

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 14th April, 1998

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BANNING OF HARMFUL BREWS

The Member for Kangema (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notices of the following Motions:-

THAT, whereas the Government admitted in an answer to a Question by Private Notice on the 18th of November, 1993, that the chemical components of the Kantanta brew is harmful to health; that it contains the following ingredients, namely; alcohol - 12.4 %, Rhizoidal acid - 0.4 %, total solid, that is actalic acid - 2.9 %, sulphur dioxide - 50.4 parts per million (PPM), copper - 1.2 PPM, iron - 5.4 PPM and organon lofric taste, which is normal; and given the fact that many people, particularly in Central and Eastern Provinces have died due to the consumption of this and other brews known as Kamata, Vuta, Shorgum, Medusa, Pound and Teacher's Wine with similar chemical components, and noting that the consumption of these brews causes a period of insanity and anti-social behaviour, this House urges the Government to ban the production, sale and consumption of these brews and others with similar chemical components with immediate effect.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

THAT, in view of the fact that the Ministry has not implemented adult education programmes vigorously due to the shortage of funds, and given the fact that an estimated 45,000 votes were spoilt during the 29th - 30th December, 1997 General Elections mainly due to illiteracy, this House urges the Government to provide sufficient funds with effect from 1998/99 financial Year Annual Budget, to enable the Ministry to re-institute the adult education programmes throughout the country.

AMENDMENT OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT

THAT, considering that Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) was established in 1994 by Legislative Supplement issued by the Minister under the Agricultural Act, Cap.318, to foster, promote and develop tea growing in the country; aware that these duties have for many years been carried out by tea farmers themselves; given that the KTDA has assumed other duties which could be carried out by individual tea factories such as accounting, purchasing of fertilisers, vehicles, appointment of tea auctioneers and raising of loans for expansion and construction of factories; cognisant of the fact that tea farmers are discriminated against in the Agricultural Act, in that the tea farmers pay for the extension services instead of obtaining the same from the Government; this House calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the Agricultural Act, Cap. 318, in order to make the law facilitative, rather than restrictive as at present, to abolish the KTDA and liberalise the tea sub-sector, so that each factory is self-governing in all respects, to provide free extension services to tea farmers, to transfer all the KTDA assumed responsibility to individual factories, and to implement

this and other relevant resolutions during this Session of the House.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COAST DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Member for Kisauni (Mr. Maitha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notices of the following Motions:-

THAT, in view of the significant economic role mandated to be played by the Coast Development Authority as a prime mover of regional development; being aware that the Authority is operating on scanty financial resources, making it difficult to meet its objectives; this House urges the Government to:-

- (i) establish a Coast Development Fund to generate revenue to the Authority; and,
- (ii) give the Fund statutory powers under the ambit of the Coast Development Authority Act, to source revenue from established institutions in both public and private sector operating in the region.

EXEMPTION OF MNAZI FROM TRADITIONAL LIQUOR ACT

THAT, in view of the fact that palm wine (*mnazi*) is a natural and unaltered beverage tapped directly from the coconut tree, considering the cultural, traditional and economic value attached to the *mnazi* by the Coastal communities, this House calls upon the Government to remove *mnazi* from the jurisdiction of the Traditional Liquor Act and liberalise the tapping and selling of the commodity in the open market, since it is the economic mainstay of the Mijikenda people. Thank you.

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on 31st March, 1998.

(The Minister for Lands and Settlement on 7.4.98)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 9.4.98)

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor?

An hon. Member: Hon. Mwakiringo.

Mr. Speaker: Where is Mr. Mwakiringo?

The Member for Voi (Mr. Mwakiringo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Once again, for those who do not know me, I am Mr. Mwakiringo, Member of Parliament for Voi. I came here on a Democratic Party of Kenya ticket; the party with economic vision for this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time when I was contributing to this Motion, I was talking about land grabbing at the Coast. I was saying that, part of the land along Likoni area, which falls under the protection of Kenya laws, has been grabbed and a periphery put just next to the pillar which directs the entering and leaving of the ships from the port. The danger is that, soon, if a house is put in that area, ships will not be entering the Port of Mombasa at night and, therefore, it will cause a big disaster in terms of the economy and revenue going towards the Kenya Ports Authority and the elevation of economy of this country. What beats me is that, when fellow Africans are allocated land, they end up selling it to Asians. Therefore, Mombasa will soon become a Calcutta or Bombay because of the purchase of land by these Asians.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would want to talk about the marginalisation which took place during the first years of Independence. This question of high and low potential areas is the one causing problems in the country now, because those who assume that they are in high potential areas assume that they have the right also to own the low potential areas and this is what is causing problems. So, this marginalisation must end with immediate effect if peace is to prevail in this country. I know the Government has not given a clear policy on this and how it is going to be eliminated once and for all. I have always thought, before I entered this Parliament, that Kenyans are so

intelligent, but I think some people are more intelligent than others.

