

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 5th April, 2000

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

CONTINUOUS UPDATING OF VOTERS' REGISTERS

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, in view of the fact that many Kenyans attain the statutory voting age of 18 years at different times, and considering the fact, that the National Voters Registration exercise is done once every five years, this House urges the Government to put in place modalities for a continuous review and update of the voters' registers.

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE BILL

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament, entitled "The Parliamentary Service Act", to provide support services to Parliament, for the purpose of ensuring full and efficient exercise of the powers of Parliament, and to promote the welfare of Members of Parliament and members of staff employed in the Parliamentary Service of the National Assembly, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament, entitled: "The Constitution of Kenya Amendment Act, 2000", to amend the provisions of Sections 58 and 59 of the Constitution, to provide for the National Assembly to control the calender of the business of the House.

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE NATIONAL DISASTER AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT BILL

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament, entitled: "The National Disaster and Safety Management Act", to provide for the integrated professional and strategic management of national disasters and safety, and for matters connected therewith, and incidental thereto.

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION BILL

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament, entitled: "The

Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act", to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to investigate the causes and effects of political and ethnic violence, and the gross violation of human rights in Kenya since 1966, and to recommend just and permanent solutions that will promote and enhance peace, national unity and national reconciliation, and to provide for matters connected therewith, and incidental thereto.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATION CENTRES

Mr. Kathangu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:- THAT, in view of the pivotal role that accurate, timely and simplified information can play in socio-economic development, and aware of the world's inevitable evolution into an electronic global village, this House urges the Government to establish information and telecommunication centres (Telecentres) and community radio stations in all districts.

FORMATION OF NATIONAL LANGUAGES COUNCIL (BALUTA)

Mr. Kathangu: Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kupeana arifa ya Hoja ifuatayo:- Kwamba, huku tukipongeza uteuzi wa Kiswahili kuwa lugha ya Taifa la Kenya, na mojawapo ya lugha mbili zinazotumiwa katika Bunge; na uteuzi wake kama lugha ya lazima na ya kutahiniwa katika shule za msingi na upili nchini; na tukitambua umuhimu wa lugha ya taifa katika ujangaji, ukuzaji na umiarishaji wa mawasiliano, uelewano na utamaduni, na utambuzi wa kitaifa; na huku tukitambua sera ya elimu nchini, ambapo lugha za mama hufundishwa katika madarasa ya kwanza ya shule za msingi, Bunge hili linapendekeza uundaji wa "Baraza la Lugha za Taifa (BALUTA)", ambalo litafanya kazi na Wizara mbali mbali, zinazohusika, ili kujenga uzalendo, utamaduni, fasihi na utambuzi wa kitaifa kupitia lugha zetu.

FORMATION OF CURRENCY COMMITTEE

Mr. Kathangu: Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kupeana arifa ya Hoja ifuatayo:- Kwamba, ili kupunguza gharama kubwa inayotokea wakati tunapobadilisha sura za sarafu nchini, aidha kwa sababu ya kusherehekea majira mbali mbali au kwa ajili ya kuwekwa picha ya Rais kwenye sura ya sarafu ili kubainisha tofauti ya uongozi, Bunge hili linapendekeza kwamba, Serikali ibuni kamati itakayohusika na masuala ya ubadilishaji wa sura za sarafu, na kwamba, kamati hiyo iwe na wanachama wafuatao: Waziri wa Fedha, Mkuu wa Sheria, Gavana wa Benki Kuu ya Kenya, Wabunge watatu na Mwenyekiti wa Soko la Hisa na kwamba, Mswada uwasilishwe Bungeni ili kuhalalisha kamati hiyo.

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

OWNERSHIP STATUS OF SHAURI MOYO ESTATE

(Mr. N. Nyagah) to ask the Minister for Local Government the following Question by Private Notice:-

- (a) What is the ownership status of Shauri Moyo Estate, comprising 197 houses, in Kamukunji Constituency?
- (b) Could the Minister give names of the head tenants associated with the estate and further state who authorised the sale without the authority of a full council meeting?
- (c) In view of the above, could the Minister inform the House the action the Government has taken to address this issue?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. N. Nyagah, is not here? The Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

PROCEDURAL MOTIONEXEMPTION OF BUSINESS FROM
PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER NO.33

The Vice-President (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that business appearing on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No.33, being a Wednesday morning's, a day allocated for Private Members' Motions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am bringing this Motion here because, as all hon. Members are aware, this morning session is dedicated to the Private Members' Motions. As things stand now, we do not have a single Motion which has matured and, therefore, deemed for debate this morning. Indeed, it is only last evening that the Business Committee balloted on a number of Notions. That being the case, I bring in this Motion in the light of the fact that there is no Private Members' Motion which has matured, so that we can proceed to the next Order.

I beg to move.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. When this Motion on the Presidential Address was first brought to the House, I raised the concern that setting aside seven days at the start of a Session that is late by, at least, one month, with ten minutes per hon. Member to thank the President was very generous to the point of being excessive. You will have noted that during the past few days, when the matter has been debated in the House, we have just been looking at the other side because there has not been sufficient Quorum in this House. We have thanked the President enough. The ritual of taking away Private Members' Motions' time because the business of the House is not ready, is not a good enough ritual. On Wednesday last week, the House adjourned after establishing the House Business Committee with express instructions that, that Committee was going to sit down that morning and set down the business of the day. There are important things even when the Private Members' Motions are not ready. Today, this country is mourning the carnage on our roads. It is within the province of this Government to find the opportunity to see that this House expresses its collective outrage at what is happening on our roads. Surely, that is, at least, as urgent as thanking the President for his Address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would like to suggest that we suspend our normal business and go on thanking the President, but this House should not establish it as a tradition that at every start of Sessions, we will waste Private Members' Motions' time to thank the President.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had occasions in this House in the past where very important Motions have come up for debate, and we have not had the opportunity to exhaustively, as a House, debate those Motions. Other Parliaments in the world, when there is an important issue of the day that requires debate by the Parliament of that country, very quickly adjust their timetable and debate that issue facing the nation very exhaustively and thoroughly, and sometimes sit even late into the night. We have a situation here, where Bills that, perhaps, are not as topical, urgent and important as other missions, can be debated here for weeks, and sometimes for even months, with speakers speaking continuously. But when there is a matter of importance, urgency; a fundamental issue of the day, this House does not devote adequate time to do it. I accept that there is no alternative other than to support the Vice-President. But in supporting him, the urgency of this House adjusting its order in order to effectively manage its business in the House is more than urgent, without, in any manner, anticipating the notice that has been given by hon. Oloo-Aringo. This is the sort of thing that underlies the necessity of this House taking charge of the management of the business of this House.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are surprised that after a week into the Session, the House Business Committee tells us that we have no Private Members' Motions that have matured. I concur with my colleagues on the Opposition side that there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government to use misuse the House Business Committee to frustrate Private Members' Motions. I know, having been one of those who gave notices of Motions much earlier, that the Motions, even those that have been read out here today, were handed in much earlier. So, the House Business Committee has got no excuse whatsoever, to say that we do not have any Motion that has matured.

Be that as it may, I must also register my concerns. We appreciate the efforts that hon. Aringo is making to

give Parliament true independence, but I want to caution the House Business Committee that should it make an attempt to prioritise other Motions ahead of the Motion that will empower the House, it will have a hard time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Dr. Ochuodho! You cannot, and you will not be allowed, to threaten any Committee of this House!

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in opposing the Motion the Vice-President has moved, I would want to suggest that even if it means adjourning, we have more serious issues to deal with, in particular, the road carnage on our Kericho-Kisumu-Kisii Road. It is saddening that even an appeal that we observe a minute's silence does not seem to have gone through. It is in that context that I want to request the Chair that you find some time so that we, as Parliament, recognise those Kenyans who have died on our roads for no fault of their own.

With those few remarks, I oppose this Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there is no other hon. Member standing to oppose him, I might as well call the Vice-President to reply.

The Vice-President (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me set the record straight as I reply.

First, the House Business Committee has not in any way been used by the Government, this time or at any other time, to oppose certain agendas. As its composition is known and was approved here, there are nine hon. Members of the Opposition and only eleven hon. Members from the KANU side. There is only a very small difference.

Secondly, the first time that the House Business Committee met was last Wednesday. There was no single Motion from the hon. Members which we had to ballot for it to be brought before the House today. Therefore, the hon. Member who may know of a Motion that was ready by last Wednesday, and it had been approved by the Speaker, can tell us about it. We did not have any. We saw a Motion only last evening, but it has to mature. That is why we are in the scenario that we find ourselves in this morning, that there is no Private Members' Motion for debate.

Thirdly, I want to bring to the attention of hon. Members that the next Motion that we will be discussing, the one on the Presidential Address, affords the hon. Members the opportunity to deliberate on any issue that they want. Indeed, there is nothing to prevent the hon. Members from talking about the road carnage which we have today. That particular Motion is not restrictive at all. I hope, therefore, that the hon. Members will use the opportunity that they will get from you to debate that Motion to discuss the topical issues that they feel are important.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I just want to point out that last week we passed a Procedural Motion which limited debate on the Presidential Address to seven days. Now, Wednesday was the first day of business of this Session, and the Speaker had no opportunity to approve any Motions before the beginning of the Session. So, he approved them on Wednesday and Thursday last week. The only time that they could have been brought before the Business Committee for balloting was yesterday. So, this was merely a procedural problem. Even if these Motions were there in the last Session, they had to be resubmitted for re-balloting. So, it was not a trick on the part of anybody; but merely a procedural situation.

The point is taken and we will note that it is not only the road carnage, but we must also remember that the Kenya Airways flight to Abidjan also crashed with many Kenyans on board. Thus, it is not only those who died in the road carnage that we must remember when we come to discuss some of these tragedies.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of the public policy in his Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on 28th March, 2000.

(The Vice-President on 29.3.2000)

*(Resumption of debate
interrupted on 4.4.2000)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Obure was on the Floor. Proceed, hon. Obure!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. On adjournment last evening, I was on the Floor supporting the President's Policy Statement issued in this House last week. It is a

Statement which focused on the greatest challenges facing this nation. I also took the opportunity to express my personal outrage at the carnage on our roads, and did suggest that, one of the causes of the tragic accidents which have taken the lives of many Kenyans and their property is speeding. I did question the wisdom of allowing the importation of passenger vehicles with huge engines. Some of them are equipped with turbo-charged engines which are not suitable for our roads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most critical problem facing our country is the slowdown in the growth of our economy. This is the greatest challenge for all leaders at the moment. The slowdown of the economy has brought about rising levels of poverty among our people. There are high levels of unemployment among our youth. There is increased crime and insecurity. There is increased pressure on the availability of amenities and facilities, and many other social evils, including demoralising the spirit of our people.

But it is not just enough for us, leaders, to lament and apportion blame. The time has come when, as a nation, we must develop a sense of unity of purpose together. We must seek solutions for the problems afflicting our nation together. I believe that any meaningful economic recovery efforts must be anchored on sustainable agricultural growth. In my opinion, the development of agriculture is critical towards the realisation of enhanced and sustainable economic growth, as well as poverty reduction. In my opinion, agriculture will continue for a long time to be at the centre of any meaningful initiatives to reduce poverty in our country. This is because agriculture is the lifeline of 80 per cent of our population. It employs 70 per cent of the total labour force. It generates approximately 60 per cent of our total foreign exchange earnings. In addition, it provides raw materials, and will continue to serve as a base for any future industrialisation programmes.

Therefore, we must all strive to allocate more resources, and create an atmosphere which is conducive in attracting more investments towards agriculture. In my opinion, this is the only way we can assist in any poverty alleviation exercise. We need more allocation of resources in agriculture to improve extension services and delivery of services to farmers. We need more investments in agriculture to provide more employment opportunities. This is a measure which will reduce the levels of unemployment.

