared of a few individuals? Why should I not be arraigned before a court in the City? That shows how mighty I am! And let it be so.

We would have expected to be told here that "we are still waiting---" This is because we have been talking about poverty eradication and yet, a lot of money is being used to conduct seminars. At the same time, the Government continues to hold Kshs6 billion belonging to farmers in the form of STABEX funds. What poverty eradication plans are we discussing, when we cannot release the STABEX funds to the farmers? When the President went to Kandara, I expected that he would have carried with him a cheque of the STABEX funds and release it to the farmers. There is no point wooing a particular tribe to join you, and yet you are not helping them. That is why I said that we should read this Presidential Speech together with other speeches that the President has made elsewhere. This is because when you tell some people that they do not understand you, yes, I believe it is the other way round that you do not understand them. Somebody should understand a community and know why a particular community will not follow him. If I was a Marakwet Minister, I would have resigned today from this Government. This is in order to prove your position, that you are here because of your people and not because of your stomach. Why have we not seen that kind of situation? Who should have provided security to these people? It is the same Government we are talking about which has Ministers from the same community and they are not talking about it. Why and what are we here for? If I know that I do not represent my people in Embakasi, I would rather resign. Why are they not doing it to prove what we are saying by action and not just by word of mouth?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are reaching a time where everybody will carry his own cross. There will be no Simon of Cyrene, here where some people will carry other people's crosses. It is time everybody carried his responsibility. We are now going to the succession era and that is why we have all agreed to the merger because we all

want to reach a situation where we all agree. However, we should not forget that we have responsibilities towards the people who actually elected us here. The police should not be misused to harass some people. In any case, when you harass a Member of Parliament you make him more popular. In fact, as I stand here today, I can get over 80,000 votes not because I have played my part, but because of that harassment. Others are being "known". By harassing hon. Orengo and the rest, you are simply making him more popular. Let the Government understand this, and you as a politician should know this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with those who said that the District Roads Committee (DRC) should continue working irrespective of those court orders. This is because if orders do not serve our people, we can simply ignore them and my DRC in Nairobi will continue working. This is because I believe whatever was happening there is not in agreement with what they passed there. If it is a question of amendments, we can amend. We do not have to sign, but I agree with hon. Karauri that the DRCs should continue working.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of forests, let it be known that we will not allow anybody to excise them. If it is a question of settling squatters, like I have always personally advocated, let it just be the squatters, and let us be told who and how many they are. However, that should not be used as an excuse to destroy 167,000 hectares of forests so that we can now make other areas deserts. For whatever reason, whoever wants to do this, we know why. This will not be allowed, and as we protected Karura Forest, we are going to protect the rest of the forests. We will not allow it even if it means physical confrontation. We will be ready to stop it; we are not going to allow the forests to be destroyed. Let this be clearly known.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been having a big problem with those children who are studying abroad. The Ministry of Education must now come out clear and tell us why is it that we voted Kshs3 billion here for bursaries for our children who are studying abroad and yet the money is never sent to the universities? Several universities are complaining that they have never received this money which we voted here and which was sent to the respective embassies abroad. I happen to be in the Foreign Affairs Committee. We will have to find out why the embassies are holding funds which

**[Mr. Mwenje]**

should go to the universities. For the last two to three years, the Ministry of Education has not been sending the money, and yet we voted for the money here for bursaries for our children studying abroad. These things are showing inefficiency on the Government of the day, and it is time the Government came up clearly and admitted that it is now inefficient, tired and cannot continue ruling, and it is time they let some other people now govern. This is because the governed are tired of having a Government that is not giving them service, and yet the governed are giving it money through paying taxes. We vote for the money here, and yet we receive no services. This is obtaining money by false pretence and the Government should be taken to court for obtaining money by false pretence.

I support.

**Mr. Nyachae:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will take this opportunity for a very short time just to say that the Speech by His Excellency the President is commendable because if you go through the whole of it, there is nothing you can disagree with. The issue is what actually happens in practice. What the President said is acceptable, and that is how things should be happening. However, they are not happening that way on the ground.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President touched on the rule of law and the Constitution and, indeed, he is the right person to lead us on constitutional matters. Yes, we want to speed up the constitutional review, but what is happening with even the current Constitution? Even if we have the best Constitution and we abuse it, then it becomes meaningless. Right now, there should be no dispute that the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Constitution, which gives every Kenyan his rights, is being abused left and right. Kenyans are not being allowed to move freely and express themselves the way they want in accordance with the existing Constitution. The people who are disrupting those provisions are the same people who took the oath to protect the same Constitution. So, really, if we take the oath and we do not follow it, it also means that whatever the President says here, we are not quite sure that it is going to be practised out there. This is the issue that concerns Kenyans. People are not free.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, going by the Constitution, there are certain amendments which took place here in 1997 before the elections, including amendments to certain provisions of laws to facilitate freedom of holding meetings. Procedures were agreed upon and the law was amended. The Attorney-General is the adviser and interpreter of the laws of this country. Is he advising the Commissioner of Police and the Administration of what is required in law? This is because the rule of law means we follow what is in the books of law and not practising the rule of the jungle. This is because what is going on right now is that we are not following the rule of law, but the rule of the jungle. A policeman wakes up one morning and interprets his own law and goes ahead and stops a meeting. He tells a Member of Parliament or any other leader: "You are not going to hold a meeting since you never notified me". The law does not require him to be notified when people are going to do Harambees. This is misuse of positions. This must come to an end, and if we are going to take the Speech of the President seriously, then let us practise what we are commending him for in his Statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the same Constitution talks of no discrimination among Kenyans. What is going on, on the air waves? Some Kenyans, particularly around Nairobi, have the advantage of listening to what the Nation Radio Station is saying and all other radio stations, while the rest are not given the opportunity to listen to what the other radio stations are saying; the alternative views. People in Nairobi enjoy listening to alternative views. However, people in the rest of the country are not allowed to enjoy the alternative view. This is discrimination and it is against the Constitution. Whoever is in charge of KBC must know that fair reporting was what was agreed upon during the IPPG resolutions. It is sad that KBC has become a propaganda machine for a few fellows in this country. In fact, it is one of the broadcasting stations in Africa which thrive on propaganda. I have been doing my own calculation and I can tell you that three-quarters of what they report is propaganda and lies. This must come to an end. If the Government wants us to take them seriously about what they say here, then they must comply with the IPPG resolutions in practice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let us not blame one another about what has happened to our economy and our relationship with the World Bank and IMF. Let us open ourselves to one another. Some people accuse us of not supporting this nation to get aid. However, we would like to be clear on what was signed between the IMF and our Government. Allow the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee to scrutinise the document which was signed by the Minister and the officials of the World Bank and IMF. I know for certain that what I said recently was a fact; that we agreed to meet those conditions. Therefore, we are the ones who should come forward and say we will not implement those conditions because of reasons "a", "b" and "c". There is no harm in reversing whatever was signed. It is human to continue reviewing our approach in the management of our affairs. There is no point of saying that the World Bank and IMF are shifting goal posts because we signed to meet those

**[Mr. Nyachae]**

conditions. If there is something that we signed to meet, but which in practice, is proving to be difficult, let us say so and review our positions. Let us not throw stones against one another when, in fact, the conditions are very clear to those money lenders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very worried about the way we are addressing the living conditions of our people. For example, right now, we are talking politics. We have been told that there will be a shortage of about 18 million bags of maize. Nobody is telling us what we should do about this shortage. Should we wait until our people start starving and then our Ministers appeal for food aid through the radio? For how long are we going to appeal for food aid? Last year, both the private sector and the Government spent over Kshs9 billion to import food. That money has gone to farmers in foreign countries. I am a farmer and I know that if we spent just Kshs3 billion, or a third of what we spent last year to import food, as credit to our farmers, then our food shortage problems will be over. The only problem we will face will be the storage of that food. Why can we not learn from the mistakes we make? God has given us good land and so, let us make use of it. Let us not have the excuses of drought because other countries of the world face droughts as well. It is not just Kenya which experiences droughts. For example, Tanzanians have enough food despite the fact that they experienced drought just like us. Let us admit that there is something wrong with the way we manage our food production in this country. Let us agree that we have not supported our farmers in the way we are supposed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the last one year, Maasai people lost over 100,000 of their livestock. Their water dams dried up. They could not get water. Could we not even involve the army men with their scooping units and dig dams for the Maasai people? What about residents of the North Eastern Province? We have listened to our friends talking and attacking each other. What is happening in North Eastern Province? Poverty is the major cause of cattle rustling in some parts of this country.