We have seen the newspapers marginalising us in terms of publishing a "Coast Edition," "Western Edition" and "Nairobi Edition." Nobody living in Coast Province knows what is going on in Western Province. Somebody living in Western Province does not know what is happening in Nairobi and those living in Nairobi do not know what is happening in other places. Why this marginalisation by the print media which we trust? People in the western part need to know what is happening in the Coast and those in the Coast need to know what is happening in the western areas or any other area. This is not happening. This marginalisation, I think, should end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other point is on the telephone directories. I have brothers in Kisumu and I cannot get in touch with them because I do not have a telephone directory bearing numbers for Western Province, Central Province or Nairobi. We have Coast Edition, Nairobi Edition, Central Edition, but in London, these things are in one booklet. I think this marginalisation should end. This is going to raise the *majimbo* issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to talk about my area, Voi, where survey has not been carried out in Kariakor, despite people having paid survey fees for the last 11 years; and no action has been taken. I do not know whether it is because there was no follow-up or it is just ignorance on the part of the civil servants. Civil servants are the ones who are letting down the Government and they need to pull up their socks. Why I am saying this is that, civil servants have become answerable to politicians instead of to the Head of the Civil Service. What beats me more is that a politician in the Coast Province summons a whole DC from Tana River or Lamu and he comes to keep him in his office for two to five hours. Is a civil servant answerable to a politician or to the Head of the Civil Service? I feel that this behaviour should end. I am talking with bitterness because these people are not implementing Government directives and what has been passed for implementation because they have to get instructions from a politician. It is a big shame and an embarrassment to the Civil Service, where we think we have intellectuals and people who know which direction we are heading to.

Finally, I would wind up--- When you hit so much, you normally have to polish it. I would like to thank the Government for giving an ambulance to Moi Hospital in Voi, which is brand new and, I am sure, it is going to assist the accident victims along the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway and those within the Coast and Voi area especially.

Thank you.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Choge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to air my views. There are quite a number of things which my colleagues have said in this House and I am happy to have been given a chance to join them in saying a few things. If we have to remove a lot of fear in Kenya and have everybody happy, I am of the opinion that we must have something like a truth commission. If we have a truth commission before we amend the Constitution, this will remove the fears of other people who think that they might be victimised for this or that. We must have a truth commission like the South African Truth Commission, in order to remove fear from our tribes in Kenya and those who are Ministers today, and rich people in Kenya who might be thinking that, maybe, if there is any other Government or something of that kind, we might run into problems or something of that kind. We must have a truth commission and seal it out completely, so that we have a new chapter and then when we have that we will have the International Monetary Fund (IMF) sending us money again because we will have sealed out completely the problems we have, and the problems of other people thinking that there will be a continuation of bribery and corruption. We will have brought it to an end. It must start right from Kenyatta's time up to the present Government; call it Moi's time, up to my time.

(Laughter)

And everybody's time, so that nobody feels that when this Government is out of office we will run into problems or something of that kind. I am asking the hon. Members in this House to think about that seriously because unless we go down to that, we will not be able to remove the fear from different corners of Kenya. This is why you have a community like the Kikuyu community--- We have newspapers spreading all over the country and every Kikuyu in every corner in the country picks them up and reads them, and this makes the life of that person uncomfortable for no good reason at all. He cannot sleep nor walk. It is very wrong for a citizen of this country to behave in that manner.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Press is either being used as a mouthpiece to alert the Kikuyus of any eventual attacks and the need to be ready or somebody is threatening Kikuyus to toe his line if they do not want to be in trouble. I think this is a wrong approach.