Every effort should be made to recognise the contribution of women. We should make it possible for women to participate more meaningfully in agricultural activities. Efforts should be made to identify and make credit available, particularly to women groups around the country, in order to boost our efforts towards food production and security. The Government is in the process of reviewing the agricultural policies and legal framework, including the performance of a number of our agricultural institutions, in order to ensure that all the policies and legal framework are more friendly to investors.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion on exposition of public policy by His Excellency the President. It was good to hear the President saying that he believed good days lie ahead as we enter into the 21st Century; the new millennium. It is the wish of all Kenyans to see good days in the new millennium. But while I believe that it is the responsibility of all of us to make sure that the future of this country is secure for the generation to come, I believe that the greater responsibility of doing that lies with the Government. This is because the Government has the machinery to implement the things that the President laid here on the Table. We would also like to believe that this time round, the President will keep his word. He should not just be saying things which are not implemented. We would like to see what he says implemented. I know that it is not only the responsibility of the President to do that, but the Ministers who are seated on the Front Bench. If they fail, they have not only failed the President, but also the whole country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President emphasised the question of eradication of poverty. Yesterday, I remember one hon. Member who raised the question of other communities using other people's land and, in so doing, frustrating the farmers or the owners of those lands. It was hon. Paul Kihara who raised the question of the Maasais grazing on other people's land in Naivasha. The question here is not that they are grazing on the land. Those who passed on this road in 1996/97 will remember that there were very huge flourishing wheat farms in that area. The farms are no more because the pastoralists brought their animals to graze in that area.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to discuss a matter which, in fact, is in court? The Maasai people live on the land, and they have taken the matter to court because they have a right.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I need to answer that question from the Minister. All that I am saying is that, everybody should actually graze or cultivate on his own land. I am not saying that they should not, but they should use their own land to cultivate or graze their cattle. I am also saying that, every Kenyan should enjoy his own rights. He or she should be allowed to do so. There should be no discrimination. Those who have passed through that road in the past must have noticed very huge flourishing wheat farms in the area. These wheat farms are no more because they have been invaded by people who do not own this land. However, any Kenyan can

own land and utilise it without any disturbance anywhere in Kenya. That is what I am saying. Therefore, all that I am saying is that the people in that area, if we are talking about eradication of famine--- As I stand here today, this country is importing wheat from other countries when we are capable of growing enough wheat to feed this country and even to export to other countries. This is exactly what I am saying.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, all that we have been saying is that the pastoralists' rights should be protected. The agriculturalists' rights should also be protected so that if all our rights are protected by the Government, then there will be no problem since the farmers will be able to provide the food we need. The pastoralists will also be able to provide the meat that we need. We know that we have a few large ranches in this country, and if we allowed these people to graze in the small-scale farmers' land, then we shall not be able to continue to service this country with whatever we need.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other point that I would like to raise is the question of destruction of forests. While I have had the opportunity to raise this point in the past, the destruction of forests has continued unabated. I have been raising this question because the bigger part of Lari comprises of forests and quite a number of streams. It is a water catchment area with very many springs which flow down to Lower Kiambu, Murang'a and also part of Maasailand. These streams are now drying up. They are drying up because the forests have been destroyed. If you overfly Lari, which was in the past covered wholly by forests, it is now empty. My complaint is that these forests are being destroyed and not replanted. I am sorry to say that it is this Government which is carrying out the destruction of forests in that area. The foresters stand accused for the destruction of these forests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government is not even benefitting from the sale of the forest products because of corruption. I am sorry that the other day it was the Minister for Environment, hon. Nyenze, who went to visit Lari. When he did so, he made sure that he did not invite the hon. Member for the area. He did not even invite the District Commissioner, or the District Officer, and yet, these are the people who have been complaining about the destruction of forests. He only asked the foresters to accompany him, and they only showed him the areas where they have replanted trees and they cover only the area along the main highway. The interior part of the forest is empty since no replanting of trees has taken place. To make the matter worse, I have been to quite a number of these forest stations, and they do not have any nurseries to grow seedlings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so, the way I see it is that even in the near foreseeable future, there will be no tree planting in that area and, perhaps, in the next 30 to 40 years, we shall have no forest in that area. Consequently, it is sad that we are making that area a desert while we should actually be making sure that the water catchment area is protected. Then, what is this Government doing while we know that we even have the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in this country? We have them here and yet we do not lead the way in making sure that we are protecting our environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saddened when hon. Nyenze went to that area. He even had the guts to say that he will deploy the General Service Unit (GSU) to protect the forests. What we need is not the GSU to protect the forests; we need the people to be trained and taught how to take care of their own forests, and they are aware that this is their own forest. They are ready to take care of their forest. It is not the local people who are destroying these forests. These are the unscrupulous and money-hungry sawmillers who are doing so, and we have many of them in that area. Quite a number of them are what I would call "briefcase sawmillers" because they do not have any particular sawmill. What they do is that they pay certain amounts of money to the foresters, and then they become brokers in that they are the ones who sell the trees to other people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever was actually remaining, because all the indigenous trees are gone, they have now resorted to burning charcoal. If you drive along the Nakuru Highway, you will notice that on the lower part of the road, and overlooking the hills where the forests were, there is smoke everywhere. This is because they are still burning charcoal and yet, we hear that the Government has banned destruction of forests. We also hear that the Government has banned logging in that area, and if you go along the road, you will find that these same lorries carrying logs pass through the road blocks while the police are still there.

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

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to start by first of all thanking the President for an excellent Speech which he made when opening Parliament last week. I say that because those people who listened carefully will note that he covered issues in the way the Head of State should do; that is, to outline the main issues and then leave us, Ministers, to fill in the gaps. So, from that point of view, I do wish to congratulate the President, and I hope he will continue to do this for many years to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, let me mention one or two things about democracy. When multi-partyism was introduced in this country a few years ago, many people misunderstood what it meant. Many people who went to school theorised as to what multi-partyism meant. They came up with professional theories, and we are beginning to see the effects of those theories today. All we need to do is to look at the political parties today and

understand how unprepared many of us in this Chamber were for multi-partyism. We do not seem to understand what multi-partyism means. Multi-partyism for many of us meant removing our heads of parties, taking the big positions, and causing chaos within our parties; hence, what we are seeing in every single party today.

What we are seeing is not a single party in this House which is not going to listen to views from this side to that side. So, I hope, as democracy takes root in this country, we will understand it, and we will know how to deal with it. We will be mature and we will grow up to understand how it works in other countries. We should not follow it theoretically, or do it the way we have done in the last seven years of multi-partyism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, as you know, I come from an area which depends on the future of Mt. Kenya Forest. Therefore, I would fully agree with my colleague, the former Ambassador, that forests need to be protected. I am also very grateful to hon. Nyenze, who is trying his level best--- We, in the lower parts, are suffering because the rivers that used to be big, including the Tana River, are gone. I do not know; maybe, we need riots by people from the lower parts to go and ensure that people up there protect the forest. If the forests the hon. Member was talking about--- If Mt. Kenya, particularly, is not protected, we are going to have very serious problems. For example, already the dams along the Tana River are almost empty. It is possible now to see the bottom of Kamburu Dam! Where do you expect electricity to come from if the dams are empty? The dams are empty partly because those people who live up in the forest zones are not being responsible.

I would like to urge my colleague, hon. Nyenze, to be very ruthless with anybody who interferes with forests. I know the Government has started a very serious programme. I know hon. Nyenze and his team are making it very uncomfortable for anybody who messes up with the forest. But I would like to see him do more than what he is doing, in order to ensure that our rivers and dams are protected, and that we have rains. As I said, most of what used to be semi-permanent rivers are now permanently dry. When talking about rivers, I want to confirm the very strong support that the people of the Tana River region; all the way to Pokomoland, where the Tana River joins the Indian Ocean, have an institution called TARDA; the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority. This is an institution which we need to strengthen and not to have killed. It needs to be strengthened because two per cent of its resources are supposed to be spent in our area. We would like TARDA to be strengthened, not to be killed. If TARDA is killed, there will be riots from Yatta to Pokomoland.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not believe in riots, and you know that I am a very calm gentleman. I would not want to organise the people of that area to riot because TARDA is very important for the survival of our people.

An hon. Member: You are contradicting yourself!

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. J. Nyagah): There is no contradiction. I am very clear in what I am saying. I just want to support very strongly the development of TARDA. But TARDA must also pay the money it owes the people. Many of the Mbeere people's land was taken away from them when the dams were being constructed and they have never been paid! Those people must be paid. I know they are organising to go to court. I do not know how to contain them. I would like to contain them, but we must find a way of containing our people. This is because, once we contain them, they will then be able to protect the dams from siltation.

At the moment, they are becoming irresponsible. They are beginning to be careless and I am worried. If we do not involve the local communities so that they can wish and want to protect siltation of the dams---

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since I am the Minister for Lands and Settlement, I look after land issues and for the last three months I have spent a lot of time on the ground. I would like to appeal to Parliamentarians to support the efforts our Ministry is making. The Government wishes to give title deeds to as many Kenyans as possible and it would like to ensure that few cases of land issues appear. We have tried our best and we are doing our best. I hope this Parliament will support us as we attempt to reduce land cases. On our part, we will take drastic actions. In our Ministry, we are taking drastic actions but we need the support of our leaders; the councillors and Members of Parliament. They should not to make it difficult for us. We wish to serve Kenyans, but we cannot serve Kenyans when land issues are over-politicised. Land issues are very sensitive, and I would appeal to as many people to send their recommendations to the Njonjo Commission on Land Law Review, so that your views can be heard. There are very many issues which are very complicated and very complex. Talking about them here lightly will not solve those problems.

I have had problems in situations where a man has a title deed but the local community has refused to let him utilize that land. In such a case, what do I do? That is why I would like to appeal to people to make recommendations to the Njonjo Commission. Do not be emotional, and do not politicise the issues of land; they are sensitive and difficult, but they need to be addressed. So, I would recommend that as many people as possible should make their recommendations to that Commission.

Mr. Kathangu: On a point order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not want to interrupt my hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Kathangu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the Minister to continue talking about title deeds

here when the Head of State has actually referred to those title deeds just as pieces of paper which must not be respected?

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to finish my contribution, eradication of poverty, as we have all agreed, is very important. In ASAL areas, we would like to see more earth dams that will reduce poverty, and I would urge the Minister in charge to look at it. More irrigation activities are critical in the areas we come from, and we will want to see more resources put into them. We would like to see the strengthening of the co-operative movement in those areas so that the co-operatives there become strong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the future of banking in Kenya is difficult. The ordinary man in rural areas of Kenya will never have a bank account. We would like to see in those areas where the co-operatives are strong and where they have little banking units--- We would like the Central Bank of Kenya and the Treasury to move in and strengthen their management, so that they can serve the local population because the regular commercial banks are no longer able to serve our people. So, I would like to urge the Minister for Finance and the Central Bank of Kenya to do something because it would help our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to security, we have a lot of incidents of insecurity in our country. We have addressed it and it has been discussed. I would like to urge that more resources should be given to the police. I would also like to appeal to the public to help the police. Keeping information to yourself is not solving a problem; it is a collective responsibility.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, and His Excellency the President, again, for an excellent statement.

Thank you.

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to join my colleagues in contributing to this Motion. But I will not thank the Government because from time to time, we normally say, "thank the President and the Government."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me take this opportunity to condemn the Government for so many ills it has committed against the people of this country. Particularly, the KANU Government has been giving lip service to Kenyans since 1978. There is no single implementation of its plans at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, road carnage is not only a problem because Kenyan drivers do not know how to drive. The biggest problem is because of the poor roads in our country. Kenya is ranked the sixth country in the world with the poorest road-networks. It is not because we do not have the money; we have too much money, but we misuse it. We have never been told where this amount of money that the Government is collecting from the Fuel Levy goes. What has the Government been doing with this money? Today, we are being told that there is no money. We disburse money here but we do not see any single development with regard to the maintenance of the roads. Last year, I asked a Question in this House, urging the Government to maintain the Bungoma-Mianga-Malakisi Road, but, to date, that road has not been maintained, and whenever we ask about it, the Minister for Roads and Public Works will say: "We have provided so much money for maintaining that road". But so far, there is nothing which has been done on that particular road. It is high time that this Parliament reintroduced the Implementation Committee so that it becomes one of the Standing Committees of this House in order to check whether all the Motions that have been passed by this House have been implemented or not. Otherwise, we shall be talking for five years and we will never see the Government implementing whatever this House has passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, hon. Obwocha brought a Motion to this House, urging the Government to remove the Provincial Administration from sitting in various councils. That does not cost the Government anything. It is just a question of implementing that Motion to ensure that the District Commissioners or District Officers do not sit in county council meetings, because they are supposed to be non-partisan. That Motion was accepted, but the Minister concerned has remained adamant with regard to implementing it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this House, during the Inter-Party Parliamentary Group (IPPG) meetings we said that the Attorney-General should register various societies, like the Civil Servants Union. I do not know why it is so difficult for the Attorney-General to allow the Civil Servants Union to be registered. In fact, a Question was brought to this House as to what happened to the assets of the Civil Servants Union when it was disbanded. This means that the Government is deliberately refusing to register the Civil Servants Union because they will question the Government about the whereabouts of the said assets. That is why the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are becoming difficult in giving us money, because they know that we are the looters. Let us accept that we are wrong, and they can forgive us. But on this question of going to beg money and we cannot show how we are spending it, even the donors will one day get annoyed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government does not have the moral authority to run this country. It is a big shame to find that the Head of State, for example, when he came to Bungoma in 1980, promised the people of Bungoma that Kibabii Teachers Training College was going to take off. It is now over 20 years and that college is not