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

**Mr. Maitha:** Bw. Naibu Spika, niruhusu kutumia Lugha ya Kiswahili katika Bunge hili kwa manufaa ya wananchi ambao wangetaka kuielewa vyema. Kwanza kabisa, ninakushukuru kwa kunipa nafasi hii ili nizungumze machache juu ya Hoja hii. Hoja hii ni juu ya kuunga mkono Hotuba ya Rais wa nchi hii.

Bw. Naibu Spika, ni muhimu sana kwa wananchi wetu na Bunge hili kuwakumbuka watu mashuhuri wanaokufa wakipigania haki za watu fulani. Ni vizuri kuyataja majina yao na kuwakumbuka kila mara. Hivi juzi, Katibu Mkuu wa KNUT, Bw. Ambrose Adongo, aliaga dunia. Katika uhai wake alipigania haki za walimu wote. Ni vizuri Bunge hili kuwakumbuka shujaa ambao wametumikia nchi hii kwa dhati na kutetea haki za wananchi wetu. Ninawapa pole walimu wote waliofiwa na katibu wao.

Jambo la pili, ningependa kuzungumza machache juu ya Hotuba ya Rais wa nchi hii. Hotuba hii ilikusudiwa kutuliza nyoyo za wananchi wetu juu ya matatizo yao. Waswahili husema, "Alalaye na mgonjwa aijua miono yake." Ningependa kuikosoa Hotuba hii, hasa ukurasa wa kwanza, aya ya tatu, mstari wa sita. Rais aliwahakikishia Wabunge kinagaubaga kuwa angefuata mambo yote yanayohusiana na usimamizi wa uchumi wetu. Sentensi hii ni muhimu sana kwa sababu Rais alikuwa anatumia sisi sote kuwa yeye au Serikali yake inazingatia kwa makini vilinda uchumi vyetu. Lakini sikubaliani naye kwa sababu katika Mkoa wa Pwani, mambo haya yote hayazingatiwi kamwe. Mkoa wa Pwani kuna wilaya sita. Ukizuru Wilaya ya Lamu utaona ya kuwa Serikali imewakataza wananchi wa Lamu kuvuna



mikoko ambayo Mwenyezi Mungu aliwapa miaka nenda, miaka rudi, na kuipeleka nchi za ng'ambo ili wapate pesa. Jambo hili limechangia umaskini katika wilaya hiyo. Wananchi hao wanapolalamika kupitia kwa viongozi wao, Serikali hunyamaza ndii. Hotuba hii inasema Serikali imechangia kuona ya kuwa kila sehemu nchini imeendelea kiuchumi. Ukienda Wilaya ya Tana River utaona ya kwamba Serikali "imeua" mradi wa unyunyiziaji maji ambao ulitumia pesa nyingi. Mradi huu haupo tena. Wananchi wa Tana River wamekaa kama watu wasiokuwa na baba na mama na Serikali imekaa kitako ikiwaona watu wale wakiumia na hawana lolote. Katika Wilaya ya Malindi kuna Mananasi na Maembe mengi kushinda pahali popote katika Jamuhuri yetu ya Kenya, lakini Wizara ya Ukulima imeshindwa kufikiria ni nchi gani inaweza kutusaidia. Ingawa Shirika la Fedha Duniani lilisifiwa katika kitabu kilichoandikwa kwa ufasaha sana, kwa nini Serikali isifikirie kuwaleta wataalamu ambao wanaweza kutupa mtambo ili watu wa Wilaya ya Malindi wafaidike na vita vya uchumi kama hivi? Ukiziangalia Wilaya zingine kama Kilifi, Mombasa na Kwale, Serikali, kupitia mtu wao--

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is there a way of reducing the volume of that microphone because it is too loud for our ears? Can he turn the amplifier down, please?

**Mr. Maitha:** Kupitia mtu wao wa Serikali, mtambo wa korosho uliuawa huko Kilifi. Mpaka sasa wakulima wa korosho hawana pahali popote pa kuuza korosho au bixa na machungwa kule Kwale. Serikali imekataa kabisa kuangalia matatizo ya watu [Mr. Maitha]

wa Kwale. Hata huko Taita-Taveta, ambako tunakuza mboga kwa wingi, Serikali pia imeshindwa kuona vile wakulima wangepeleka mboga zao kufika soko la Mombasa. Ikiwa hotuba hii inataja kwamba Wabunge tujue kwamba Serikali imesimamia mambo yote ya usimamizi wa uchumi, huu ni uongo kwa sababu Mkoa wa Pwani haujaona mambo haya. Watu wa Pwani wameumia. Serikali imewaruhusu watu kutoka nje kuchuma mazao yetu ya kiasili yaliioletwa na Mwenyezi Mungu yaani, Titanium huko Kwale. Viongozi wamelia na kulalamika kuwa Serikali inaona kama hawakuchaguliwa na wananchi. Bado wanapendekeza kwamba madini yale yaondelewe na yaende kusafishwa katika nchi nyingine huku sisi watu wa Pwani tukiendelea kuumia. Tunapoisoma Hotuba hii, tunaona kuwa nia yake ni kuwafanya wananchi watulie na wajisikie wako sawa sawa.

Kule Pwani tuna mchezo ambao huchezwa kama baba au mama amekosa kibaba cha kuwapa watoto wake. Mama hutia mawe katika chungu na kuwaambia watoto: "Ngojeni, tunapika" na chungu kinatokota na huku kimezibwa. Punde, watoto hungoja mpaka wakalala na haya ndio mambo tunayoyaona katika Hotuba hii, sisi watu wa Pwani. Juzi, watu wa kule Tana River waliuana wenyewe kwa wenyewe na hakuna mambo yoyote tunayoyaona kwa wakati huu yakiwa ya umuhimu kama kuzuia wananchi kutomwaga damu bila sababu. Mambo yale yaliyozungumzwa, kwamba utalii umeleta pesa nyingi ni uongo mkubwa. Walitulaumu wakati wa vita vya Likoni na mambo mengi. Sisi Wabunge wa Pwani tumefanya bidii. Walitaka tuwaondoe beach boys. Tumeifanya bidii na kuwaondoa. Tumeleta amani katika Mkoa wa Pwani. Juzi watalii walipojiandikisha kwa wingi nchi za ng'ambo kuja hapa na huko Pwani, Serikali imeleta sheria ya viza. Utapata Mzungu amepanga safari yake kuja Kenya ambayo itagharimu US\$500. Hataki kuambiwa siku ya kusafiri kuwa ameongezewa US\$100. Afadhali aende nchi nyingine. Kule Uingereza Mzungu ambaye ana pauni moja anaruhusiwa kukaa huko Florida, Marekani, kwa mwezi mmoja bila kulipa viza yoyote. Marekani na nchi zingine hazilipishi ushuru wowote unaoitwa viza ya kuingilia.

Utapata kwamba katika nchi hii ya Kenya watu wanakaa vikundi vichache na wanaona kwamba hiyo ni kazi kidogo kusema kwamba Wazungu wote walipe viza. Wazungu wengi wamekataa kuja Kenya. Juzi, katika maonyesho ya biashara katika Berlin, Waziri wa Utalii alitukanwa na kuzomewa na Wazungu kwa kuleta mambo ya viza. Kama sisi watu wa Pwani tunaonewa huruma, kwa nini sisi---

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry** (Mr. Ekirapa): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead the House that the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry was actually abused by people during the Berlin Trade Fair?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Ekirapa! That is not a point of order. You are arguing. Proceed.

**Mr. Maitha:** Bw. Naibu Spika, niko tayari kuyaleta magazeti na video za Ulaya kuonyesha vile Waziri wa Utalii alivyoulizwa kwa nini alianzisha sheria ya viza katika nchi yake. Nimetumia neno "kuzomewa". Ni lazima uelewe Kiswahili. Kutukanwa na kuzomewa ni tofauti.