Hon. Members: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Choge): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these hon. Members who are now rising on points of order or misinformation---

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member on the Floor of the House in order to keep on invoking ethnic sentiments on an issue that the National Assembly should not be addressing because the Kikuyus are not a subject of discussion in this House? He is also on record as having done those things outside this House. Is it in order for the hon. Member to repeat the same tribal chauvinistic statements on the Floor of this House?

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think I have given previous guidance to this House that the Chair loathes tribalising debates. So, could you make the debate national?

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Choge): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I know the fellow who has been telling a certain community to arm themselves in case of any attack. We cannot rule out this issue completely because when the hon. Member refers to me as having been on record, he is referring to an article that appeared in *The Star* Newspaper. *The Star*, and not the *East African Standard*, the *Daily Nation* or any other newspaper, has said horrible things about me. I categorically deny uttering any of those statements written by *The Star*. They are only imagination and a calculated move to protect some few people.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Choge in order to bring in issues that have been discussed outside into this House? Secondly, is he in order to continue attacking the Press when we know very well that the Press reports exactly and explicitly on what he says and if he makes a blunder outside, is he going to use this House to protect himself against the Press?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Ndicho! You are totally out of order. Next time, if you rise on a frivolous point of order, I will make it impossible for you to do so again during that sitting by expelling you from the Chamber. So, please, be careful on what is a point of order.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Choge): Thank you for protecting me, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The House is aware of those people who might be thinking of other things.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move---

The Member for Bura (Mr. M.A. Galgallo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member for Juja in order to allocate himself the role of being the spokesman for the Press in this House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Galgallo, take note of the sentiments I expressed to hon. Ndicho. You are in the same boat!

Proceed, Mr. Choge.

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Choge): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the quota system of admitting students to both teacher training colleges and medical training colleges has adversely affected certain parts of our country. For example, when we raise grades for our students in Turkana and other remote areas who would like to join our colleges, we are actually denying those Turkanas living in places like Ndeiya, Kiambu District, their right to education as opposed to the people who live there who are better off academically. Ndeiya is one of the remotest places in Central Province. If teacher training colleges demand that someone from Ndeiya must have a C+ to qualify for admission into those colleges, this would be very unfair to a Turkana living there. It is obvious that if a teacher from Thika is posted to Ndeiya, he will not be willing to teach there and this has forced officers to take students with low grades to allow Ndeiya residents, for that matter being used as an example---

Mr. Nyanja: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to compare Ndeiya, where I was born, with Turkana and we have done major projects with His Excellency the President? It is an insult to the people of Kiambu, Central Province and Ndeiya in particular, and to me directly. Is he in order to compare Ndeiya with Turkana?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Where is Ndeiya?

Mr. Nyanja: Ndeiya is in Limuru, my birthplace.

Mr. Anyona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address. I have gone through the Presidential Address and I am very glad to note that unlike the last Presidential Address we had during the last Session of the Seventh Parliament, this particular Address has been extremely simple; it is issue centred and wide ranging. I tried to note the kind of things that were mentioned and I could find reference to every aspect of our national life.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only thing that worries me is that if we are not careful, references to the various problems and issues that this nation ought to address become a ritual. They do not go beyond the words that are read by the President. We would like to see in place some concrete policies that are intended to bring those ideas into fruition. This being the first Session; I say the first Session in a very advisedly way because I do not believe that the one-day session after the swearing-in ceremony is really a session of this Parliament. It is a constitutional accident that happened in 1974, and, unfortunately, that accident has been perpetuated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who were in this House in 1974 will remember that when this House first met in order to elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, there was a disagreement which culminated into an impasse over the election of the Deputy Speaker. Clearly, the Government of the day was not comfortable with having the late Jean Marie Seroney as the Deputy Speaker and so it resisted his election. The whole House was in favour of carrying out the elections. After a whole morning of acrimony, the House adjourned in the normal manner, but at one o'clock, there was a surprising news flash that Parliament had been prorogued.