in existence, yet there are many other colleges that have come up much later and they are complete. Even in 1992, during the campaign period, the Head of State came and contributed Kshs2 million under the pretext that the Kibabii Teachers College was going to be built, but that was a pure lie or untruth, but "untruth" and "lies" are one and the same thing!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Sifuna! "Untruth" and "lies" are not the same things in this House. The word "lies" does not exist in the language of this House.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1981, the Government promised the people of Bungoma that it would establish a medical training college at Webuye, but, to date, that college has not been started. How can you expect the people of Bungoma to trust this rotten Government? If the Government implemented two out of ten projects, we would say "thank you." But when it promised ten and it cannot even implement one---Even on the simplest thing that does not require money, the Government is so adamant as far as implementation is concerned. In 1980 there was a promise by the Minister for Water Development that we would have Malaba-Kocholia Water Project to serve the people of Bumula and Teso District, but, to date, there is no drop of water! How do you expect us to trust or support this Government? There are so many promises that were made by the Government, but no single project has ever been implemented! To date, we have no running water in Bungoma Town. We have complained several times, but the Ministry or the department in charge of water has refused to heed or solve that particular problem. It is high time that the water departments within municipalities are given back to the various municipal councils to run them rather than leaving them to the water department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so many industries have collapsed in this country. We had a very good cotton industry in Malaba but it has collapsed because of the poor governance of the KANU Government. Last year, the Government brought expatriates to Nzoia Sugar Company and even some went to Muhoroni Sugar Company. Luckily, the people of Muhoroni were clever enough and chased away those Pakistanis. We kept quiet, but, to date, there is nothing which the expatriates are doing there. Our people are suffering and three weeks ago, it was reported in the newspapers that the people of Bungoma are the poorest people in this country, not because we are lazy, but because our money has sunk in Nzoia Sugar Company. The Minister for Agriculture should be honest enough and tell us the truth. At one time, he told us that those expatriates were coming with Kshs600 million, but, to date, they have not given us anything despite the fact that each is earning Kshs1 million. How do you expect us to trust this Government? For example, this company has not paid me for all the cane I have delivered for the last one-and-half years. How do they expect me to continue growing cane? How can I convince the people of Bungoma, or the Luhya in general, to support this Government and yet, every day, they keep on singing; "*Tawala Kenya, Mshindi number one, Mwizi number one, Mkora number one*" and everything?

(Laughter)

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Address on an occasion like the opening of a new Session of Parliament should be a major policy statement, identifying all the issues of the day confronting the Kenyan nation and telling the Kenyan people how the Government of the day proposes to go about addressing and resolving those issues. That is what a Presidential Address on the opening of a new Session should focus on ranging.

We have in this country a very long catalogue of issues that are facing Kenyans from the inability of parents to pay school fees for their children to the condition of our roads, health services and lack of drugs in hospitals, unemployment and poverty *et cetera*. These are the issues that Kenyans were waiting for because they want to be told how this Government is going to go about addressing and resolving them. All these issues can be categorised into two; economic, on the one hand and constitutional and political, on the other hand. All the problems, including poverty, can be categorised into two those categories; that is, economic, political and constitutional. These two categories are the two sides to the same coin; you cannot resolve one without resolving the other one. You cannot address one without the other one. Very many times, we are told that we are spending too much time discussing politics and ignoring discussing the economy of this country. That is our failure to appreciate that the economic debts in which Kenya finds itself today; poverty, unemployment and all these problems that are facing this nation, are caused by poor leadership at the political level. So, you cannot resolve these economic problems without going to the root cause of the problems, addressing and resolving them. To try and do anything else is liking trying to purify water downstream, when the cause of the pollution is a pollutant, at the point where the stream is coming from. So, if you want the water to be clean, you have to go to the source of the spring and remove the pollutant, so the rest of the water can be clean. You cannot resolve the poverty and economic problems in this country without addressing the constitutional and political issues. Failure of the Presidential Address to capture this undeniable truth is, in my view, a tragic loss of an opportunity. That is what we would have expected to see him addressing. Therefore, even those who think that they can resolve the economic problems without addressing the constitutional and political systems are, in my view, indulging in an

exercise in futility. I have in mind, for example, the Dream Team which appears to be addressing retrenchment of civil servants and economic reforms and so on. They have chosen a good name for themselves. Although at the moment, they have created the impression that they are implementing reforms; you will find in due course that, they will turn out to be exactly that; a dream. They are not going to bring any effective, permanent and durable reforms in the economy of this country or in the management of the affairs of this nation.

Even when the World Bank and the IMF talk about poverty eradication, when you examine that package; it is a new name. It is a Christian name for the old Structural Adjustment Programme (SAPs). But this time round, the World Bank and IMF do not want to be blamed that they are imposing some reforms on the Kenyan people. So, they changed the name and called it Poverty Eradication Plan, so that it appears that it is the Kenyan people who are asking for this package. Poverty eradication is in the countryside. If we as Kenyans want to eradicate poverty or begin to eradicate poverty, we must tell the World Bank to begin from Kisumu. There are fishermen there who have been using canoes over the years to fish. Today, their business has been taken away from them by modern boats which have been brought there by members of the Asian and Japanese communities. Why does the World Bank not begin giving loans to these fishermen, so that they can acquire similar sort of boats? And coming to the shore, where the women there buy fish from these fishermen; they have never had access to credit at concessionary rates of interest. Give those women loans to trade in fish; go from there to the sugar growing areas of Western Province and make credit accessible directly to the sugar farmers. Come through Rift Valley Province's wheat and maize growing areas. Make credit at concessionary rates of interest accessible to those farmers so that they can double their maize and wheat production. Go to the North Eastern Province and do the same with the people who look after livestock there. Let them be able to access credit so that they can construct slaughter houses. Poverty is in the countryside. We have markets littering the whole country, but those men and women who go to these markets in the countryside do not have access to credit. Give credit to *mama mboga*, so that she can be able to increase the production of vegetables that she is bringing from the countryside to the town centres. Go to where the poverty is. That is the way to eradicate poverty. By-pass Government bureaucracy, by-pass Government corruption and go directly to the poor people. Do not call a meeting at the School of Monetary Studies where, if you look at the galaxy of motor vehicles there; when you look at the weight of the individuals there, you will see that they are not poor people. Their problem is how to cut down on the weight, because they are eating a full breakfast, lunch and dinner. That is why they then go to the gymnasium in the evening to try and lose weight. They are not poor people. Go and find out the priorities of the poor people in the countryside and do not patronise them. Do not decide for them what is right and what is not right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we keep talking about the very tragic loss of lives and yet, we in this House need to set a good example. We are saying that the traffic police are not enforcing the traffic rules; what example are we giving in this House when we, on this side of the House, have repeatedly pointed out that the current number of Ministries is illegal and unconstitutional? Section 16 of the Constitution specifically imposes a legal duty on this House to determine the number of Ministries, or to pass a law to enable the President to do so. Section 16 states that in very clear language, and yet, year in, year out, we sit here and allocate money in the Budget to Ministries that are clearly unconstitutional and illegal. What example are we setting to the rest of the country? Why do we not begin with respect for the law and the Constitution, by ourselves respecting Section 16 of the Constitution?

The Government's Chief Legal Adviser, unfortunately, is not here today; and those of us in the legal fraternity do know that, the Chief Legal Adviser to the Government has a got a First Class legal brain. So, he knows about Section 16, but he does not have the guts to stand up to the Government and tell them that a law must be brought into this House in order to comply with Section 16. Do we have the authority after we have set up this sort of example, to complain about the traffic policemen? No, we do not have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the *Daily Nation* for the serialisation that they carried recently on the part played by the late Bruce Mackenzie, even in breaking up the East African Community (EAC) to the great loss of this country. This Government should ask itself: Is history repeating itself, or do we have to wait for another thirty years, for another serialisation? At least, Bruce Mackenzie was not Secretary to the Cabinet---Are we seeing a situation where history is repeating itself? We must watch not to imprison this country in the prison of multinationals in the name of liberalisation. You cannot have liberalisation which is not regulated. We must not destroy our own agriculture because we are being told to open up our markets. Even the countries that have opened up their markets, have done so after their agriculture, trade and manufacturing industries have come up to the level where they can compete with the other countries.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Musila: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. First of all, I would like to join my colleagues, especially those from this side of the House, to congratulate the President for his Address, in which he very ably addressed the various issues facing our nation.

The Government, and by extension, the people of Kenya, have declared war against poverty. In my view, this

is a war we must win. I say this because the mass poverty that prevails in this country today is the source of many problems facing our country. In this respect, I would like to congratulate the Government for the preparation of the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for the Year 2000 to 2003. Those of us who attended the workshop at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) are very confident that if the proposals contained in that Paper were implemented - the key word here is "implementation" - we could make a huge dent on the poverty situation in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to touch on a few issues, which, in my view, are crucial to poverty reduction in this country, the first one being unemployment. Unemployment has reached very dangerous levels in this country. The Government must take urgent measures to address the various conditions that have contributed to an increase in poverty. First of all, the Government must improve the security situation, repair the infrastructure, and eradicate corruption in this country, among many other things. By doing so, we will stimulate economic growth and, therefore, create jobs.

In the interim period, the Government ought to channel the billions of shillings being collected, daily, under the Fuel Levy Fund (FLF), to the rural areas for the purpose of improving the infrastructure there. There are very many people in the rural areas, particularly the youth, who are not employed. Money from that fund could be used to repair the infrastructure in the rural areas. That work should be done by manual labourers as opposed to using machines, so as to employ the youths as we continue to improve the infrastructure in those areas. In the interim PRSP, to which I have just referred, it is stated that coal deposits have been discovered in an area called "Mui". That Paper says that Mui is in Kitui District; I would like to correct that impression. Mui is in Mwingi District. I am happy to, in fact, say that the area referred to is in my constituency.

The exploitation of those mineral deposits will, surely, help to reduce poverty not only in my constituency, but also in the country as a whole. Currently, many industries in this country are importing coal at great expense, particularly, those dealing in cement production. Billions of shillings are being spent on importation of coal for various industries in this country. If that coal is exploited, we will save a large amount of foreign exchange for this country. We will also export the excess of the mineral and earn the country foreign exchange. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to appeal to the Government to move very fast and do the necessary survey with a view to exploiting this mineral for the prosperity of this nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty has affected education negatively in this country today, especially, in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) districts. A large number of children, particularly those in primary schools, do not concentrate in class because of hunger. Famine has struck most of the ASAL districts, and the prospects in those areas look very gloomy. This morning, we read from newspapers that about three million people are affected by famine in this country today. I would, therefore, like to appeal to the Government to ensure that all primary schools are covered by the Nation School Feeding Programme (NSFP), so that children who have attained school-going age can be provided with meals at the various schools.

The situation is no better in secondary schools. There have been very many drop-outs from secondary schools, because the fees guidelines that were issued by the Ministry of Education, recently are not affordable by many parents. Consequently, secondary school children are dropping out of school in large numbers due to lack of fees. Last year, Mwingi District reported not less than 200 school dropouts, and the situation is getting worse. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure that adequate funds are allocated to those districts for students to be awarded bursaries, so that they, too, can pursue further education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, the situation is no better at the university level. While I congratulate the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) for its achievement in giving loans to university students, I think the HELB could do more. The amounts of money being given to students by the HELB is not sufficient. Therefore, so as to improve the situation and ensure that we counter poverty, in as far as education is concerned, the Government should look for funds to, adequately, finance the HELB and enable it to finance both secondary and university education in this country.