Ikiwa tunataka nchi hii iendeleo ni lazima tuwaambie wananchi ukweli. Mimi ndio waziri wa kifinyo katika serikali za wilaya. Utakuta ya kwamba kuna Wabunge wengine wanaokuja hapa kulalamika juu ya madiwani wa Nairobi City Council na huku vyama vyao vina madiwani pahali kwingine ambapo wanaharibu zaidi ya wale wa Nairobi. Ikiwa mtu ana malamiko juu ya Nairobi anafaa aje kwangu, waziri wa kifinyo, na nitamwambia vile ambavyo ingeendelea. Kule Mombasa utapata ya kwamba KANU haitekelezi mambo yake sawa sawa.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development** (Mr. J.D. Lotodo): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address on the occasion of the

State Opening of the Fifth Session of the Eighth Parliament. That speech was well balanced and full of wisdom. Over the last three years we have realised economic growth which has affected our economy. He touched on infrastructure, insecurity, health and education. He also touched on unemployment and poverty reduction strategy. There is no way we can develop if we do not become united in facing some of our problems. Recently, we have had drought and famine in this country. I would like to thank the Government and the World Food Programme for providing our people with food. Today, were it not for that intervention I am sure we would not be in this august House because most of our people could have died.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a good measure because the Government has shown that it minds about the welfare of its people. In spite of the drawbacks, we have to face the reality. Most economies in the world are in recession and our economy has not been spared. Therefore, looking at some of the areas, as I have noted, there is conflict over resources whereby pastoralists struggle for water and pasture, and in so doing, they have been so much animosity. Nevertheless, we have also experienced a lot of crop failures in our farming industry.

We would also talk about the livestock

**[The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development]**

industry which has also been wiped out by the current drought. It is in this respect that we should put our heads together and come out with resolutions which will bring our economy back on track. It should not be left to one person to do it. Many things have been said here, that the Government is plundering the economy, while we know very well that each and every Kenyan has a role to play in the improvement of the economy in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, pastoralists have suffered just because the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) ground to halt. If we had the KMC in place, thousands of livestock which died as a result of drought could have been taken to the KMC, slaughtered and processed into canned meat to be used locally or exported to other countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, last year we had power rationing which affected our industries and especially the textile industry which we are trying to develop. When we talk about food production, we cannot forget to talk about the fishing industry as one of the industries which are coming up. It was unfortunate that the European Union banned the export of fish products from Kenya for some years, but we thank God that they have accepted to lift that ban. Therefore, this is one of the industries which we should exploit to the maximum. As a pastoralist, I have realised that the fishing industry is a more promising industry than the livestock industry. Therefore, we should put all our efforts into fishing because I am sure that you cannot rustle fish as hon. Members have been talking about cattle rustling. I do not think that you can rustle fish in the lake. That is why there is an option of turning to the fishing industry. We had better leave the livestock industry and go to the fishing industry. I think it would be a worthwhile resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard about the East African Community and the Common Market for East and South African states. This is a very important leeway where liberalisation and globalization of our economy could be exploited and because of this free trade, it is now up to us as Kenyans to exploit this important facility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the Constitutional Review Process. I am very happy that the Ufungamano Forum agreed to sign the document for the merger. I know that most of those leaders who voted for the merger have shown us that they care about Kenya, and Kenyans are happy that we have come together in reviewing our Constitution. I know that there are some people who were not after the merger just because, probably, they would lose whatever they were getting on a daily basis, and they were resisting the merger because of their selfish interests. So, I would like to thank them all for what they did, and also thank Prof. Yash Pal Ghai for initiating that merger.

One of the issues that I want to talk about is the issue of insecurity in this country. You cannot blame insecurity on one ethnic group or any other person. We have had insecurity in countries like Bosnia, Yugoslavia and others, but we have to look at the problems that bedeviled these communities and address them accordingly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the colonial days, we were left behind and when people were going to school, we were not accorded the opportunity to go to school. The only thing that our people were doing was to look after animals, and now with the little animals that we have, people have been scampering for the limited resources. It is unfortunate that our people have continued butchering one another. We need an intervention and it is high time we called upon the Government to make sure that we are, at least, provided with free education, especially the pastoralist communities in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). Let us not adopt one educational system which emphasizes cost-sharing.

Right now, if our communities depend on relief food, how do we cost-share in education? We need a proper policy on education. When the new Constitution will be put in place, we will come forth and request for part of the funds from the Budget to develop the ASAL region.

It so sad that in the recent past, the Marakwet and Pokot people butchered themselves. But I would like to go in tune with what my brother, hon. Poghiso, said. If a criminal does an activity, it does not mean that it is the community he comes from which has done that activity. We have had bank robberies in Nairobi and we do not say that the Kikuyus

do it because they are the majority, but we just say "robbers robbed the bank". We have carjackers here in Nairobi, but we do not say that all Kikuyus are involved in this activity because they are the majority in the City. So, what hon. Poghismo was alluding to was that, we should call them bandits because they carried their cross as bandits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Moroto, hon. Poghismo, hon. Lomada and I are here and we did not go to stop cattle rustling. This is the argument behind the whole issue and it was unfortunate that the cattle rustling incident occurred and we are really very sorrowful because our people could butcher themselves. That is why I would like to call upon the military personnel to change their strategy on security provision.

Recently, it was announced that, Maj. Kibwana was opening a school in Lamu. I would [**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development**]

like the same approach to be applied in Korowa Division, where they could construct three nomadic primary schools for the Marakwets, Pokots and the Turkanas in order for them to go to school as opposed to seeing them in uniform running here, and chasing and kicking anybody they come across. I think this could have been a better intervention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to touch on the issue of conflict resolutions. Whenever an incident of that nature occurs, you cannot condemn the whole community. Let us just go for the criminals. As leaders, we have agreed that we are going to condemn those people who were doing that act, which is very bad to this country, especially when some people start killing other human beings. We have condemned it in the media and I do not think that any leader worth his salt will ever support such criminal act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless these people are provided with the resources, I am sure these activities will continue, and we will be going round in a vicious circle. I know that the Marakwets and Pokots are almost the same people and there is no reason why they should kill each other. Therefore, I am urging the Government, through this Parliament, to allow hon. Members to come together and find a way of resolving these conflicts. We hear that there are conflicts in Tana River and other parts of the country. I hope that, with this kind of intervention, we would be able to stay in this country peacefully like other Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, like this issue of conflict, we had just agreed to go together with other hon. Members. We went to West Pokot to raise funds for a school, and we equally went to Baringo East to raise funds for the Bursary Fund so that children can go to school. We were just planning to go to Marakwet when the incident occurred, just because three weeks before that incident, there were some animals that had been stolen from Baringo and were taken across to Marakwet, and it was the Provincial Administration which intervened. We were also told to wait for three weeks to be given back the animals.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Mboko:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Presidential Address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that this Government has got a habit of giving us very good speeches and programmes, but when it comes to their implementation, nothing is done. I have analyzed the Presidential Address. It has touched on the economy, co-operation, Bills to be brought to this House and agriculture. All these things have been talked about time and again in this House. It is a fact that the agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy of this country. This Government has killed the livestock industry by killing the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). The KMC has been killed by this Government intentionally to impoverish the pastoralists. The Government has also killed the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) where the dairy farmer had access to sell his milk. How many people depended on KCC and KMC?

The Government is talking of poverty eradication when it is the same Government that has created this poverty. When the Government allocated land meant to be the holding ground for KMC, where did it think it would have the holding ground for KMC? It must, first of all, revoke the land allocations which it has made to politically-correct individuals. After the calamity has been seen, the Government is now talking about poverty eradication. Holding seminars will not change this economy. As we talk now, the amount of money allocated towards the poverty eradication programme is Kshs400 million. Why can the Government not give that money to the dairy farmers or the tea farmers to revive these industries? How can you eradicate poverty when you are killing the industries which create the wealth of this country? How do you eradicate poverty when you are sacking the people who pay taxes to run this country? The Government has sacked 22,000 civil servants whose total salary is equivalent to the salary of the Head of the Public Service. How much were these people contributing to the economy? They were supporting the industries of this nation. Whether you pay an individual Kshs10 million, he will not eat more than he requires. When you employ 30,000 people, they will eat more and the food industry will be supported. What is the logic? This Government has failed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we were deliberating about the World Bank and the IMF in this House, the Leader of Government Business moved the Motion of Adjournment. When the hon. Members of this House opposed the Adjournment, he vehemently campaigned for the adjournment when he knew that there were Bills to be discussed before the disbursement of aid. We are going round in circles. This Government must come to its senses and tell Kenyans

the truth. You cannot run a Government as if you are running your kitchen. This Government belongs to all of us and a mistake by any member of the Government affects all Kenyans. This is something that we must think about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we talk of very good ideas. We talk of high interest rates. We condemn hon. Donde's Bill and refuse to give assent to it. The Government must cut down its appetite for local borrowing. If it continues borrowing locally, the interest rates will continue rising. Now, we have only a balance of Kshs65 billion in the market which the Government can borrow. If it borrows that amount, what shall we do? This is the balance in the money market which can support our economy. After total Government domestic borrowing and borrowing by commercial entrepreneurs, what remains in the economy is Kshs65 billion. Our Budget support requirement is about Kshs65 billion. So, if we borrow that amount, it means that we will have no alternative. Today, as we are talking, the exchange rate of the Dollar to the Kenya Shilling has stabilised at about Kshs77 because of the Kshs2 billion which came in. When somebody brings Kshs2 billion in, you harass him, but when the Kamleshes of this world take Kshs54 billion outside the country, they become heroes. Where are we as a Government? How do you create a climate under which you cannot invest in this country? If the money was not brought in by a Mr. Kariuki but by a Mr. Wilson, nobody would have talked about it. But simply because the money came in, in the name of an African, it became questionable. We have come to a situation where we do not trust ourselves, but we trust foreigners.