Mr. Speaker Sir, that is how this practice of one day sessions of the House came about. I think this tradition should not be continued. I think this tradition arose out of very bad circumstances and I do not think we want to make it part of our history because it is our wish to create a very proud history for this nation. I am glad to say that when we eventually came back after that adjournment in 1974, this House unanimously did elect the late Seroney as its Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that this being really the first Session of this Eighth Parliament, it is important, I think, for us as Members of Parliament and national leaders to lay foundations that will see this Parliament succeed in its work and help this country solve its problems. I am glad to note that in the Address by the President during the Opening of Parliament, there was reference to the dignity and supremacy of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the reasons why the late Seroney and Mr. Martin Shikuku got into trouble later on, was because of this issue of the supremacy of Parliament. In those days, nobody wanted to hear about the supremacy of Parliament. It is very good that, now, many years later, the President is able to accept and enunciate the principle of the supremacy of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, it is our duty as Members of Parliament to maintain the dignity of this Parliament because I think supremacy must go with dignity. You cannot have an irresponsible Parliament becoming supreme. I am saddened to note that whereas during the State Opening of this Parliament, the House conducted itself with extreme decorum in the presence of our church leaders, judges and diplomatic community, I regret to note that a few of our colleagues violated our own rules by remaining seated when the President walked in and out of the House. Even the judges, members of the diplomatic corps and religious leaders did stand up in accordance with our own rules and yet, a few Members did break the same rules. I think this Parliament must guard its privileges with jealousy and in future, when one of our Members breaks the rules of this House, it is our duty to ensure that we enforce our rules strictly. I hope that will not happen again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that we need a lot more addresses by the President to this House. When I was looking at Standing Order No. 32, there is reference made to notices being given to the House by the Speaker, when the President alerts that he wants to address the House. I think we do need a lot more interaction between Members of Parliament and the Head of State. I notice that in Tanzania, in the early days, it was a regular feature in their Parliament for former President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to address the House regularly. I think it is a practice that we, in this nation, must develop, to create a complete rapport between the Parliament, President and Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was regrettable that last week, we did have an episode where we went out of our way to break our own rules by attempting to interrupt the Presidential Address. I am glad the matter came to an amicable end but I think we must not ambush ourselves. We must not ambush the House or the Chair because the Chair is there to facilitate useful deliberations of this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in terms of co-operation, the President has laid it on the line. He said he would like to have co-operation with the Opposition. We would like our friends on the other side to be good agents of that co-operation. I hope, we, on our side, will do the same. We want to borrow a leaf from President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. The other day, there was a security crisis in his country and President Mandela was

confident enough to call the Opposition parties together and brief them on the security situation. This is the kind of thing that we want in this country. When there is a serious matter concerning this nation, the President can have the confidence to call leaders of the Opposition or any other leader he so wishes, to be able to put them in the correct picture of the situation so that we can speak with one voice.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to comment more on the proposal by the President that he would like to meet Opposition leaders. This proposal should be implemented and not left unimplemented. I think we have had such gestures before and I would like to propose that we should have modalities in place, so that the process of consultation between the President and Opposition can be carried out smoothly. I fear if we leave this proposal to rest without any follow-up and implementation, we would come back again to the same issue after another year and promise the same things without making any progress. I think that is the new culture that we in this Parliament and nation want to develop, so that we can hand over a legacy to the future generations of this nation which they can feel proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President also talked about the review of the Constitution. This is something that is very close to the hearts of some of us. I would like to believe that the Constitution of Kenya Review Act that is in place forms adequate basis for the reform of the Constitution. When we arrived at that Act during the IPPG deliberations, clearly there was no intention of making it comprehensive because that would mean creating a *fait accompli*. But we in the IPPG feel that if there are any useful ideas which require to be brought on board, that should be done. I think the forum that has been set up under the chairmanship of the Attorney-General, Mr. Amos Wako, is doing its best to harmonise the Act. I think if we can keep our country peaceful, we can then appeal to our friends, brothers and sisters, if any, who want to conduct mass actions, to give the reform process a chance because at the end of the day, if the reform process does not take place, mass action does come on its own. You need not initiate it. For the time being, I think we should join hands in the reform process.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other question is about the economy. One of the things that is very puzzling in this nation is that, when we have talks between World Bank and our leaders, we, Kenyans, are at a loss to know what is discussed behind the closed doors. I think the time has come when, as a matter of practice, there is a major issue like that, whether it is on East African Community or the Great Lakes Region, a major statement is made by Government in this House. This will make us be part and parcel of that process. From here, we can defend what requires to be defended.

I beg to support.

Mr. Speaker: I am looking for new members.

The member for West Mugirango (Mr. Obwocha): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Did you see the Member for Bahari, Mr. Jembe Mwakalu, raising his hand in Parliament---

(Laughter)

He is supposed to look at you and if you see him, if he catches your eye---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Actually, he is not supposed to look at me. He is supposed to rise in his place and remain there standing, in the hope that I will see him.