I would also like to touch on water. In most parts of the country, people have no access to any water. I am talking about "any water" because most people talk about people having access to clean water. Most people in this country have no access to any water; not even unclean water. So, the Government ought to address itself to the problem of water in this country. The situation has remained the same, the earlier undertaking by the Government to provide clean water to all households by the Year 2000, notwithstanding. We are now in the Year 2000, but we do not have any clean water in our households. Therefore, the Government should do everything possible to ensure that this problem is addressed. In the rural areas, people, especially women, spend a lot of time searching for water instead of engaging themselves in other productive activities. In my view, lack of water is one of the most serious problems facing our people. Therefore, we should start reducing poverty by ensuring that our people have access to this basic, but very important, commodity in our lives. Nobody should be travelling for more than two kilometres in search of

water in this country. We know that some people travel a distance of up to 10 kilometres, in search of water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on water, I would like to appeal to the Government to make use of the enormous water resources that are available in this country, particularly, in the dry areas. Virtually, every dry district has a river traversing through it. Having in mind the Ukambani region which has two big rivers, I would like to appeal to the Government to see what it can do to provide the people of that region with water for irrigation. This can go along way in ensuring that communities grow their own food crop using water, which is readily available instead of relying on famine relief food all the time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr. Katuku: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. From the onset, I would like to say that there was nothing new in the Presidential Speech or policy guidelines that the President gave in this House and I have nothing much to say about because this is what he has been telling us. What we want to see is action and not rhetoric.

I would like, first of all, to comment on the issue of poverty eradication. We spend a lot of money holding seminars here and there talking about plans on eradication of poverty and, yet, we do not involve the stakeholders - the people who feel the pinch of the whole issue. For example, if you look at my constituency, you will find that nobody has been involved in drawing the policy paper which is coming. I would like to inform this House that it is only a few people, who sit in the offices and seminars, and say that they are eradicating poverty in this country. If you want to eradicate poverty in this country, you must take into consideration the person at the grassroots level. For example, if you want to eradicate poverty in my constituency, you must focus on the livestock farmers in that area.

The only thing we need in my constituency is water. We have been telling this Government that we need water in dry regions to irrigate the area and make people self-reliant because we are tired of relying on relief food. So, if this Government is serious on the eradication of poverty, it must focus on the people at the grassroots level. We must focus on how we can assist the small man at the village level. For example, in my constituency, we have the carving industry, which is very vital, but this Government has never done anything to promote this industry which started in Wamunyu Market. I would like to inform this House that nothing has been done to promote the small-scale carvers. The Department of Co-operatives has not done anything to assist these people who are being exploited by the middlemen. Anything that they carve is bought at less than Kshs200 and when it is taken out there, it fetches thousands of shillings. I would like to urge this Government to come up with policies which are geared towards assisting the common man at the ground.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, I am worried about sand harvesting in my area, and I wish the Minister for Environment, Mr. Nyenze was here. Although sand harvesting is our livelihood in our region it is done in a very poor way. For example, in Kathama, which is in Mbiuni Location, bridges have been swept away and people cannot get water; people have to travel long distances to get water because the sand which is harvested from this area leaves the river bed dry. The people who live in this area have no water and, yet, you will find that this sand is sold at a throw-away price. I would like to inform this House that a lorry full of sand costs Kshs1,200 at the source and when it gets here it is sold at Kshs20,000. What is this Government doing to assist sand harvesters? The Government must be serious and assist the people on the ground.

When we talk about corruption, especially among our civil servants, we must ask ourselves: "Have we paid them well?" You will find a police officer, and I am not saying that corruption should be entertained, is paid not more than Kshs4,000 per month and, yet that officer stays in a house, if it is a rental house or a Government House of about Kshs10,000. Where does he get the difference to pay the house rent? He must do some funny things to make up his life, because he has children in school. We must increase salaries of our civil servants so that we encourage them to work efficiently. How do we expect them to perform, if we do not pay them well? They will be tempted to meet their needs by engaging in corrupt deals. If we have to handle the issue of corruption effectively, we must start from the top and not from the small man. There are small people, for example, the incident we had recently, where an askari was being bribed Kshs100 and, yet, there is a senior officer in the Ministry who steals millions of shillings. I saw in the newspapers today one Permanent Secretary who went away with over Kshs1 billion! What are we doing about him? Why can we not get that one first before we go for the junior officer? We must be seen to be serious.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on Government expenditure, you will find that a lot of resources are being wasted through unscrupulous ways. For example, we have a Government which has 16 Ministries or so, but we pay about 27 Ministers. I would like to call upon whoever made a decision on this, if it was the TM or MT to leave one Minister and Permanent Secretary in each Ministry. We do not need two Ministers in one Ministry. It was very interesting the other day when I saw the President being taken round, by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Medical Services. They were competing to take the President round as if it was a competition. Why can we not do away with one Minister and remain with one Minister in each Ministry if we are serious? Even if I cannot see the TM or the MT here, if there is anybody who can reach the old man, let him advise him to send these Ministers away. Let us have one Minister in each Ministry.

We are tired of talking about insecurity in this country. Insecurity in this country, as we have been saying, is as a result of poverty in this country. For example, there is an area in my constituency where you cannot cross after 9.00 p.m. You cannot drive along the Machakos-Kitui Road at night because you might find it blocked or nails on the road. This is as a result of poverty. The people who are doing these are not employed and they get their earnings through this criminal act. It is surprising that you cannot get any police vehicle to patrol such a road, but when it comes to--- For example, whenever, I approach the police and ask them to patrol the region, they say that they have no petrol or diesel to patrol it, but when I had a rally in my constituency three weeks ago, they came in four vehicles to stop my rally. Where did they get the petrol or diesel for the four vehicles? We must be serious when it comes to the issue of security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the review of the Constitution, I entirely agree with the British High Commissioner who advised that we must get the two groups; the Ufungamano Group and the Raila-led Group to agree. We should not pretend. I am told the report will be tabled here next week. This is mere pretence and it is not going anywhere. You saw how peaceful we were during the State Opening of Parliament. I want to assure hon. Raila and his team that it will not be the same when he tables the report here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Katuku, you have no business threatening anybody in this House. Next time round, it is you who is going to see that fire you are promising.

Mr. Katuku: I am not threatening anybody, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was just stating the truth of the matter; that Kenyans are tired with these pretences here and there. Hon. Mbitiru was there and he can bear me witness that there is nothing new. The two groups need to come together as Kenyans and raise the issue of the review of the Constitution together.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not what I had stopped you about a now it. Do not twist your words. Proceed.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that the Constitution is not a document for KANU, SDP or DP; it is a document for Kenyans. When this Motion was being moved here, I said we need to consult. In fact, I moved a Motion of Adjournment of the debate on that Motion so that we could consult effectively. This Constitution is going to guide this Government or our country for years and not three people who have selfish interests.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this important Motion. I wish to express my support and actually congratulate His Excellency the President for a well-thought out and diligent exposition of public policy that has once again set the agenda for us in this House. He addressed literally all the problems that are affecting Kenyans today. One of them was the problem of corruption which has become a cancer in our community. This Government has already taken steps to curb that. He has also given us further direction on what the Government is planning to do. Poverty which is afflicting the majority of Kenyans today has also been given prominence by the President. He has once again told us what kind of measures will be taken to implement the Poverty Eradication Plan which the Government has already launched.

Insecurity is another major problem in this country. There is the problem of roads and reduced trade. Our country has become a pillar and a reference point in this region as far as regional co-

operation is concerned because of the wise leadership of His Excellency the President. I would strongly disagree with what my colleague, hon. Katuku has said on the Constitutional Review Process. There are no two groups as far as we are concerned. There is only one group - the Committee of this House. Parliament is the organ that has been empowered by our people to look at the issue of the review of the Constitution. Whether Kenyans want to enact a Constitution or review what we already have, this is the responsibility of this House and again this Government has taken the lead.

What we have seen here in the name of criticism has just been empty rhetoric from people who are competing for newspaper headlines and this will not take us anywhere. We expect our colleagues from the Opposition to come up with workable proposals and help the Government of the day to improve on what has already been done. Who knows, one day maybe 20 or 30 years down the road they will be in power and they might need those of us who will be in the Opposition to support them. While this Government is doing so much it is incumbent upon our colleagues in the Opposition to help us come up with better proposals rather than just to criticise for the sake of it.

Poverty mainly affects the marginalised pastoral communities in this country. There is lack of infrastructure in literally every part of Northern Kenya, Turkana, Marsabit, Moyale, Isiolo and Tana River. These are the areas where people are really poor and the reason is lack of infrastructure. In most parts there are no roads, schools and there are very few health facilities. The Isiolo-Moyale Road which links us to the horn of Africa is in a very bad state. If that road was improved there is a population of about Kshs80 million in the horn of Africa, who would benefit from it and we, as a country would benefit from increased trade. We are a bit more industrially advanced than our neighbours and

our industrial products sell like hot cakes in those countries. If we improve that road then it is going to be beneficial to the people of that region and to us as a nation because we would be selling our commodities to our neighbours.

The port of Mombasa would also benefit. People in our neighbouring country of Ethiopia are now turning to the port of Djibouti because our road which leads to their country is impassable. The insecurity that exists on those roads is also a major menace because bushes are not cleared around and there are valleys all over. Bandits wait for people and attack them at various junctions.

When talking of poverty eradication in Northern Kenya one must look at the issue of water, both for human and livestock consumption. Moyale Town gets water from across the border. The Ethiopian Government had pulled water 30 or 40 kilometres away and the people across the border are selling water to us. This should not have happened. In Northern Kenya, in places where we have water we do not have pasture and vice versa. If water was made available you would not hear of pastoral communities complaining of poverty. There is grass and if you provide water, that is all it takes and you will not hear of any poor people. We call upon the Government to look critically at pastoral areas and provide water wherever it is necessary.

We all appreciate that insecurity is a general problem in this country, but it is a major cause of poverty in Northern Kenya because people are competing for meagre resources. People are fighting over pasture land. We know what is happening today in Isiolo. There are clans which are fighting in Moyale. Marakwets and Pokots are always fighting about pasture. Turkanas and Pokots are always fighting about pasture and now our brothers, the Maasais are being threatened with violence shamelessly by some Members of this House. It is a big shame! If our Kikuyu brothers in Naivasha are too lazy to carry out farming activities---

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! No Member will use the platform of this House to attack a community in this country. We are all Kenyans. Hon. Affey, I will forgive you this time round. Do not use ---

Mr. Kihara: (Inaudible)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do not use particularly, the dispatch box for that purpose.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the word "lazy". If they are not as industrious as---

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want him to withdraw and apologise! Where does he come from?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Kihara, you know better than that, because you are a senior citizen of this Republic. Set a good example to other hon. Members. I will not allow this House to be used for raising slighting views on individuals. So, hon. Affey, now I will ask you to withdraw.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise. I regret using the word "lazy". I said if they are not using the land and it is laying there idle, contrary to what the Maasais are doing---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Just withdraw and proceed with your statement?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have withdrawn the word "lazy". If the Maasais see the land is bare and they come to graze their animals, I think, with due respect, they should be allowed to do so. If pastures have dried up in other parts--- That is their source of livelihood. Pastoralist communities have been pushed beyond any reasonable limit---

Mr. Kihara: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this hon. Member to allege that those farms are idle? I think, I must make it clear; we are not targeting Maasais, but we are asking people who do not own land there, to leave that land to the owners. We are not targeting any community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Kihara! You have not raised any point of order. You are just arguing. Proceed, Mr. Affey.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, pastoralist communities have been marginalised. We want to appeal to our brothers, because pastoralism is the livelihood of most of our communities, to be more understanding and allow other people to go about their activities without necessarily threatening them with violence. This is because violence will not help anybody in this country. It will not help even hon. Kihara or hon. Affey. So, we must learn to be more sympathetic to other people's needs.

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

Mr. Parpai: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to contribute on the Presidential Address. I listened very carefully to his Excellency the President when he was reading his Speech. I took a lot of interest on many issues that he raised. Later on, when I was alone, I focused my mind on that speech and I asked myself: Was what I heard from the President really going to be implemented or it will be thrown into a shelf, to gather dust? Many times, we have heard inspiring speeches, utterances and directives from the Government that have never been implemented. What struck my mind is the Emali-Loitoktok Road. Ten years ago, the Government issued a directive that, that road be tarmacked. It is a shame that ten years down the line, that road is worse off than it was.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, early in 1980s, the Government introduced School Feeding Programme. However, in my constituency, some schools have never seen a packet of school milk. So, the question is: How serious is this statement?