A few years ago, the Head of the Public Service was whipped by the same Government. Do you think he has got good intentions towards this Government? After being whipped by the same people, he will work in every way possible to make sure that this Government falls down. We shall take our own medicine. The same measure that the Government gave him, he will give to Kenyans. We must take ourselves seriously. I am sure that some of my colleagues on the other side know it, but they cannot speak lest they be removed from high offices. I want to tell them that there is good news on this side, in that from this side, one can talk freely and represent his people properly. But when you are on the other side, you are as frightened as your small chicken at home. This House must rise up and discuss issues affecting Kenyans.

The STABEX funds were given to this Government by the European Union in the early 1980s, but because the Government wanted to fight certain communities which are opposed to its governance, the money was withheld. Money that was meant to revitalise the tea and coffee industries was withheld. The cotton industry in Ukambani was killed, yet you want to tell the Kamba to support this Government.

My constituents are all squatters. The Government has not thought it wise to give the Kamba from my constituency title deeds. We are hard-working Kenyans and the maize that we have produced in Kibwezi is a lot. The same Government has impoverished the Kamba and it does not want to release funds to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) to enable it to buy our maize. The NCPB has a shortfall. Instead, the Government is waiting for that maize to go to waste so that the Kamba can again, during the year 2002, be given two kilograms of maize as relief food, so that they can vote for KANU. The Government should use the money which it intends to use to buy relief food in 2002 to buy our maize now. When it buys our maize and issues us with title deeds, we shall be productive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when there was drought, some communities were given preferential treatment. They could graze their animals right in the centre of Nairobi while communities living near Nairobi cannot have access to the same facilities. Why should we have this discrimination? The people who border Chulu Hills could come to Nairobi at three o'clock under the pretext of grazing cattle. Grazing is not the only issue in this country. We need farmers, both agricultural and horticultural, to be protected by this Government. We want this Government to come out and see Kenya as a country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. I would like to congratulate His Excellency the President for a Speech that was well read. I congratulate him for the substance and vision entailed in the Speech. I do not believe that it is the President's job to implement Government policies. We have the Civil Service. I will come to that later, but in terms of general direction and broad policy environment within which the Fifth Parliament should operate, I think the issues were well highlighted. I would like to encourage all Members of this House to take the wise counsel embodied in the Speech very seriously. But, unfortunately, Members from the Turkana and Pokot communities have started by wrangling amongst themselves! That is what the President discouraged in his Speech. He said that hon. Members should desist from wrangles.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to start by applauding and saying that the Pokots as a community - unfortunately, none of them is here and I will not be interrupted - are *bona fide* Kenyans. At no one time have we said that the Pokots as a community are bad people. But I would like them to share with the communities of Turkana, Samburu and Marakwets. When you have a community that is almost everywhere all the time, those are not bandits! Those are not just a few thugs. That was an orchestrated, community initiative to drive the others out of existence. In fact, the people of Turkana are really worried. They have nowhere to hide. Even the Turkanas who live in Samburu

were attacked by the Pokots. They were not satisfied with the Turkanas in Turkana District. We are getting worried that even if we fled to the United States of America (USA), they would come for us there! That is the understanding that I would like us to have. We have nothing against the Pokots as a community. We have a lot of respect for the people of Pokot as a community. But something somewhere has gone terribly wrong!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about communities because of failure of certain things. Today is the World Water Day and yet, the pastoralists are still fighting over the limited water resources. Water and pasture are very important resources for the pastoral communities. If we had enough water and pasture, we could not be talking about cattle rustling. We could not be talking about where we came from in terms of our military background. If the Minister for Water Development could assure us that we could have water in Turkana, Pokot, Samburu and the rest of the pastoral areas, we will have no problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to condemn certain actions by the police, for failing to take action, when there were over 500 people moving around. What is happening to the intelligence network? Is that a foreign commodity in Northern Kenya? Is it a commodity for the urban areas in this country? I think the people of the North Rift are entitled to certain services. They are entitled to information and protection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cattle rustling will continue to be an issue, as long as poverty is not tackled. But what some good civil servants have done is that even in some pilot cases, a district like Turkana is not included, when Government statistics indicate that, Marsabit District is the poorest, followed by Turkana District. I imagine that we should be able to prioritise our problems. We should be able to prioritise our intervention, so that we can help Kenyans to address the real issues that affect them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about the infrastructure. If you travel from Mandera to Wajir, you will talk of a road that used to be there. The tarmac disappeared. In the mid-70s, there was a tarmac road from Kapenguria to Lake Turkana. There is a stretch from Kainuk to Lokichar, where hon. Achuka has his headquarters. That section of the road has disappeared! Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had the occasion to visit that area and we were very happy. You saw that even the official vehicle could not navigate those roads. We would like people to visit those areas. We would like the rest of Kenyans to visit us. We are happy that the Departmental Committee on Education, Research and Technology visited Turkana and saw what obtains in those areas. Unless hon. Members visit those areas, they will not be able to appreciate what we are talking about. For them now, what I am talking about is purely academic! They think it is a movie out of Africa! They think it is another movie similar to the one entitled: "Gods Must Be Crazy." But that is for real! There is a part of the great Republic of Kenya that requires concerted efforts of all men and women of goodwill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our friends will talk about numbers. They will say that there are no people there. But during the recess period, I had the occasion to visit the area and, believe me, most of our people do not even have the national identity cards. Due to the prevalent famine, the people have lost livestock. Their purchasing power is completely zero. So, when you ask them for Kshs50 for a new identity card, they do not even understand. They ask: "Why should we be registered? Why should we pay to be registered as Kenyans and yet, we were born Kenyans?" I think we need to waive some of those fees. As hon. Maitha said about the visas for tourism, I think we should not demand that Kenyans should pay in order to be identified as Kenyans! It should be their right as *bona fide* Kenyans who are born here. By all means, the Turkana cannot be mistaken. They should just be given the identity cards as a matter of urgency and priority, so that in the next general elections, they can register as voters and vote back the KANU Government to this House. I know that my friends may not like that, but that is the reality.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about coming back to this House, it is not just a matter of coming back to the House. I would like to tell my colleagues that we need to be very serious. I think the Eighth Parliament has made a mark as a very assertive Parliament. We would like to increase the democratic space. But we should not play politics with the lives of Kenyans. I would like us to be serious. I would like hon. Members of this House to support us on the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). The KMC is not just a pastoralists' issue. It is beef for all Kenyans. I know all Kenyans like eating "nyama choma". If the pastoralists cannot get market outlets, where will you get your meat from? I know that I am in the Government and hon. Mwenje challenged us to resign. It is not a Government policy for cattle rustling to be there. Cattle rustling is one of the archaic cultural things that we are all trying to eradicate. Even the Government sometimes does not understand what is happening. It is a community issue and hon. Members must realise that. That is why we are not resigning. The problem is beyond just mere intervention. The problem is that of livelihood and socio-cultural significance, and it needs to be addressed. Part of the failure to eradicate the problem stems from some civil servants who do not believe that the North Rift is part of Kenya. You cannot bring the Government to account for that. It is a matter of preference by the civil servants all the time, immediately after our Independence and in the present time. We need to have literate people from those communities who can be able to bring out issues that affect our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some people talk about discrimination on the basis of information. They say that

three-quarters of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) airtime is mere propaganda, and the rest are lies! But does this House know that Turkana District cannot receive the KBC's TV signals? If the rest of the Republic does not want that propaganda, we want it! Why cannot this House vote overwhelmingly that all areas in the country need to be covered by the KBC? Our people have the right to information. That is how they can get new ideas, develop and prosper. But when those areas are still closed, and we are complaining that the Nation FM only sticks to Nairobi, we are not serious! Let us start with those basic frameworks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as long as the road network remains collapsed, we cannot talk of any meaningful development in this country. As long as water is not provided to everybody, we will remain below the surface. Until we actually come to the surface and remain there, problems related to its unavailability will persist. Nevertheless, given the limited resources at its disposal, I think the Government has tried to address these problems. I think the Government will continue trying to solve these problems.