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Chanzu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am here to support the Presidential Address---

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! When you rise on a point of order, an hon. Member is supposed to rise and remain in his place standing, in the hope that I will see him. There is a Member I do not know his or her name, for sure; that Member is new and is making a maiden speech which shall not be interrupted under any circumstances.

Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Water resources (Mr. Chanzu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the Presidential Address on the opening of the august House on the 31st of last month. The presentation by the Head of State was to act as a guide to all of us, because all of us in the country know that we have got one President. Everybody in the rural areas knows that we have got a President who is to guide the country. The

Speech of the Head of State covered a number of aspects which I think Members of this august House should tackle with sober minds. The Head of State touched on the issue of poverty and unemployment, constitutional reforms and liberalisation of the agricultural sector. In all these issues, what was being done was to give us a lead into how we should handle the matters to improve the economy and bail us out of the current problems. He talked about the problems facing our people and we were advised on being effective and resourceful in order that we can guide our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Address talked of poverty and in order to satisfy this, there was need to have adequate and balanced food, clean water, good shelter and medical care. Some achievements have already been made. Like on the issue of unemployment, we know very well that the Government has realised this and put in place a Ministry like Industrial Development. This is a Ministry that is supposed to steer the country to industrialization by the 2020. We already have got the Jua Kali effort which has been made and I think we, as leaders, are supposed to put in place measures to encourage the Jua Kali to function in order to alleviate unemployment. We have also had the effects of economic and political reforms and how they have affected our economy. These are issues we need to address when we are sober and when we are all united.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to address these problems, we must all operate above party affiliations. An example of the unity displayed by the Head of State despite affiliations is when he had a fund raising in Nyeri for the Church of the Province of Kenya (CPK), where over Kshs35 million was raised and the Head of State was the guest of honour. We also had a Harambee recently in Kieni Constituency for water projects, where the Head of State was also the guest of honour. There was also encouragement for the farmers. We need to encourage our farmers to participate fully and be more effective in agriculture and cash crop production activities in order to achieve higher productivity to improve the well being of our people and increase profitability. We also have problems in the revenue collection. When talk about corruption, sometimes I wonder when does it become corruption? Is it when somebody who has been on the Government side is corrupt and when he joins the Opposition it is no longer corruption? I know we have hon. Members here who have been in Government and they were in charge of Ministries. It is as if at that time they were not corrupt when they were in those Ministries. This is why I believe the problems we are facing now must be faced by all of us squarely and united. This is because the problem that is effecting this country would not affect me and my kids alone, but it will effect even the children of the Members of the Opposition.

The other aspect that was addressed, and is of great importance, is about the infrastructure. We rely heavily on agriculture and we need to have good road networks in order to be able to market whatever we produce. Therefore, we need concerted efforts, co-operation and unity and to work together to get the country moving.

There are achievements that have been made as well. We have achieved a lot as a country. In education we have more universities. In the field of sports, we already have achieved a lot; for instance, we have more than one stadium unlike before, and that is growth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the aspect of industrialisation, we already have the EPZ (Export Processing Zones) which we did not have before. We have taken administration closer to the people in many aspects. We have achieved a lot in telecommunications. We have achieved a lot in rural electrification unlike in the past. We have achieved a lot in the water sector. In spite of---

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up!

The Member for Likoni (Mr. Shakombo): Bw. Spika, kwanza, ningependa kuwashukuru wale watu wa Likoni walionipigia kura na hata kuniwezesha kuitwa Mbunge na kusimama mbele yako. Vita vilikuwa si kidogo kule Likoni kwa sababu wale "barons" wote ambao unawajua na ushawasikia walikuwa wameapa kwamba sitachaguliwa lakini ijapokuwa kuapa kwao na pesa zile zilizomwagika, nina furaha kusema watu wetu walizila na kisha wakajua la kufanya. Nasema ahsante sana kwa watu wa Likoni na ningeomba waendeleo na mwito huo huo na wasikubali kumchagua kiongozi kwa sababu ya utajiri wake, bali awe kiongozi ambaye wanamtaka.