When I read through the speech, one of the paragraphs indicates that the President was happy that the PIC and the PAC are doing a very good job in assisting the Government to eradicate corruption in this country. As a Member of one of those committees, I was a very happy man because the President did appreciate my job. However, the following morning when I bought a local daily newspaper, I was a very sad and surprised man. This was because what was contained in the Presidential Speech is not what is in his heart. He had elsewhere directed that our wings be clipped because we are stepping on very important people's toes. I asked myself: How genuine is the whole text of the Presidential Speech? It is high time that leaders of this country, hon. Ministers and hon. Members issued statements that they believe in. If you want to be trusted and taken seriously, as a leader of whatever level, you must only tell people what you believe in. If you do not believe in anything, please, do not utter it, otherwise, you will be lowering your dignity and nobody will ever trust you.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, it is very difficult for me to believe and support all the contents of the Presidential Speech. It is high time that whatever is said or documented for the good of this country was implemented. It is unnecessary to form many commissions, as they have already been formed, and yet, their reports are not made public. And even if their reports are not made public, their recommendations should be implemented because colossal sums of money are spent to gather the information.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on education, many times in this House, we have heard that the Government will retrench some 60,000 teachers because teacher-pupil ratio is high in this country. In my constituency, we have a shortage of about 13,000 teachers. It is futile for the Government to urge wananchi in Kajiado to compete with other districts when there is a shortage of teachers. A school that was the best in Kajiado District in the national examination is in my constituency. The school that performed poorly in Kajiado District is also in my constituency. That happened because, out of the eight teachers required in that school, there were only three teachers. How do we expect three teachers to teach from class one to class eight? It is unimaginable and it is a mockery of education in this country. We are both wasting teachers', pupils' and parents' time. It is a pity for the Ministry to tell parents in Kajiado District to employ teachers. How do they expect that community to employ teachers and yet, they are relief food recipients. That anomaly has to be checked, if the Government expects us to compete fully with other districts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the issue of pastoralists, I would request my colleagues on both sides to tolerate us. It is important that we are tolerated. The world is becoming smaller and smaller for us, more than everybody else. Like everybody else knows, initially, Kenya seemed as if it belonged to pastoralists. Today, we admit that we have been squeezed to a smaller area. We are not saying that we are not going to respect others' rights; but we are saying: Let them understand us. It would have been better if leaders requested a meeting of leaders of those who have been aggrieved and those who were grazing on those areas. But if we talk of ultimatums, I will not accept that as a pastoralist.

(Applause)

I am not only talking of residential areas; I am also talking of national parks, because we also graze there. Animals are not like maize farms. I also farm and I cannot move my maize farm to an area that is receiving rain at that particular time, but I can move my animals. I am not asking my fellow pastoralists, the Maasais included, to move their cows, goats and donkeys to shambas. However, I am saying that if for Heaven's sake, my animal goes astray and gets into somebody's shamba, I should not be hit on the back. Let them understand me. Why are my cows, in the first place, moving there? Let me given a chance to explain myself. That is what I am saying. There is a case in our minds. Already, there are many animals grazing in Laikipia farms. It is not that those people wanted to go and offend people in Laikipia. However, it is because these people have no other pasture and their land has been squeezed.

Having said that, I would also like to urge the Government that since this immigration of pastoralists happens because they do not have water, if the Government can be kind enough to give us big dams, I am sure we are going to respect other people's rights and, maybe, concentrate ourselves on our small shambas. We also want this Government

to be serious enough and implement what they have always said. They have said now and again that the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) is going to be revitalised. We are awaiting that, because it is just two months before this Government presents its Budget. We will see whether they are going to include in the Budget an item on revitalization of the KMC. We want KMC revitalised. We are fed up with statements that KMC will be revitalised. We are not---

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

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

Mrs. Kittony: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to the Presidential Address. Allow me to commend the hon. Members for the way they conducted themselves during the Official State Opening of this august House. I was very impressed with the attitude that was witnessed in this House. If that is maintained, definitely, we will even achieve what is mentioned in this Presidential Address.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, self-discipline is very important. My colleague has just said that we have to tolerate each other. The mood I saw in this House last week will take us a long way to achieve our development programmes. A lot has been mentioned in the Presidential Address and if we can all concentrate and look at all the areas that need to be implemented, then, we will achieve a lot. But if this kind of Presidential Address is given to us and we just look at it and leave it--- I think the challenge should go to the implementing Ministries. This is because the Presidential Address is talking of poverty, eradication of HIV/AIDS and everything else.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, so, regarding poverty in this country, I think we can alleviate it, if only the Ministry concerned, and I am happy that the Minister is here, get programmes especially for the small-scale farmers and also for the women of this country. That way, we will do something to alleviate the poverty that is creeping into our homes. Also, water is life. It is very important that, indeed, we get water, so that we can even grow our own vegetables in our homes. However, the policy of the Government was that it would provide us with water in our homes by the year 2000. But right now, that is a gone case. I have just been touring Makueni District in Ukambani and witnessed the pathetic situation that women live in as they look for water for the whole day. Surely, we cannot alleviate poverty and develop ourselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, so, I feel that there should be seriousness in all issues that have been mentioned in this Presidential Address so that they can be implemented. It is a challenge to us. Each Ministry concerned with poverty alleviation, or eradication if you call it that, needs to implement what has been mentioned in the Presidential Address. We need to be serious in our day-to-day deliberations. That is why I talked of self-discipline. If all of us are concerned and really want to assist ourselves, then, we will be able to take the challenges that are ahead of us and see to it that the lives of our people improve.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, also regarding water, I believe there could be a better programme of sinking boreholes where it is possible, or creating dams, because water is for all of us. Water is also consumed by livestock. Looking at the way our livestock are "marauding" looking for water, because they do not have water--- So, special programmes should be put into place, so that people can get water in the shortest time possible.

Regarding our roads, I stand here as a mother and an hon. Member to say that the country is mourning for the loss of our people on the roads. If we cannot improve our roads, then, we would continue mourning as a country. I would like to call on the Ministry concerned to repair the roads; where there is a small pothole, it should be repaired immediately so that it does not grow big and cause more accidents. We just witnessed what happened in the country and you wonder that the same engineers who are working on roads elsewhere--- Also, self-discipline in the matatus should be enforced. In our neighbouring countries, matatus are not overloaded. If one person is extra in a matatu, the rest of the passengers would walk out. Kenyans should emulate this, so that we can save lives. Also, the corruption that is going on in the Traffic Department, including bribe-taking, is not helping us. Therefore, the Ministry concerned should be very strict and maybe even a Bill should be brought to this House, so that the lives of our people can be saved. It is, indeed, really a pity that if we continue the way we are---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to be disciplined in using public transport. In Tanzania and Uganda, you cannot have excessive passengers in the vehicles. You could see this morning students hanging very dangerously in the buses of the Nairobi University. That is endangering their lives. What is such a vehicle doing on the road? The Traffic Police Department should impound it. If this is not stopped we will continue mourning. We need to instil self discipline in our travellers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, HIV-AIDS is a serious issue that we should not fear talking about. At the moment, there are people who think it is not even existent. I would like to stress that HIV-AIDS is within us, and is a killer disease. We should try all means to eradicate it. Women are the biggest culprits. They really suffer when they have such patients. They have to nurse them and take care of them. Therefore, the policy should be to implement the programmes in place, so as to combat this disease and create awareness to our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that some of us in this august House are pre-empting the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Constitutional Review Act, before it has even been tabled. If we

want our country to live in peace, we need to have positive thinking and value the institutions that we have put in place. I would like to suggest that those who are talking about the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Constitutional Review Act, wait until the Report is tabled in this House. Because, this House mandated the Select Committee to work on it. It is only fair that we wait for that report to be tabled, so that we can discuss it in a mature manner, the way we behaved during the State Opening of Parliament. I would like to suggest that the same mood stays on, so that we are able to serve the people who brought us to this august House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to challenge the Ministries concerned to go through this Presidential Address and implement it, where possible.

I beg to support.

Mrs. Mugo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to His Excellency the President's Address. We have heard many comments from hon. Members on that Speech, but it all revolves around the same area; that it was a flowery good Speech, with good intentions, but again, not pointing to the implementation, which this House has been crying about, all along. We have heard many such pronouncements from the Government, but we are still waiting for the implementation, which has never been forthcoming. I think, the reason for this, is that, the Government has not put its words into actions. It is remains a public relations exercise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was very concerned by His Excellency's pronouncements at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, when he stated that he is a policy maker and not an implementor. That answers why nothing gets implemented in this country. It is the responsibility of, for example, the driver of a bus, who is the President, to make sure the conductor is collecting the money or not. A captain can never abandon a ship and claim to be only a policy maker. He must make sure that those policies are implemented. Otherwise, they are as good as not made.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is time the Government came up with proper practical policies to eradicate poverty in this country. There has been song about poverty in many workshops and seminars by the Government with no results. In fact, they are organizing more seminars than the women did when they were fighting for their equality. We do not see anything coming out of those seminars. How many times has the President called upon us to talk about poverty? What is the Ministry of Planning doing? We need to see concrete plans on what the Government is going to do, and not simply conglomerating people in seminars, spending a couple of millions and at the end of the day, it is all lost.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we expect to see policies which target the poverty stricken groups. I have in mind the women. Over 47 per cent of households in this country are headed by women, and a similar number live under poverty line. So, as to have a proper policy that will eradicate poverty in this country, those two groups must be targeted. The Presidential Address had nothing to do with eradication of poverty among women. There is no gender language in it; it is time we had a policy targeting feminisation of poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the agricultural sector should be revolutionised, not the way we talk about it year-in-year out. The money allocated to the agricultural sector was Kshs4.7 billion. How can we revolutionize agriculture with such kind of money, when a lot of it is stolen and misused elsewhere? Should we keep wasting our money on doing a public relations exercise to maintain the President or our people? When we criticise, that is the only way to identify where the wrongs are. Then the Government side mistakes our constructive criticism for empty rhetoric; they do not understand. So, I do not know how they are going to correct their mistakes. This Parliament should even discuss the Budget before it is even read in this House, so that we can give the priority areas we would like the money spent. It is not fair to read the Budget when it has already been concluded, and our work is only to pass it. It is time that this House decided where revenue collected on taxation should go to. The Government would do us pride if they let this Parliament handle the Budget. At least we know where this money should go to. This will enable us revolutionize the agricultural sector, and all other sectors which will help to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of security, we cannot curb insecurity unless poverty is reduced. So, poverty eradication is the first thing to do to ensure that we have some kind of security. It seems as if this Government is keen on promoting insecurity. When it promotes tribal clashes, people who should be farming cannot farm in their farms because they are harassed in Pokot, Turkana, Molo, Wajir or Likoni. How can they produce? It will be upon this Government to bring about security in this country because it is able, and it has the machinery to do so. But it is serving the Government well by keeping tribes fighting one another so that it can remain in power. All the Government thinks about is how to remain in power and not how to eradicate insecurity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was horrified to see the Minister of State, Office of the President advocating that the police should criminals on sight. Have the policemen now become the judges, the prosecutors and the executors of judgement? We oppose that. We know that a lot of our policemen are involved in crimes and all they will do is to eliminate their partners in crime so that their partners do not come forward and say that the policemen are their partners in criminal activities. There is no civilized country where policemen are told to shoot on sight. We

should remember that violence begets violence. No wonder then, whenever these criminals sight a policeman, they shoot him. The Act on robbery with violence should be reviewed to see whether it is appropriate to have a capital punishment for robbery with violence. That is why these robbers kill their victims; they do it so that they cannot be identified. There is too much violence in this country and it begins with the system of this Government. There is especially crime of car-jacking, with women being raped. Women are getting the blunt end. It is incumbent upon this Government to eradicate this violence in this country, otherwise, it has failed to govern this nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the worst symptom of poverty is hunger. We had 100 people dying in Turkana and 60 people dying in Wajir per day and the Government continued to deny that there was famine until the Press had to bring it out for the Government to accept. Does this Government want to punish its own citizens by letting them die from hunger? The World Food programme (WFP) in the newspapers today has said that 2.7 million people are threatened by famine. What is this Government planning to make sure that this does not happen? It waits to react, just as we react when the newspapers show that people are dying in Wajir, Turkana or elsewhere. A Government worth its salt, predicts a situation that is likely to arise and plans for it.

We have granary areas in this country, yet this Government will not set aside money to buy food in those areas to distribute it in the areas where we have famine. All the money has been squandered by the people who really just want to line up their pockets. When will we put the interest of this country first and foremost? It is only after this that we will not have all these complaints.

With those few words, I support.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Eng. Manga): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me a chance to also make my contribution on this very important Motion.

Before I give my remarks, on behalf of the people that I represent, I want to thank the President for his wonderful Presidential Address. This was an Address that covered quite a bit of all the things that are actually giving us problems in this country.