Another problem is that, you will find that the police are enthusiastic about harassing Members of Parliament, but not pursuing cattle rustlers.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Njakwe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting that we spend so much time talking about the Presidential Address, to which every hon. Member contributes. Unfortunately, at the end of it all, you find that all that we do is cry about problems that never end. I would like to be a bit technical.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at way back from 1978, when President Kenyatta died, you will find that this country has been on a declining trend.

**An hon. Member:** Correct!

**Mr. Njakwe:** If you look at things very keenly, you will realise that this Government has been existing on the momentum of the Government of the late President Kenyatta. There has never been a Government in place as such. In my contribution to this Motion, I would like to be a bit technical and point out the truth. This country's economic growth rate in 1978 was 7 per cent. Over the years, the growth rate declined to negative 0.3 per cent. Is that not true?

**An hon. Member:** It is true!

**Mr. Njakwe:** So, honestly, the economy has been on a declining trend. Not a single time this Government has changed the country's economy to register positive growth. Over the years, the economy has been progressing downwards from 5 per cent sometime back to 4 per cent the following year, to 2 per cent in the year that followed, and to negative 0.3 per cent this year. Going by that trend, possibly, next year, the growth rate will go further down to negative 1 per cent. The matter is a bit funny. Surely, the same Government knows its performance, but it still wants to continue with its business. Are those in this Government not ashamed of their performance? Unfortunately, those in the Government spend their time, not thinking about how they are going to govern, but rather on the drawing board, planning how to loot the economy further. If there was a provision to reward this Government, we would give it a doctorate degree in looting.

At this juncture, I would like to point out that some of the things the Government is supposed to do for its people include marketing, providing credit facilities, security and developing the infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water. Further to that, the Government is supposed to provide health care services as well as quality education for its people. Is there any record of those in Government having provided any of these services to its people? It is very sad that the same Government continues to govern this country to date, and that it wants to continue governing in future. As my colleague, hon. Gatabaki said, if I were in this Government, I would say: "I am tired. I cannot do it". There is nothing wrong in accepting that you cannot do a certain job. It is honourable to accept that you cannot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, wrong things are few and very precise. In this Government, there is something called "lack of complete honesty". Those in the Government are never honest on any issue. They are completely insincere.

**An hon. Member:** That is their culture!

**Mr. Njakwe:** That is a very bad culture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, above all, the Government recruits unqualified people to serve in the public service. Those in the Government are very good at recruiting people with the qualities of stealing.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is wrong to call other people thieves, Mr. Njakwe.

**Mr. Njakwe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not wrong. You can even cry for this Government. **[Mr. Njakwe]** It is unfortunate that we are part of this country. Those of us who travel overseas used to be very proud. When we went to countries such as Great Britain, we used to be accorded VIP treatment even though we were not VIPs. At that country's airports, Kenyans used to be treated well because the authorities there knew that Kenyans were able people. Everybody knew that we never used to go to the United Kingdom to beg or to be employed as house-helpers and watchmen. That is no longer the case today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go to that country today, you will be surprised by the kind of treatment that you will be accorded by the authorities. Some hon. Members may not have had any bad experience, but I can assure you

that, if you go there today, the authorities will want to know whether you have gone to stay or work in that country. We have been made to be accorded that kind of treatment by this same Government. We would like to be people of honour. So, we are asking those in Government to allow us to enjoy that honour by governing this country well during the short time that is remaining for them. Although we cannot see any signs of changes to come, they should let us be treated as respectable people by other people.

I would say that this country has a problem of vindictiveness. Somebody in my home district, Murang'a, for instance, will always ensure that new Members of Parliament like myself are branded "non-performers". He will go behind the scene and incite the councillors against you. You may find that councillors in, say, Central Province, are given express permission to spend local authority money to fight, say, hon. Kariuki. But whenever the President addresses Kenyans, he calls for honesty, so that people can work together. Unfortunately, some of the people he appoints to some offices cannot deliver. In all honesty, therefore, I would say that if this country continues to rely on this Government, it will collapse. Therefore, we would like this Government to retire and rest, because it cannot perform.

Thank you.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Sunkuli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion. When we argue and debate about the Speech of the President, it is also very interesting to know the response of the Official Opposition to the Speech. This is because the Official Opposition is the alternative Government. If you would like to know where Kenya would go, if it were not here, it is good to listen to the Leader of the Official Opposition. The Chair should have heard him yesterday lamenting from "A" to "Z". I wanted to write a passage called; "The Lamentations of hon. Mwai Kibaki". This is because there is no alternative policy. One wonders what the Opposition would have said if President Moi did not speak. Actually, if he were not there, what would be the speech of the Opposition? In 1992, when we came here, the Opposition, when the President read the first Speech, said that there was no public policy in it. The second Speech was written and they said that it was not good enough, and this time round, they are saying that it is nice but there is no implementation.

I would like to compare my colleagues in the Opposition to the man who murdered his mother and father and when he was found guilty of murder and asked for mitigation, he said that he was an orphan. If there is no implementation, it is because the Opposition makes it so difficult for the Government to implement its policies. I have heard my colleagues lament that people from other countries do not like Kenyans. Who told those people that Kenyans are bad? It is the Opposition that told them. These are the people who go out of the country and say that their motherland is this and that.

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

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Sunkuli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. He will have his time.

**Mr. Kihoro:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was taken to detention by this Government and that is not an act of the Opposition, but an act of the Government. Can he deny that?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Kihoro! You must not stand on a point of order and then argue.

Proceed, hon. Sunkuli.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Sunkuli): I think we had better put the things that we are talking about in context.

I have heard it being said that during the days of the late President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya was a very good country and he was a great President. I would like to say that sometimes the Government "travels" like a plane and we have to ask ourselves whether it had a tail or a head wind. What were the advantages of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta's days? During those days, we were the blue-eyed boys of the West because we stood against communism. Actually, many hon. Members of the Opposition at that time were also sympathizers of Karl Marx. When we stood in favour of what was the free world that time, we got all the advantages and Kenya did, in fact, prosper. Those who ran Kenya at that time made sure that the *piki pikis* only faced the other side. Those good old days, when the roads were good, they were only good there, and when everything was good, it was only good there. By the way, we got our first road to Kilgoris in 1980. Even today, I hear people lamenting about Marakwet. These people spent all their days in the Government, holding senior positions and not thinking that Marakwet was part of Kenya. But today, because they find something for which to criticise the Government, you see them actually talking about Marakwet, which, of course, was not a member of this favoured group that they ran. But that was not the reason why I rose. I rose in order to support this Speech. Hon. Members have commented about democracy and I think that it is absolutely crucial that we nurture our democratic culture, which we have had as Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the democratic culture demands that we have separation of power, which means that there must be an Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. I would like to say that each one of this, by the way, is independent of the other. There is independence of the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive.

Somebody said that at one time there used to be three arms of Government, namely, the Executive, the

Executive and the Executive, and today, we have three arms of the Government, namely, the Legislature, the Legislature and the Legislature. I must stand here and say that when we create democracy in this country, let us be aware today because you are there and you are hoping to be here; that if we centralise all the powers in the Legislature, it is equally dangerous. This is because, today, hon. Members of Parliament are no longer contented with making the law here, but they also want to be the implementors. Who will, therefore, come and audit hon. Members of Parliament if they move their duties away from legislating laws to actually operating as the Executive? That is running a Government with only one wing, and that is why we want to insist that the Constitution of Kenya be operative properly so that we start to debate about other things, because other people want to talk about succession. I would like to say that the majority of those people who are aspiring to be the next President have been Ministers for Finance and they made no difference. I would like to say that some of them have run every arm of the Civil Service and they made no difference. These people still say that Kenya should be given "fresh air". I insist that when the time comes for President Moi to retire, it is time for that entire generation to go.