Bw. Spika, jambo la pili ni kwamba ningependa kutoa shukrani zangu kwa Serikali kupitia Waziri, Bw. ole Ntimama, kwa kuwezesha Mtongwe Ferry kuanza kazi muda mchache baada ya uchaguzi huu. Watu wa Mtongwe walikuwa wamesahauliwa kwa zaidi ya miaka miwili na ilikuwa ni shida kubwa sana kwao kutoka makwao na kwenda kazini. Ningeomba mhe. ole Ntimama kwamba tumepewa saa chache sana, aongeze saa ya kivuko hicho ili kazi yake ifungwe saa tano ya usiku badala ya saa mbili. Hii ni kwa sababu wafanya kazi wengi hutoka kazini saa tano na sio saa mbili.

Bw. Spika, pia ningependa kuijulisha Serikali kupitia anayehusika na barabara na ujenzi, mhe. Kones, kwamba tuna haja kubwa ya kupunguza wingi wa magari katika mji wa Mombasa na pia ucheleweshaji wakati mtu anataka kuvuka kuenda Pwani Kusini hapo Likoni Ferry. Shida hii itaondoka ikiwa Bw. Waziri atahakikisha kujenga daraja sehemu ya Dongo Kundu ambako watu wengi wanaifahamu kama Kipevu. Si daraja kubwa ambalo

inatakikana hapo bali ni kama lile la Makupa ambalo linajulikana kama Makupa Causeway. Waziri akifanya hivyo, sio kuwa tu amepunguza wingi wa magari katika mji, bali atakuwa ameweza wale wanaosafiri kutoka bara au Pwani na hali kadhalika wale watalii wanaotoka nchi za Ulaya ambao hawana haja na kuenda kule kisiwani; Wakishatoka kwenye uwanja wa ndege wa Moi, wataweza kwenda moja kwa moja mpaka kule Pwani kusini. Pia vile vile daraja hili likijengwa litasaidia kufungua Pwani kusini. Hii ni kwa sababu waweka rasilimali wengi wanaogopa kuja kule kwetu kwa sababu ya saa ambazo wanapoteza na pesa wanazopoteza kuvuka. Ingefaa mweka rasilimali yeyote ambaye amekuja kuweka pesa zake ama kufanya maendeleo hapa nchini asaidiwe. Nafikiri litakuwa jambo bora ikiwa Serikali itamsaidia mtu kama huyu ili maisha yake yawe na raha badala kuwa na shida.

Bw. Spika, jambo la nne ni kwamba tumesikia Wabunge wengi, na tumesoma magazetini kila mtu akieleza masikitiko yake juu ya ule mkasa wa Bombolulu. Tena vile vile tumesikia wale maofisa wakuu wa elimu wakisema kwamba wamepewa amri kwamba wakuu wa shule za kulala waishi kwenye shule na pia matrons waishi na wale watoto ili kusije kukatokea jambo kama lile tena. Mimi nilikuwa nataka kueleza Serikali kwamba haitoshi tu kutoa amri kwa wale watu ambao wako kazini tayari bali ni lazima pia ihakikishe yale mabweni na majengo yako katika hali nzuri. Mpaka hivi sisi mabweni katika Pwani ni mabaya zaidi. Kuna shule ya kibanafsi moja ambayo nilitembelea hivi majuzi ambayo inaitwa Makupa High School. Njia ya kuenda kwa shule hii imejaa takataka.

Bw. Spika, sisi sote tunasikitika kama Wakenya kwamba moja katika biashara zetu zinazotuletea pesa za kigeni imefifia na hii ni utalii. Sote tungependa utalii urudi na uendeleo lakini kwa sababu ya matatizo ya ethnic clashes, idadi ya watalii imepungua. Taabu ambayo imekuja kwa sababu ya kupigana ilikuwa kwanza uandikishaji wa kazi wa wale wanaoishi hapo. Mpaka sasa, ni asilimia 85 ya wafanyakazi wa Pwani wanaotoka bara na sehemu nyingine. Hiyo ni moja katika sababu zinazofanya wale watu wasifikirie kuwa ni wao wanaohusika na utalii. Watu wa Pwani hawana haja ya kuwapinga watalii wasije kwa sababu wanafaidika kutokana na biashara hiyo.