I will begin with poverty eradication. Just like hon. Muite said, we sometimes wonder why the World Bank and the IMF are actually putting conditionalities of this kind, for example, telling us

not to employ more people. Everybody knows that poor people have invested in education. When children complete university and they have nowhere to go, they go back to their parents. When they go there, they find that their parents have spent all the money and have become poorer. The children bring nothing back and so, poverty is actually increased. There should be a way of increasing employment opportunities and not creating unemployment because, this will, of course, be enhancing the growth of poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that our development partners should go back to the cause of this, so that they empower the poor man to fight the poverty there. We will not expect the World Bank to give us money as hand outs. Even if you give people the money, it will not help them. We should empower them to use their land. That brings me back to farming. Farming in this country is done without any subsidy. For example, right now the price of maize in Kuria District is going for Kshs5 per kilo. There is a lot of maize and the Cereals and Produce Board's stores are full and so it cannot take the maize from the farmers. Therefore, the farmers are selling the maize to some people who come around with lorries at Kshs5 per kilo. They have no option, but to sell it at that price. That is actually creating and not eradicating poverty. A man had, maybe, two acres of maize and had calculated that out of that, he would pay school fees, have some food to eat and do other things. The price has gone down to Kshs5 per kilo because we are not distributing the resources properly.

Just last night, I heard the Minister for Agriculture saying that we might be importing maize. Why should we import maize when there is some maize in the country? It is only that the maize cannot reach some places. Some rich people have already imported maize and it is at the port and they are sending messages that there is a deficit in maize stocks. They are asking whether they can import some maize. This is wrong because unless we exhaust what we have, we cannot import maize. We cannot bring in cheap maize to "kill" our farming industry. The millers want that imported cheap maize so that they can make their profits. So, they are leaving out this maize that the farmer has stored. A big percentage of our people are farmers and unless we encourage farming in this country, it will be very difficult to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that farm inputs are very expensive. Buying fertilizers is almost impossible. We manufacture seeds, but the price of seeds is so high that the poor farmer cannot afford to buy them. If the World Bank or the IMF wants to help us, why can it not give us money so that the Government can subsidise the cost of seeds and the farmer gets them at a cheaper price?

I do not know how they help us by telling us to stop employment and other things. Where will we go?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the enemy called the HIV-AIDS. Since the Government started to fight this pandemic, the response has been very good in terms of help. But I am surprised to

note that, most of the help does not reach the people. There are many organisations which are involved, but the money which is given is "eaten" or shared amongst themselves. It does not reach the people. There is medicine to cure the people who are affected. But it does not reach the people. Some of the medicines rot in the stores in hospitals. They cannot be distributed. There were vehicles which were given, but our Kuria District did not get any vehicle. But there are districts with two or even three vehicles. The vehicles are used by drivers to go to their places. They even carry passengers. That kind of distribution will not assist us. We have to do everything possible to get rid of the disease.

The people who are affected are rejected. Other people do not look at them. If an employed person is found to have the disease, he is sacked the same day. He is not given anything. It is as if he has committed the biggest sin on earth. Therefore, he is rejected and thrown away. The person goes out there and since nobody knows he has the disease, he hides and spreads it wherever he is. The poor man dies and, maybe, he is the only bread-earner in the family. That way, poverty is enhanced. We should be able to assist the affected people to live a good life. We have seen some people who have lived with this problem for 20 to 30 years. They have not died and they have gone about their daily duties diligently. We should try to help them. This should not only be done by the Government as everybody has said. Those who are able should help those who are not able. We should give even a shilling to those people, instead of running to Harambees to create big names by giving a lot of money. We should consider helping those people. If you can be able to create a job, even in the rural areas, assist those who are affected. That will enhance the fight against poverty.

Poverty is enhanced through the disease. Somebody dies very fast because he is poor. He cannot reach the medical facilities. He cannot afford any drugs. He dies very fast because he is poor. All this is compounded on poverty. Therefore, we should fight poverty by creating employment and availing medical facilities to the people.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kihoro: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Speech, made by His Excellency the President.

I must say that I found the Presidential Speech, even though I was not in the country and I could not be able to attend the Session, very strong on avoiding the issues. It was very strong in that respect. He ducked the issues that are pertinent to the state of this country, which has 28.8 million strong Kenyans, out there looking for leadership. Those are the people who have become more hungry by the day.

Unfortunately, after reading the Speech, I found that it was lacking. I will have to look back a bit because the Government of the day continues looking at the present too much. I will look into the past and the future. The Government can dwell on the present. I am talking about the population of this country in 1948, which stood at 4.8 million. We have marched down history and in 1962, we had eight million people. In 1969, we had 10.9 million people. In 1979, when President Moi came to power, we had 15.3 million people. In 1989, we had 21 million people and according to the census report issued on the 1st of March, 2000, by the Government of the day, there are 28.8 million Kenyans.

On the Government's admission, we have been told that half of Kenyans are living below the poverty line. If you look at the population figures, that I have given, from 1979 up to the present, the population of Kenya has grown by 50 per cent. We are talking about a population that has been born into poverty, when President Moi has been in power. Half of Kenyans live in poverty today. That is a population that has been born when the Government has been in power. Surely, the Government should not moan too much. I find it surprising that it continues to moan about poverty when it manufactured it. It is true the Government does manufacture poverty. If the Government did not manufacture poverty, it could be looking into the issues that matter to the people of this country. The Government continue to avoid the land question in this country.

I am very grateful to Eng. Manga who has just spoken. He has accepted that we must tighten our hands in agriculture. Without dealing with agriculture in this country, where 80 per cent of Kenyans live, we will never be able to deal with the question of poverty. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will never help you! If they could, they could have helped South America, Brazil and other countries in Latin America. They have been independent for more than 200 years, and poverty has increased in those countries. We have got to look for local solutions to our local problems. Our agriculture is very important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the people of this country struggled for Independence, there were ten million acres of land that was available from the white settlers. Only one million acres were transferred. The other nine million acres disappeared into the bottomless hole that has been managed by the Government of the day. At Independence in 1963, the Government continued to talk about eradication of the three evils that confronted the Kenyan society at that time. That was 37 years ago. The three evils were illiteracy, disease and the other one they know better, which have increased when the Government has been in power. What I am saying is that, the question of land in this country has got to be dealt with. I can see the former Minister for Lands and Settlement has come in. It is good that hon. Katana Ngala has come in. The land question in this country has got to be resolved in a way that is

going to be satisfactory to the people of this country. That is the issue we have got to consider when we deal with the question of poverty. If you cannot provide industries that can provide employment to the people of this country, you have got to provide them with land. You can see that the question of agitation about Kenya's land has become more progressive by the day. There is no reason why some people in this country, when they continue preaching about poverty eradication, cannot deal with the land question in a way that is meaningful. This country should not lose on the land that is productive, and also lose on the food that should be grown on the land. You cannot lose both ways and continue talking about development. I am telling the Government of the day when it is in power and time is running out, it is time to start dealing with that question of land and agriculture. That is where 80 per cent of Kenyans live and unless you deal with that question, there is no way you are going to be able to eradicate poverty. It will continue spreading. I have already said that 15 million Kenyans have been born into poverty and they are helpless and the Government continues talking about poverty eradication but getting nowhere.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are characteristics of poverty in this country. It is in landlessness, homelessness and in illiteracy. An illiterate person will never be able to pull himself out of that situation. Hungry people are also usually deceived. The Government has not talked about the high unemployment rates. Once we had a manufacturing sector in this country built in the Industrial Area which is no longer an area where you can be able to manufacture anything, there is a lot of dust on the roads. We used to dominate the East African market by exporting goods to Uganda and Tanzania. The East African Community (EAC) in 1977 broke down because of Kenya's dominance in industry. Where are the industries today? Are they "chewed" up? High crime rate is another manifestation of poverty that has been spreading. You can never be able to eradicate crime in this country so long as you have so many people who are unemployed out there on the streets.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what needs to be done is to restore agriculture to what it was before and that agriculture is not just dishing out fertilisers and chemicals to farmers since they have nowhere to put it sometimes. We need proper land reforms in this country and those who have grabbed land in this country have got an issue with the people of this country. Let me tell you that there is no question of talking about people accumulating 100,000 acres. I have seen that OI Pejeta Farm is today now up for auction. Imagine 100,000 hectares for one individual! That does not happen even in heaven. God will never give you 100,000 hectares. It can happen in Kenya but not in heaven.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about genuine land reforms where we start dealing with the land question in this country. In 1932, we had the Land Commission set up by the British Government. At that time, if you look at the population of this country, most likely we were only three million and there was a land issue. We had the Carter Land Commission and the Kenya Land Commission and 70 years down the line, there is no resolution of that problem and no wonder the problems about poverty are increasing. We need another Carter Land Commission in this country. Maybe for this Government, the last durable legacy it can give itself, is to start dealing with the issue that matters; the issue of the future which is the question of land distribution. Land that is not being used must be taxed so that it can be put back in the public domain. Otherwise, it should not be left in the hands of people who hold the land bank. The land bank must be broken up in this country. It is dear to certain people. There are very few people, but I would rather go with the majority than with that small minority that is so greedy that it thinks more about itself than of the welfare of 28.8 million Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the co-operative movement is also another area where we need to see better regulations. This is because many farmers in this country have become poorer by the day because of how the co-operative movement has been run down. From the sugar co-operatives in Western Kenya down to the cashewnuts co-operatives along the Coast, everything has been run down.

As for pastoralism in this country as soon as we chewed up the KMC and that land was taken up by one individual, we ended up having a situation where the pastoralists have become poorer. Today, we talk about hunger from Turkana down to Wajir and it has gone up to Ethiopia. This Government also got to give aid to Ethiopia which is our neighbour. Two months ago, the President of that country came to this country and it was a good meeting. I must say that the President of Kenya is spending too much time abroad. He ought to spend less time abroad and more time in this country to deal with the issues of the day.

I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to also give my remarks on the Speech of His Excellency the President.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President spoke on quite a number of issues that do affect this country on a day-to-day basis. I am particularly very interested to comment on the question of insecurity in this country. The fact of the matter is that as a country, we need each other and speak to each other in an attempt to develop this nation. Apart from the enormous influx of arms into this country which has been one reason why we have had a recent increase in insecurity and especially in our cities, we also need to address statements that come from the mouths of our leaders. This is because I think it is one of the issues that can easily trigger off civil war and community

tensions in this country. If we are not careful as leaders and especially as Members of Parliament--- This is because when you are a Member of Parliament of that particular area, you might not necessarily be the leader of that area. You are a national leader. You should be seen to be speaking for Wajir, Nakuru, Kericho or Mombasa.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have become so parochial. This morning in this House we witnessed statements from leaders. Just on the Floor of this House somebody makes a remark: "You shifta or Somali". Supposing you reply: "You Kikuyu or you thief?" What is the implication of statements like that coming from leaders who are elected to lead this country and yet, we want to take the lead and say: "We want security to be maintained" We tend to blame the Government; that it is responsible for insecurity when we are responsible for these statements. You cannot get away with that. That is a shame! We need to come to this House to be able to express the feelings of this nation. If there is a problem, quite a number of Members in this House are very genuine leaders. They are genuine leaders of this nation and they are very useful to this country. However, quite a number of them are a liability to this nation, I must say. This is because every time they open their mouths, they talk war, tension and facilitate war.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this has to be stopped if we have to reason as a country, a nation and one people. We are very proud because as a country we have been united in diversity. There are 42 communities in Kenya speaking 42 different languages but we have been able to maintain certain dignities as a nation. I think every time some leader speaks he will try to talk about certain ills, but over the last 36 years or so, we have been able to retain a nation called Kenya. We have a neighbouring country called Somalia where we speak one language and have one culture and everything is one but they cannot come together for the last ten years. They are fighting. There are many clans there. There are many tribes in Kenya and why do you not stop fighting? We have to be proud of our history. We have to be proud of that, but when you stand up as a leader and condemn communities wholesale and criticising personalities, I think we are going wrong and history will judge us very harshly in the years to come.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to find solutions to our problems. Let us stop pin-pointing mistakes. You could rise to pin-point a mistake, but not to criminalise communities for mistakes done by one individual.