*(Applause)*

There is simply no fresh air when a man who has been Vice-President and Minister for Finance wants to be the next President. Another man who has been the Chief Secretary still wants to be the President in his old age, and says that, that amounts to change. I would like to say that, that does not amount to change.

Somebody even comes here and says that the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) is full of propaganda. I would like to urge him to listen to a programme called "The Daily Dilemma" in the Nation FM, and listen to a lady called Jenipher and try to compare her voice with the one of Prof. Wangari Mathai. I would also like him to listen to the voice of a man called Njoroge and try to compare it with the voice of Dr. Gitari. What do you hear throughout that programme? If you have ever heard lies, then that is the meaning of the word "lies".

**Mr. Kariuki:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister to emit personal vendetta and ethnic problems that he seems to have with a certain group of people for no apparent reason?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Kariuki! You must not stand on a point of order and start arguing with the hon. Member on the Floor. But if you want to raise a point of order, make sure that it is on the procedure or conduct of the hon. Member.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. ole Sunkuli):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard a lot about the ills of the Government. Is it now not time that we heard about the ills of the Opposition? Should somebody also not talk about that because this country deserves good leadership? When the country is having good leadership and others spend time saying that, that is not good leadership, and that what is already a bad Opposition actually can be a good Government, is that justice? That is why I am saying that if you vote for your right to be heard, please, insist that I have mine too because there are always two sides of this story.

Somebody said that STABEX money was kept because it was supposed to go to the Opposition side. In the first instance, who is he to say that the STABEX money should only go to the Opposition side? Who is he, because if it is tea, it is grown in Kericho and if it is coffee, it is grown everywhere? They do not want to tell us why the money, in the first place, had been "frozen".

**Hon. Members:** Frozen!

**The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. ole Sunkuli):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, "had been frozen" is the proper English, but you know, I do not speak exactly the same English as hon. Wamalwa. But thank you for the correction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must commend my dear friend, hon. ole Sunkuli. He is always a very prolific defender of the Government. I think that is credible. But, usually, the defence is not based on facts that can stand the test of time. One of the things that are important in a speech that talks about public policy is that, it must be public policy. You cannot really deliver to the Republic of Kenya a public policy that has not substantially touched on the economy. The issue that the SDP takes with the Presidential Speech that has been given this week is that it never really addressed itself to the fundamental issues facing the Kenyan economy, which touch the common man. We cannot talk about constitutions and all that; that is what we talk, in political economy, as the superstructure. You must go down to the structure of society, where life is touched in a fundamental way.

In this regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do realise that we are fast becoming a consuming nation. The productive capacity of this nation is being destroyed by poor policies. Surely, we did consent to become members of COMESA and that is very good. But, we must prepare ourselves to be competitive in the COMESA market. At the moment, it is cheaper to print a newspaper in Cairo and import it to Kenya and sell it here. Very soon, our daily newspapers, given the technology that is available, may find themselves, under the COMESA rules, being printed in



Cairo and imported here. Already, the printing industry is being ruined by imports from Egypt under the COMESA rules. We know that Kenya has been leading in this region in the printing industry. But today, companies, banks and so on, prefer to order the printing of their calendars in Cairo and import them here rather than give the job to the printing industry here. That means that we are losing jobs, and all those sons and daughters of Kenyan workers and peasants who are looking for jobs in the printing industry are losing those jobs. These are the fundamental questions that should be faced by Mr. President when he is issuing a speech called public policy, an Address to the State.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if we move from COMESA, this country could have taken a leading position in Eastern and Central Africa as a service economy. The service centre of Eastern and Central Africa could have been Kenya. Today, as I speak, the Republic of South Africa is coming out with an extremely progressive policy on higher education, which is meant to attract lecturers and professors from the rest of Africa to go and teach in South Africa. It is also meant to attract students going to college and graduate school to go to South Africa. South Africa realizes that if it develops itself as a service centre in Africa, it is going to earn a lot of money. Kenya could have done this 20 years ago when South Africa was still being harassed by apartheid. But as I stand here today, South Africa is going to overtake us as a service economy in Eastern and Southern Africa, taking advantage of the COMESA rules that we are talking about. If only we could develop our airports; Jomo Kenya International Airport, Moi International Airport, Mombasa, Malindi Airport, Moi international Airport, Eldoret, and Kisumu to be regional airports whereby if somebody wants to organize an international conference in Eastern and Southern Africa, you fly to Eldoret, you offer services like a supermarket and faxes; you do all that and you fly out, you would have left a lot of foreign exchange in this country. That is what I mean by a service economy.

Singapore has done it. If you fly to Singapore Airport, you can buy a car, or send a fax; you have hotels and supermarkets. Singapore earns about 8 per cent of its GDP. Imagine what we could do if we earned 8 per cent of our GDP just by offering conference facilities in this country. A country that is so beautiful, a country that is given such good weather, a country whose various regions offered so much tourist facilities although some have been neglected; a country that is known to have the highest development of human resource in Eastern and Southern Africa; this is the country that we have small minds in the Government. I urge these people to think big. Rather than hon. ole Sunkuli thinking about the Jeniphers of the Nation FM, he should think big of the economy of Kenya and come here to tell us something which is big and which uplifts our hearts. That is the kind of leadership Kenyans want. We do not want to come here and talk about trivialities; we want to come here and talk about the big issues of the day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my dear friend--

**The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ethuro): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o to mislead the House that this Government has small brains and that they are thinking small? Hon. ole Sunkuli only gave us an example to illustrate a point on what life is all about.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government was not thinking small, it would not have employed a "Dream Team" for 18 months to help it think. July is coming to an end and this "Dream Team" has not been allowed even to dream, let alone to sleep! These are the issues that Kenyans are asking. If, indeed, we have great minds over there, why hire the "Dream Team" at Kshs12 million per month, which is paid for by the same foreign masters they are always arguing about? This is lamentable. So, we, here in the Opposition, contrary to what my dear friend, hon. ole Sunkuli thinks, do have greater ideas for this country but we are patient. It was once said that resoluteness is the essence of struggle. You must be resolute and persistent. I could say it in Dholuo; it sounds even better: "*Kinda e teko, sinani e lweny*". It is a beautiful language and if you could understand it, it is the essence of what we are talking about. You must be resolute and persistent to achieve what we want. That is why we are patient. We shall come there one day.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Of course, I have no problem with his lifetime patience, but is Dholuo a language of this House? If it cannot be translated, we are losing so much wisdom in what he has said.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I translated it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: He translated what he said in Dholuo. Proceed.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o**: We have a problem on the other side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, of what I once called the slow growth of medulla oblongata!

(Laughter)

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. ole Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think he is breaching the Standing Orders. When he says that there is a slow growth of medulla oblongata, he actually means I have no brain. That is not right.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order!

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say the hon. Member has no brain. That is really biologically wrong. I only said that there is a slow growth of medulla oblongata, which is a correct biological observation, given what we have been listening to today.

But on a more serious note, the cost of education in this country is hurting Kenyans. First of all, when we went to school, the only thing that a parent was expected to do was to provide us with uniform. We went to school and presented ourselves and if you were in uniform and neat, you were accepted into the classroom. When we went to the classroom, everything was provided. The whole idea of having a uniform was because the Government did not want class distinction in a class. The uniform we wore on our bodies meant that we had uniform access to facilities in the classroom. That was the meaning of the uniform. Today, wearing uniforms in Kenyan schools does not make sense because that uniform does not correspond to the facilities available to every child in that class. If you do not pay some levies like cost-sharing, you are sent home. According to the records held by those who do research, 20 per cent of Kenyan school-going children miss classes every day for being sent home for not contributing something to the school; cost-sharing money, building fund, activity fund and so on. So, the uniform no longer makes sense in Kenyan public schools. Those who have realised this have voted with their feet. They have sent their children to private schools. But private schools are capitalising on the Kenyan love for education by super-exploiting Kenyans. Imagine a child goes to a kindergarten and pays Kshs26,000 a term, or even Kshs30,000. A student goes to Kabaa High School, which is a boarding school, and pays about Kshs7,000 a term. Tell me; what is so mysterious about kindergartens that a little boy or girl should pay Kshs30,000 a month a term for kindergarten education? In private schools in Nairobi - the primary and the high school levels - you will find that you pay as much as Kshs76,000 a term, or even ksh150,000. We need an Education Bill in this House that controls the amount of money private schools should charge parents. Now, we are spending Kshs15 billion in sending our children abroad for education. That Kshs15 billion represents 8 per cent of our national Budget. Supposing that money was spent locally here; how much would it provide positively to the growth of our economy rather than to the growth of other economies in Australia, New Zealand and USA?

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Wamalwa:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a few comments and reservations on the Presidential Speech on the occasion of the State Opening of the Fifth Session of this Eighth Parliament. I wish to observe, as I did, at exactly the same period last year, that the President seems to have acquired a very excellent speech writer. In the first place, the speech is always short, concise and full of material. It was said a long time ago, that a good speech should be as short as a woman's skirt. It should not be too short to show too much, and it should not be too long to cover too much. I would like to say that the Presidential Speech on Tuesday conformed to those standards in a very excellent manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would want to touch upon two or three points contained in the Presidential Speech. The President talked about the importance of the constitutional review process. The venerable Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o said that the economy should take precedence over constitutionalism and all that. While I agree with him, I believe that constitutionalism is also equally important. The President urged Parliament to move with speed as soon as the two processes have merged - the People's Commission of Kenya (PCK) and the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC). Once they have merged, Parliament should move with speed to effect the necessary amendments to the Constitution of Kenya Review Act, so that the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission can be put in place to begin work immediately. Kenyans are crying out for a new Constitution and reasons for that demand have been made amply clear. Even the Wanjiku's of this world will tell you that this country needs a new Constitution. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us in this august House, once this Bill comes before us, to effect the necessary amendments immediately and get this show on the road, so that Kenya can have a new Constitution in place before the next general elections.

Speaking as a member of the Ufungamano Initiative, I would like to observe that constitution-making the world over is a very difficult task. In our own country particularly, it is beset by a number of problems. First among these problems is one of suspicion - real or imaginary. There are those who suspect that there is one ethnic community or a conglomeration of ethnic communities in this country, who plan to hijack the constitutional review process for their own gain. There are others who suspect that President Moi intends to hijack the constitutional review process to create an extra term for himself in office.

"Mr. President---" "Mr. Chairman----" "Mr. Speaker, Sir," these are all suspicions.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry for addressing you as "Mr. President." I have been addressing many meetings where there are Presidents and Speakers.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair is all of those.

**Mr. Wamalwa:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not believe for one moment that any ethnic group or conglomeration of ethnic groups can unite to hijack this process. In the first place, they would not have the figures to achieve it. Secondly, Kenyans would not accept it, and thirdly there are enough check-points in this process to make such a move impossible. When you come to the suspicion as to the Presidency, again, I do not think that this suspicion is properly founded or true. I happen to believe that President Moi has the sagacity, which he has displayed on many occasions, to realise when to call it a day. I think when that time comes, he will have the integrity to call it a day. In his off the cuff remarks, the President himself, in my opinion for the first time in this House, alluded to the time when he will be retiring. I think he alluded to it positively. He did not allude to it in a manner of somebody who is afraid or who wants to hang on. I think this House should encourage the President to retire honourably, and I am quite sure that President Moi will have other things to do within the Eastern African region. He might even rise to become the first President of the East African Federation. So, I think what the Kenyan community and this Parliament need to start doing is to start putting measures in place, for the President's comfortable retirement, and also for the security and safety of the President's persons and those other people whom we deem to need that security and safety.

If we are able to do these things, and President Moi retires peacefully, he will join the ranks of the great sons of Africa, like Mr. Nelson Mandela and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who have retired and continued to serve the African Continent on a different level, in an even more meaningful manner. I do not believe for one moment that the President's retirement is contingent upon the coming into operation of a new Constitution. I believe that the President's retirement would be in conformity with the provisions of the current Constitution. Therefore, nobody should try to link the President's retirement with the promulgation of a new Constitution. That will be holding the current Constitution hostage to the unborn Constitution. I believe that Kenyans are one nation and they can speak, work and reason together and come up with a Constitution that will satisfy the exigencies of current day politics. I would like to encourage that very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second point that I would like to touch upon in the Presidential Speech is where he mentioned that in the course of this Session, there shall be debate and legislation on the Sugar Bill 2001. I believe, when that Bill comes before this House, it will deserve the support of all of us. At the moment, a great number of our nationals depend for their daily bread and economic sustenance upon the growing of sugar-cane and selling of the same product. I do appreciate the fact that we are members of COMESA and several other economic organisations. But a country establishes industry not just to produce goods as an import substitution. In a developing country, an industry is established to provide work and livelihood for the thousands of citizens of that country. Today, sugar-cane growers in the sugarbelt have almost been reduced to serfs. They have not been paid for their sugar-cane for a very long time. Some sugar-cane has not been harvested. It is drying in the farms like firewood, yet those people have obligations to meet, even in these most difficult economic times, and they are not receiving their money. Kenya is now awash with cheap so-called COMESA sugar - I am not even sure that it is all COMESA sugar - which has made it impossible for the sugar factories in this country to sell or off-load their stock. So, they are stockpiling sugar, and since they are not selling, they are not able to pay the farmers.

The trickle-down effects of the benefits of the sugar industry are not reaching the sugar-cane farmers. I think, if we are to survive as a nation, we must put in place measures that will protect our local producers and our farmers. Countries like France and Italy are members of the European Union. They subscribe to various policies, but those policies that touch upon their farming industry have been robustly resisted by these countries, and were it not so, the farmers in France and Italy have their own way of driving that point home. Sometime last year, the French farmers barricaded every street in Paris and Lyon with cabbages that remained there for weeks until habitation in those areas was almost an impossibility. I can visualise a situation where sugar farmers would draw their tractors, lorries and dry sugar-cane and block all the major highways from Uganda to Kenya and from Kisumu to Nairobi and make it impossible for transport to operate in this country. I think let us make hay while the sun shines. Let us attend to this sugar-cane problem before it reaches the stage of KCC and other parastatals that have collapsed under mismanagement. All we need are proper policies now to save the sugar industry in this country.

With those few words, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Wamukoya):** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to make some comments on the Presidential Speech. I believe that when the President makes a statement it is for us to formulate policies that are going to help this country and Kenyans to serve themselves and others.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President alluded to drought which was here last year. Some people last year when we experienced drought, sort of made statements that looked like the Government was the one that brought the drought and problems that affected Kenyans. The President, also in his Speech, said the drought ravaged about 3 million people and some of them, and also their livestock died. I want to tell this House through you, that with or without drought, this country is going to be in for a lot of problems with food shortages because we are now dealing with a population that has grown three to four times compared to that of Independence and yet the rain-fed area which is 18 per cent has