Still on the question of security, we know that Somalia is no longer a State and this country stands to lose most, if we do not check the security situation in Somalia and we have said it before. We require a liaison office to be established in Garissa, just to facilitate restoration of security in the area. There is no need to deal with warlords any more because those fellows have commercialised the lives of the Somali people. So, in my view, the best thing to do is to deal directly with community leaders. Statements made by our political leaders sometimes tend to incite groups. It was just the other day when a Member of Parliament went to the Press and said that Muslims have grabbed the Kigali Market plot in Nairobi.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to bring in rumours, creations and fabrications of a partisan newspaper before the Floor of this House?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the newspaper never fabricated the story, the hon. Member was quoted and never denied it and we believe that is the statement he made. That has cost the DP all the Muslim votes and all the support they would have had. In future, they will never have any more support. This is because you cannot criminalise communities. Nairobi City Council provided that plot for sale and the Muslims bought that plot and then you go ahead and say that. "Muslims have grabbed it." What kind of a leader are you? It is shame! These are things that incite people very easily. Everybody in this country has got a right to buy and sell land. That is a basic right and you cannot make that a criminal offence when one particular section of this society decides to buy or sell land. I think we need to be very careful and if the hon. Member has not said it, we want to know formally that, in fact, he has not given that statement. But he has not denied the statement, so it is official.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to belabour on that. The other very important aspect that the President spoke about is the aspect of poverty. Poverty is now a global problem. But as a country, I think we need to have plans to see how best we can forestall problems that are associated with poverty. North-Eastern Province (NEP) has very huge potentials for this nation. Over the years, for whatever reasons, we have refused to harness the resources in that land. It is high time that we came up with policies that are actually geared towards supporting pastoralism as a major economic activity and try to find out if there could be other economic activities that can supplement pastoralism in those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, famine is here with us. As leaders, we have said that famine is not brought about by the Government nor is drought brought about by the Government. These are natural calamities. But when these calamities come, we want support from the Government and from any well-wisher who would like to assist the people of those particular areas. Quite a number of statements have been issued and Press wars have been fought in, but I want to say that we do not have to wait for the people to die in Wajir so that we could declare famine a disaster. I think we should declare famine a disaster when the situation deserves. The situation deserves when people

become weak enough. But the moment people start dying because probably there is no food and then we start declaring a disaster, I think it would have come too late. So, it is better to declare a disaster when people are weak.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for instance in Wajir, we have not received rainfall since the *El Nino* induced rains of 1997 and as you very well know, and hon. Members do understand, the backbone of that area is pastoralism. We cannot sell our animals because there is no abattoir at all. The Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) has gone under and people are poorer today than they were very many years ago. That is a shame and we do not want to be seen to be encouraging it; let us face facts when facts are there.

It is not the responsibility of the Government to bring drought, but I think we have a responsibility as a nation to respond to crises wherever these crises do happen.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other very important aspect which His Excellency the President talked about in his Presidential Address is corruption. I think corruption is a cancer. I had an opportunity to tour my constituency when we were on recess. I witnessed one very critical area; just at the village level, I saw corruption being manifested in the issuance of identification cards. It is high time that as a nation and as country--- We do not have to centralise all our operations in Nairobi. This is because national identification cards are now being issued in Nairobi. They should be decentralised and be taken to the districts because it takes quite a long time for those documents to be processed and there is also a lot of corruption involved in the issuance of identification cards.

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

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

I would like to start with the question of poverty eradication. I think one of our weaknesses, as a country, is that, we have been depending so much on external resources. We have allowed ourselves to follow the prescriptions which the World Bank, IMF and other donors are giving us. I think these institutions were really not meant to help the poor. They are banks which are supposed to be making money for their shareholders.

Today, Kenya is one of the most blessed countries which has a lot of natural endowments. We have water, land and we have very industrious people, yet after 37 years of Independence, we are still talking about poverty. We are still unable to feed our people. Our people still go hungry without food. As a nation, it is high time we addressed the problem of poverty from inside and not from outside. I think one of the major causes of poverty in Kenya today is our following of the policies which have been prescribed by the World Bank; namely, the policy of cost-sharing in education. As we know, education is one of the fundamental rights of the people of Kenya and it is one of the most important instruments that would make a human being become an asset and professional.

As we are talking now, in Karachuonyo, my constituency, we have 173 primary schools and 17 secondary schools. None of these schools has had enough equipment. None of these schools have had the books that the children need for their instruction. Now, if out of about 35,000 students in primary schools, we are going to end up with people who cannot go to secondary school and who will not be able to train, certainly, we will be increasing poverty. I would like to plead with the Government to review the question of cost-sharing in education.

Kenya is one of the countries which is a signatory to the convention which has recognized the right of a child to education. We should change the question of cost-sharing because there is nothing a poor man can contribute to the country's development in terms of cost-sharing. In fact, the Kenya Government is not contributing enough to education. For example, the cost of building materials in education, providing equipment, land and everything is being met by the ordinary people who are poor and the Government is only paying the teachers. That is an area we need to review.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should also be the same change in the health sector. The majority of Kenyans fall in the low income group and we know that no country can develop when its citizens are sick. So, we should review our health policy. As we are talking now, most of the health centres and dispensaries in this country have got no drugs and many people travel several kilometres to go to these health institutions. If you happen to get there at all and happen to see a doctor, he will prescribe a drug which in many cases, these people cannot afford. There should be a review of the health policy on cost-sharing. The poor people should be given free medical services as a way of improving their health conditions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the key questions which we need to address when we are talking about poverty eradication is the issue of land. Everyone of us knows the basic elements that make production possible. These include: land, labour and capital. In Kenya, we have got both land and labour, but we are not making good use of these resources. In most countries that have developed, land is the key issue and in Kenya we know that rich people have grabbed land; there is land that is lying fallow; we also know that without land reform and land ceiling, there is no way we can address poverty eradication. We must start from there. If we do not address the question of land, then we are not addressing the question of poverty eradication.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we are talking about land, we are talking about the farmer. As one

of my colleagues here said, 80 per cent of our people live in the rural areas. How can we leave the farmer to depend on the markets as the means of allocating resources? We need our farmers to be protected from the imported cheap materials and also to be provided with credit facilities. As I am talking now, the cotton growing farmers have nothing to do because the cotton industry has collapsed. This also applies to tea, sugarcane and coffee. How are we going to address the question of poverty when the things which we can produce easily within the available technology cannot be produced? I think it is because we are liberalising indiscriminately. Even in countries which are developed, like the United States and Europe, farmers are protected and the poor Kenyan farmer is left at the mercy of market forces. I think there is need to review this policy so that we can address the question of poverty eradication.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to comment on infrastructure. In Uganda, during the time of Idi Amin, people were going hungry because the borders were closed and nobody was getting anything. But as we are talking now, Uganda is self-sufficient in food production. The reason for this self-sufficiency is that the Government paid attention to the producers. The farmers were given credit and their produce was highly priced. Out of this, Uganda is now moving ahead and Kenya which was ahead during a certain time is now going down. We need to subsidise the farmer, provide credit and above all, we need to protect farmers from imported goods. Without that, we cannot go very far. The economy of every country grows out of good infrastructure. The roads and telecommunications in the part of the country where I come from--- The *El Nino* devastated roads in Karachuonyo and in South Nyanza in general have not been attended to. As we are talking now, the *El Nino* recovery programme has not started in this area. There were some roads which were started in my constituency and as I am talking now, the projects have stalled. One fails to understand why the Government has to abandon projects in the middle. Before a project commences the Government should see to it that it has enough money to see it through.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Maundu: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to the Presidential Speech. The Presidential Speech touched on matters which Members of Parliament are aware of and the people of this country are conscious about.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the basic things which we have got to deal with in this country today is corruption and tribalism. There is no way we are going to stop the decline in our economy unless we address this tragic calamity called corruption. Those of us who have had the privilege to visit other countries and see how those countries are tackling this problem, are getting worried because there is no seriousness in tackling this problem. There is a lot of lip service, a lot of talk and movement here and there, trying to suggest that something is being done at this juncture. All these movement and gestures, in my view, are mere gimmicks to overshadow a problem that must be tackled decisively. On several occasions, the President has said there is determination within the Government to pursue this matter. On the surface, we see that determination and seriousness but we wonder why things never move!

We are told there is usually a "kitchen" Cabinet which has been cooking in the kitchen. For how long are they going to cook and promise Kenyans a meal when we do not see anything? We are here saying that we are strengthening institutions to fight corruption and we know that, corruption in this country is perpetuated by a clique that permeates down to the bottom of the body politic of this country. It is in our power as Members of Parliament, to stop deviating ourselves, if we are going to serve this country and take decisive action. Even if that action will lead to your losing a seat in the next Parliament, you have made a mark in the history books for the benefit of Kenyans. We are not businessmen; we have not come to Parliament here to trade or even to make money. We have come here to do a national job, but if we are not prepared to do this national job, then Kenyans will continue to claim that the source and power of Parliament is so limited that, they have no hope in our functions. We must, as a Parliament in this Session, start to demonstrate to Kenyans that we are capable and competent enough to pursue these issues that bother Kenyans day and night.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a small country like Botswana with a population of 1.6 million people and with mineral wealth, has tackled the problem of corruption up to a zero level. Indeed, the management of institutions there moves properly. But here, one arm of the Government goes to the East, another one goes to the West and another one pursues its path to the North just because those institutions are managed by men and women who want to manipulate them for purposes of gaining money and privileges that they are not entitled to. Therefore, it is now necessary to do a 360 degrees turn, to make sure that our institutions start to function.

We understand the feelings of the President; sometimes, I sympathy with him because of the agony I see him in. He can see things have gone wrong and he wants to change them. But those who surround him want to hold him captive, or even prisoner, so that he does not pursue these things to leave a legacy for Kenyans. I have seen the President's determination to leave a legacy for Kenyans because in some of his most famous words when he talked to the nation, he said: "It is my desire to leave behind a legacy of morally-upright society where Kenyans can live in peace and go about their daily activities without fear or harassment." I would say these are the words of a statesman who wants to give Kenyans a chance to live a life which is buoyant and yet, that particular clique who surround him

because of fear that they have committed such things against Kenyans; they feel that without the President being in power, they will perish. The Bible says that those who fear, they will die four times than they have ever thought. Julius Caesar was quoting from King James Version and that is the Bible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must pursue this issue. And those who surround the President, we want to beseech them, including Ministers of Government who are here, other persons who are not here; please, let us help the President to leave a legacy. Let us not cause fear in the President, or even intimidate him. Some of them are trying to go round and tell the President: "Your Excellency, unless you are President again for us in 2002, we shall perish." When you see who is talking and how many of them, they are just a small group of people and not Kenyans. Why should we intimidate the President, or even hold him captive of an idea he wants to pursue to its own logical conclusion?

I was privileged to talk to the retired President Kitumire Masire in Botswana, myself personally. I posed this particular question to him: "Your Excellency, what was your motivation to want to retire from active service as a President in an African country?" He told me: "Yes, young man, you are young; you have the energy and the power to push things at your age and after that." But I measured my capability and I felt I had reached the zenith of delivery. He said: "Having been in Botswana far too long, there are more Botswanians who are capable and competent to pursue. Since I have no personal investment in Government, I said another Botswanian should be given a chance to lead the country." Therefore, the President of this country is determined to leave a legacy. Let us help him fight corruption, let us help him pave a clear path for himself, so that when he retires, he looks back and says: "Yes, for 20 years, I prepared Kenyans upto this far". Most of us who are young, I would like the President, as an elder statesman, to tell me: "Young man, when you pursue your politics, be careful of these people". But how can we chase him all along and tell him; if you retire, we shall perish. It is not true.

(Applause)

Yes, my own father gave me an opportunity to see how I can run a home and thereafter, nothing has ever gone wrong. Things have gone on well. Therefore, we should not intimidate the President. We should discard the suggestion that when the President has retired, we will put him to the gallows. Those are not the words of Kenyans who want to prepare a country. Let us always accept that we have our work as Lincoln would put it. That all of us have our own work and we must accept our work and role. But no man is perfect. In his leadership at the helm of Government for 20 years, the President of Kenya has done certain things which are pretty good.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must also admit that there had been such moments when he thought that he had completely fluttered us. However, those are not the moments to kill him for; they are moments to say: "Yes, out of that experience, and through the measures that he undertook at that period of time, we are now moving forward as a nation." Let us give Kenyans a chance; let us not fool ourselves.