remained fixed. Because of population growth, the economical viable units have reduced and we, therefore, cannot produce enough food, particularly the food crops, to feed the population that we have today. So, we must begin thinking of alternative methods of improving our agriculture, and that is the main essence of the Presidential Speech, so that this House can formulate policies that are going to change the agriculture policy of today to the one of tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I make my suggestions, I want to inform the House that although we say agriculture is the backbone of the economy, we just say that as a cosmetic measure; I am sure we are not serious or we do not understand what we are talking about. In 1973, the budgetary provisions for the agricultural sector by the Government was 11 per cent. In 1990, it had reduced to 5 per cent. Now, it is only 3.5 per cent and you would be lucky to get that type of percentage because of Exchequer issues, liquidity problems and so on. In short, the agricultural sector is not being provided for to be able to produce enough food that can feed the population. If Members of this House would be looking at formulating policies that would reverse that trend, then I am sure we shall be doing ourselves and Kenyans a good service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the rain-fed areas, we now have competition of cash crops and food crops. You will find that in a place like the sugar-belt which my colleagues have been alluding to, we are planting sugar-cane, maize and beans. The area we are talking about is, maybe, an acre or an acre-and-a-half because of population growth. One acre under cane and half an acre under maize cannot feed a family of four or six throughout the year. At the same time, the inputs in cane growing are very expensive and the payment from the factories is very low. That is why many Members of Parliament and farmers within the sugar belt areas are crying. Why do we have such a problem? It is because the technology that we are using to produce and manufacture sugar has remained archaic for a very long time, and yet the inputs keep spiralling, like the prices of fertiliser and other chemicals, and even the transportation of cane. In so saying, I mean that unless we re-look at the cash crop production; and it is not only sugar-cane, but I am also alluding to tea and coffee, we are going to have a lot of problems in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to state here that if you have food on every Kenyan's table, there would be no insecurity apart from insecurity where we have greedy people who are looking for more money by carjackings and so on. However, the people we are talking about in Marakwet, Pokot and Turkana would be peaceful and would not go out to rob others. What is happening in the areas that our colleagues are talking about is subsistence agriculture. These robberies and stock thefts are there because people want to re-distribute their wealth. I can assure you that the population of livestock in Turkana has gone down by 60 per cent; in Samburu by 45 per cent, and in North Eastern Province by almost 40 per cent. So, what do people do because they are dependent on livestock? They go out there and rob because they want food. If you gave them food, they would not be going out to rob the cattle. If you gave Kenyans food, there would be no need to worry about health because 90 per cent of their problems would have been solved. Just give them balanced food and they will be healthy, and only malaria and, maybe, AIDS would be our problem. However, we now have a lot of socio-economic problems because we do not have food. If we had food on every table in Kenya, then there would be no problem with school enrolment, participation and the retention rate of children in our schools. All I am saying is that whatever we discuss in this House should help our Government to formulate policies that will reverse the trend. About 82 per cent of our country is arable. In the past, we were using misnomers like "arable" and "non-arable". Therefore, if we formulate a policy to create irrigation programmes in the arable part of this country, I am sure we will produce enough food for our people. We will not even think of importing any food. Therefore, I am urging hon. Members to help the Government to formulate policies that will help our farmers, so that we produce enough food in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans and their leaders are enemies of themselves. This is because when we discuss ways and means of boosting the tourism industry in this country, it is us who issue inflammatory statements that are highlighted by the foreign mass media and the Internet. As a result, tourists are scared to come here. For example, there is the visa fee of US\$500. I think hon. Mwakiringo said it is only US\$30, but we make so much noise about it that it scares away tourists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on fisheries, I have visited factories in Coast Province and I have seen how Israelis like our fish. You will find that it is us who are enemies of ourselves because we use tranquilisers to trap the fish. That is making the fish unhealthy and unfit for human consumption. Therefore, we, as Kenyans, should work out ways of helping ourselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this morning we spent a lot of time discussing information, communications and technology (ICT) and how it can be taught in primary schools. I think this will be introduced in primary schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I support the speech.

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to compliment his Excellency the President because of this beautiful speech which he delivered the other day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to comment briefly on the statements attributed to hon. Sunkuli. I have tried to reply to those statements without much success. Now that he is directly looking at me, let me reply to those

statements, and I hope this will bring his questions to rest. I have read and listened to statements made by hon. Sunkuli, implying that some people who want to become President of this country are as old as President Moi, and that they should retire together with him. Today, he was very eloquent on the same subject. Anybody, however stupid he or she may be, would know who are being referred to in his statements---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Sunkuli's speech is not the subject of the discussion.

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was trying to say this because the reason why many people have said that---

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! There is no such thing as a point of information.

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why we say it is now time for President Moi to retire is not because he has served very well and we admire him. It is not even because of his age, but because it is a constitutional requirement. The Constitution of Kenya demands that a President should serve for two terms of five years each. President Moi has already served two terms and he should retire. For example, President Bill Clinton served his two terms and retired according to the provisions of their Constitution. We also know of several heads of states who have served their terms and retired according to their constitutions. Therefore, we would like President Moi to retire, so that he will have time to attend to his own affairs.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Munyao in order to teach hon. Sunkuli the Greek language which he cannot understand?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mr. Angwenyi, that will not be tolerated. One more time, and you will pay for it. That was not a point of order.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. ole Sunkuli):** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could hon. Angwenyi declare his interest in this matter?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Members, as I said a few minutes ago, if you want to stand on a point of order, you must be addressing a conduct issue of the Member on the Floor or procedure because he has broken one of our procedures. I will not allow hon. Members to stand on points of order when, in fact, they mean to engage in debates and ask questions.

Proceed, hon. Munyao.

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much, and I hope the Chair will take care of my time.

However, I hope statements and misunderstandings attributed to the likes of hon. Sunkuli will come to an end. Let it be clear to all of us that it is the constitutional requirement that demands that our President must retire after two terms. There are several heads of states who were even older than hon. Kibaki. For example, Mao Tse Tung was elected President when he was over 90 years. Mr. Nelson Mandela was also over 90 years when he was elected President. They have all retired willingly despite the fact that their people wanted them to serve. Because of the constitutional requirement, they retired. Therefore, all hon. Ministers must obey and respect the constitutional requirements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country needs an honourable Government that will be respected by all civil servants. This country is ours and we must come together to review our Constitution. We want to come up with a Constitution that will be respected by all Kenyans; a constitution that will serve all Kenyans and not a section or an individual. It is my appeal to all wananchi to be ready to give views on how they would like to be governed. God has blessed Kenya because it has never been dogged by problems like other countries in Africa. There is peace in this country. Sometimes you may think this country will be on fire, but all of a sudden, things take a different direction. We have to thank God for the peace in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with hon. Members who have talked about the plight of farmers in this country. We must all support farmers if we will succeed in eradicating poverty. It is hypothetical to talk about poverty eradication without supporting our farmers. If we support the coffee, tea, cotton and pyrethrum farmers and pastoralists, then most Kenyans will opt to stay in the rural areas. This way, we will go far in fighting poverty in this country. In order to do well in agriculture, we will have to look at our land policy because it is difficult to invest in land. Since land is the only asset that we have, the cost of land has gone so high. A professional farmer cannot even buy land in Trans Mara - the land there had no value until recently - because that is the only land available. The cost of buying land in areas like Narok, Kajiado and Ukambani has gone up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one method this country can employ to encourage people to invest in agriculture. Today, if you go to Europe, you can buy land anywhere for farming purposes as long as you can manage to take care of it. This is because of the change in policies. We should encourage industrialisation in the urban areas. Let us come up with a policy which can industrialise areas like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. You will see people moving their territories to these areas. Once they move there, the land value will decrease and there will be enough land because nobody will be interested in staying in the areas where they have moved from. Farmers can then go to those areas and invest in that land.

I am happy about the commitment from the Ministers for Agriculture, Finance and Planning. I have talked to those Ministers separately and they are interested in supporting the farmers using the STABEX money. I am also happy that the Ministers for Finance and Planning have gone out of their way to negotiate for that money. It will not only be used in the coffee and tea sectors, but will also support the farmers in the other sectors, and in particular, cotton, dairy and sugar-cane farmers, because they are also important. This money should go towards stabilizing and supporting farmers in all the other sectors because most of these cash crops earn foreign exchange. Most of these crops had "died" and we need to revive them.

At one time, Makueni District had a cotton ginnery. It was under the Machakos Co-operative Union which was owned by many farmers. This ginnery was later sold and the money went into the pockets of an individual in the Treasury. Farmers in Makueni have been wondering where this money went to since the ginnery was sold because those who were members of the Co-operative would like to get back their money. They still have their membership chits. The Minister for Agriculture should tell us where this money went to. Now that we have got two months before the next financial year, the Minister for Finance - and we will support him - should give some money to support three individuals namely, Achieng Oneko, Bildad Kagia and hon. Ngei. These people should be paid at least Kshs200,000 per month so that they can stay in their own homes. That is the best thing we can do.

I support the Motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Kihoro:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will look at the President's Speech in light of the Motion by the hon. Vice-President, that the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address. The President's speech lacked very many things. He said a number of things, but there are other very important things to this country that he did not mention. The President should be guided by the needs and demands of this country at this particular time. A very important issue to Kenyans today, this House and, maybe, more so to the Front Bench is the

**[Mr. Kihoro]**

question of succession. However, the President was not categorical about what will happen.

#### QUORUM

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum in the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, you are right, hon. Angwenyi; there is no quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

*(Mr. Angwenyi walked out of the Chamber)*

**An hon. Member:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why is hon. Angwenyi walking out when we need more hon. Members to form a quorum?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Angwenyi, you cannot say that there is no quorum in the House and then proceed to walk out! Are you awake?

*(The Division Bell was rung)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! We now have quorum.

Proceed, hon. Kihoro.

**Mr. Kihoro:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that a very important issue and which is of great concern in this country is the question of succession. That is an issue---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Kihoro, you will continue with the rest of your speech on Tuesday next week.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. This House is, therefore, adjourned until Tuesday, 27th March, 2001, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.