I have had the pleasure to share public comments about President Kenyatta with hon. Kihoro. The hon. Member was reviewing history, generally, to see how it has benefitted Kenya, or establish whether there are any lessons to be learnt. That criticism by the hon. Member should be seen in its own context. However, we must also appreciate the role that was played by the late Mzee Kenyatta in the nation-building of this country. It is not easy for one to sacrifice his personal interests for the well-being of his country. Many of us here have served our respective constituencies in this House for one term, while others are now serving their second terms, and we think that we have made great sacrifice. We are cheating ourselves; we have not made so much sacrifice. Some men of this country have been in exile, while others have been in the bush, fighting for this country, but they are not claiming any personal credit for the Independence this country has gained.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was disgusted to read in the Internet, while I was out of the country, that one of our colleagues here tried to discredit the Founding Father of the Nation, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. That particular hon. Member was reported to have said that public resources should not be used to guard the Mausoleum of the late Mzee Kenyatta. What kind of politician is that, who does not want to give himself a credit? I know of councillors from my constituency who want to build monuments for themselves. The late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta is not a dream; he is a vision for us to see how men are supposed to struggle for this nation. If we can have the determination of Mzee Kenyatta and his group in "fighting" to de-link Kenya from bondage, we will as well survive as a country. I would, therefore, like to urge the men and the women of this Parliament to shake aside personal idiosyncrasies about ourselves and "fight" for our country for our own benefit and that of the posterity of this nation.

As we consider the succession groupings, I would like us not to build cocoons about ourselves, but to rather approach the issue in totality as Kenyans. The succession in the leadership of this country should not be the affair of a single party.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Applause)

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

I was not in the country when the President made his Address during the State Opening of this House. However, it looks as if I am going to convey my condolences to him for an anecdote that appears to be a summary of ills that have perpetuated the collapse of this country. Nothing seems to be going well; it looks as if everything is collapsing, and that some things are in shambles.

In his Address, the President talked about a poor nation that is affected by AIDS and other ailments; a country whose infrastructure is collapsing, with hospitals lacking drugs; unemployment, with people having no hope and, generally, having nothing to do; tribalism prevailing all over the country; tribal clashes rocking the country; and, now, the problem of the eradication of poverty, which has affected everybody, including himself, and there is no hope. It looks as if we are in a very hopeless situation. It appears that hon. Members from both the Government and the Opposition sides of this House are lamenting.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know to whom we are crying. Everybody seems to be crying to the World Bank. We are in a very helpless and hopeless situation. The situation in which we are worries me and everybody else. I do not know what the hon. Members on the Government side expect us to do. I do not know whether they expect us to help them. Why do they not resign, so that we take over the Government? May be, that will help save the situation. For the time being, it looks as if there is no hope. The Presidential Address, to me, is just an anecdote of problems. The President seems not to know where he is coming from and where he is heading to. We are in a very sad situation, and this worries those of us who are very concerned about the economy of this nation. The electorate out there expect us to give them hope, vision, and a sense of direction as to where we are going. Every time, they ask us: "What are you doing in that august House? Could you save us from all these problems?" We seem to be looking upon the Government to give us direction, but those in Government are telling us to help them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, just before we went on recess, I can remember I raised an issue about the Kenya Airways. I said that there was a problem with the aircrafts that we are running. I asked that side of the House to account as to why the Kenya Airways buys old aircrafts, but they never replied. Two months later, we had a tragedy in Abidjan and 150 lives were lost. Again, the Kenya Airways is saying that it will buy another aircraft of a similar make. I do not know what is going wrong. We are so prepared to get money and loot this country that we are not worried about life. Again, we are lamenting about the lives that were lost at Kericho the other day. I would like to state that our roads are in a pathetic situation. We have the Fuel Levy Fund and we do not know where it goes to. Why should the Government collect money from the taxpayers, if it will not be used for the purpose it is intended for?

On corruption, His Excellency the President was again talking about PIC Reports having been tabled; recommendations made so that people can be taken to the gallows; and names have been mentioned although they are not followed. We are telling the World Bank to chip in while the Goldenberg scandal has not been resolved. How do you expect donors to give us money, when the money that has been looted has not been accounted for? I think you expect donors to be stupid. They have eyes to see. They can see that the revenues that are raised in this country do not reach the rural poor, and yet, you are telling them to subsidise fertilisers and roads. How can they do it? Unless you provide good governance, you do not expect anything to be chipped in. You are saying that, that side of the House has failed to deliver and you are telling Kenyans out there to help you. How can they help you when you are not mending fences?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a worrying situation when the President says that we should help him to collect revenue and, yet, when it is collected, it does not seem to be used for the intended purpose. There seems to be a hole somewhere where this revenue goes to.

The President was talking about over-dependence on export of primary products. It is true that we do really rely heavily on agricultural products like coffee and tea and, yet, these are the very industries that have been infringed upon by this Government. We interfere with the production of coffee, tea, horticultural crops and other sub-sectors. For example, the sugar industry is badly bashed by importation and dumping of sugar from other countries. How do you expect primary products to yield anything reasonable in this country, if the co-operative societies are being riddled by opportunists who want to make money out of that industry and creating situations that would help profiteers to make money out of the poor farmers; and then of course, the co-operative movement being riddled by co-operative officers who also loot co-operative societies? We have a very sad situation.

I would like to touch on tribalism and there has been this constant bashing of one tribe all the time. Anybody who wants to bash anybody directs his machinery at the Kikuyus. I do not know what the Kikuyus did to this country. Where did we go wrong? Is struggling for independence wrong? Did the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta do anything wrong

to deserve bashing? The old man sacrificed his life for this nation. Bashing an old man who is already enjoying his sleep in a mausoleum is not fair. I think when President Moi "sleeps" somewhere - I do not know when - he will also deserve credit for the fabulous years he tried to disentangle himself. So, we will also sympathise with him wherever he will be sleeping. Let the dead people sleep. Do not bother them. I wonder very much what, as I said earlier on, the Kikuyu people have done.

I think there was an hon. Member from North-Eastern Province who talked about pastrolists. Although we lament about lack of water in pastrolists areas, we should also realise that a country like Botswana which is in Kalahari Desert is a major producer of beef in the continent of Africa. The Botswana Meat Commission which is equivalent to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), has surplus resources and profits every year. They invest in Europe and the United States of America because they realise excessive profits in accumulation over the years. Why should you lament here and tell us about the problems in North-Eastern Province other than directing them to the Government? It is the Government of Kenya that made the KMC collapse because of mismanagement. Please, address this issue to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. If the Minister for Agriculture cannot deliver, for heaven's sake, get him removed, put somebody in his place and proper management at the KMC. But when you lament to us on this side, how shall we help you?

The problems we have are our own creation. The poverty we have is a creation of this government through corruption and "eating" generally from top to bottom. That is where the problem is. It is not on this side at all. We have nothing to do with the problems you have.

Looking at the problems relating to our Constitution, there has been this dilly-dallying in the re-writing of the Constitution. We had Raila's Select Committee and the Commission that was created through the Safari Park meeting and was not given an opportunity to address the issues relating to a people-driven Constitution. We had better be honest. Let us not dilly-dally, for heavens sake, because the elections are around the corner and the year 2002 is not too far. You have got to be honest with Kenyans and tell them: "Kenyans want a people-driven Constitution. Let us have it." While we are doing that let us see what happened recently. The population census results came out. We are now 28 million in number. What is the Electoral Commission doing? We should now be addressing demarcation of wards and constituencies.

We have a tendency in this country to wait until the last minute so that the Electoral Commission can manipulate boundaries of elections. This is so that with only 2.5 million voters KANU can win against the Opposition with 3.5 million voters. The Electoral Commission should be more transparent, use census figures that came out and start working on electoral boundaries so, that there is fairness of distribution of constituencies in this Republic. There is the problem of a country that is thuggish and is trying to bail itself out of its problems. We have people rightly who are very hard working and an economy that could thrive, but of course, we have to look at certain policies and address them again. The World Bank comes up with policies like liberalisation of the economy which give rise to dumping of very cheap products from Korea, Taiwan and Britain while our industries are collapsing and creating unemployment. Policies brought about by the World Bank should be under scrutiny and not all of them should be accepted. We should tell them that some of them are not good enough for this country. I think we take everything for granted as long as it is brought by the World Bank and IMF.

The time has come when we must also state our terms, but we should not abuse them. Please, approach them nicely because we are beggars and beggars are not choosers. We would also like to know what happened to the Akiwumi Commission Report because a repeat of tribal cleansing has been the case in point since 1991. I guess if we saw the Akiwumi Commission Report it would give us an indication of the recommendations they came up with. Insecurity has to be addressed, if at all we are to be productive and have to encourage tourism to revive because it is currently "dead".

With that I send my condolences to His Excellency the President for a job badly done.

Mr. Maore: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to say a few words about the Speech given by His Excellency the President last week on Tuesday. Going through the Speech it was what people who have ever gone through the Old Testament would describe as "a pack of lamentations".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when giving the state of the union, it would be equivalent to giving a budget; but coming from the President and what we got, was a long list of what was supposed to be speeches from the Opposition and not from somebody who is supposed to be the executive, answering to those problems. One of the issues raised is that---

QUORUM

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Yes, there is no quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): We have a quorum now. You may proceed, Mr. Maore.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of insecurity is a serious one and the Government has not taken it seriously. From West Pokot, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, Moyale, Garissa and Mandera on the map of the Republic of Kenya, that amounts to about 40 per cent of the land surface. In all these nine districts, you cannot drive from one corner to another because of insecurity. We have Ministers in the Cabinet and I do not know what they discuss. I think, they go there to say everything is very intact. How can everything be okay when 40 per cent of the Republic cannot be accessed peacefully? It only reminds me of the last days of the late Mobutu when he was hiding in a yacht in River Congo and Kisangani had been taken over by rebels. Almost 40 per cent of Zaire was under the rebels, but his Cabinet Ministers were still happy and saying how everything was intact.

We would like the Government to make sure that they secure the 40 per cent of the country--- It is no wonder when slight activities of car-jackings, burglary and bank robberies have overwhelmed Nairobi and we are concerned that the policemen are not doing anything to arrest the situation. The last time the Kenya Police did any serious and genuine procurement of security equipment was in the middle of 1980s. Every other procurement that has been made, with the last major one of 1989, whereby Sterling Pounds 12 million were given free to Mr. Ketan Somaia to supply equipment to the Administration Police Department--- Up-to this date, it has never been supplied. How do you keep on blaming the police officers for being inefficient and having low morale when we do not provide them with the necessary equipment? How do we blame the police officers when they are in terrible housing conditions? How do you blame the police officers when we pay them meagre salaries?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other question of corruption in the Civil Service has been hammered by almost every Member, including the President in his Presidential Address. In 1981, there was the Timothy Ramtu Commission that was meant to bring up a code of ethics for people who hold public offices, including hon. Members. For very strange reasons, the Government sat on the Report. That is why today you find that the World Bank and the IMF have intervened by bringing in five Permanent Secretaries (PSs) and then paying them ten times more than the other ordinary PSs. Now, with all genuine support for the so-called "Dream Team", why should they be paid ten times more than the other ordinary PSs and then expect them to perform equally like those who are paid ten times, when they are serving the same Government in the same capacity? If the World Bank is genuine in bribing all the PSs with hefty salaries so that they do not get corrupt, let them do so to everybody, not just a clique of three, or four of the PSs.

(Applause)

This is because that is going to bring in inefficiency and low morale in the Public Service. If they have seen it necessary to pay somebody Kshs2 million a month, let them pay everybody that same amount.

The other question that comes up is that of reforms. Those who believe that Parliament should take control of the reforms are not genuine and patriotic Kenyans. If you look at all the amendments that have ever been included in the Constitution of Kenya, you would find that they were done by Parliament at the behest of the Executive. Every time the Executive feel inconvenienced by any legislation in our Constitution, they rush to Parliament and everything is done quickly. Out of almost 30 amendments that have been included in the Constitution of Kenya, 24 of them have been done to the convenience of the Executive and to the disadvantage of the Republic of Kenya. Now, it is the same Executive that is very excited in recognising the sanctity and mandate of Parliament as the only forum that should carry out reforms.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you have two parallel groups attempting to carry out reforms, you do not have a union of one country; you are just pretending about it. A country is like a bird. A bird needs two wings to fly; the left wing and the right wing. You need to rise up above partisan politics, personal interests and lead one united country. You need to bring the two groups together and, then, you can have the pride of one nation with one flag. If you look at the year 2002, it is the only magical word that is holding this country together. The moment anybody is going to attempt to tamper with section 9 (ii) of the Constitution of Kenya, that will be the beginning of problems. Kenyans have been hurt economically and poverty has been a project of this Government for the last more than 20 years, whereby everything has fallen apart.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Mr. Maore, you will have three minutes this

afternoon to continue with your contribution. Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of the business. This House, therefore, stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.