Bw. Spika, ardhi ni jambo lingine. Unakuta wale walioko pale Pwani--- Haulizwi Serikali inunue shamba lingine au settlement scheme mpya bali ije tu ipime ardhi. Tungetaka Serikali iwapimie ardhi wale watu wanaoishi pale na kila moja apate hati yake. Huzuni nyingi huletwa na kuona mtu ambaye amezaliwa hapo mpaka anaitwa skwota na mwingine kuja na karatasi na kusema kwamba "hapa ni kwangu na ni lazima uondoke". Jambo hilo huleta chuki na halitaleta umoja katika nchi yetu ya Kenya. Waziri huzunguka akisema kuna beach boys. Ikiwa huwapatii kazi, si atachukua shell ili apate pesa? What do you expect him to do? Si ni lazima aende akafanye biashara? Kwa hivyo, tatizo haliko kwa beach boys bali ni Serikali yenyewe. Ni lazima Serikali ijariibu kutafuta njia ya kuona kwamba maslahi ya kila moja yameangaliwa.

Bw. Spika, jambo lingine ni kwamba tunasikia kila mara kule Kilindini kuna uporaji wa mali, congestion au mali inapotea. Mara nyingi nikisema jambo hilo, sote hufikiria ni yule mwenyekiti ama mkurugenzi mkuu na wale watu wake ambao wanahusika na uporaji wa mali hii. Kule Kilindini kuna players zaidi wa hao. Kazi ya management ya KPA ni kuhakikisha meli imekuja hapo na imeteremsha mizigo. Kazi ya kulinda mizigo ili ni ya polisi na kazi ya kuona ushuru umetolewa ni ya mteja. Kwa hivi sasa huwezi kutoa kitu chochote Kilindini bila ya polisi kutia sahihi. Tena tunaongea juu ya congestion na huku barabara ya Mombasa imeachiliwa mbali na hali ndiyo roho ya nchi hii, pamoja na jirani zake. Mnatarajia vipi kazi ifanyike na huku matatizo yamekuwa mengi? Nasema hivyo ili lawama zikitokea kule Kilindini, zisibadilishwe na kupelekwa kwa watu fulani wanaofanya kazi bali polisi, customs officers na pia anti-corruption unit ambayo hatuoni ni kazi gani ambayo inafanya kwa sababu kila siku tunasikia malalamiko kwamba wao ndio wanahusika.

Bws. Spika, mimi ninaona kuwa hakuna dawa ya shida hizi zote, kwa sababu zimekuwa kama Ukimwi--- Tunazungumza hapa lakini hatujapata dawa. Chama cha Shirikisho kinaamini kuwa tutaziondoa shida hizi zote tukiwa na Majimbo. Kwa hivyo, Majimbo ndiyo yatakayotwezesha kuendelea. Ninataka jambo hili lieleweke. Sijazungumzia yale Majimbo ya kuwaambia watu wa bara waende kwao. Majimbo yale ninayozungumzia ni yale yanayomwezesha mtu kuishi katika jimbo lake bila kujali kabila, dini au rangi yake, na akiwa na uwezo wa kulitawala jimbo lake, na kuisimamia rasilimali yake. Mwenyezi Mungu aliumba mali ya aina tofauti tofauti katika nchi hii. Kila nchi hutaka kuwasaidia wenye mali yake. Sisi hatufaidiki kutokana na bahari, mali na ardhi zilizoko huko Pwani. Baadala ya sisi kufaidika na mali hizo, tunazikosa kila wakati.

Nominated Member (Mrs. Mwewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a nominated Member of Parliament from Makueni District, Eastern Province. I want to thank His Excellency the President for nominating me in order to serve the interests of all Kenyans. I want to ask the present Government, and the House at large, to unite for the betterment of the welfare of all Kenyans.

Thank you, Sir.

The Member for Gatundu South (Mr. Muihia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this

opportunity to address this House. I wish to thank God and the Gatundu voters for helping me to achieve what, in the eyes of many Kenyans, including the KANU *mafia*, appeared to be an impossible feat. The Gatundu people have fittingly put me in the shoes of the late Jomo Kenyatta, my beloved hero.

I listened to the Presidential Address. Although it did not contain any explicit policy the President talked of the different and myriad problems which Kenyans face. For one, the President talked about co-operation between KANU and the Opposition. But I think that word is a misnomer, as far as parliamentary democracy is concerned. We are here to co-exist but not to co-operate. I do expect that when I move a Motion here the KANU side will vote for it, as long as it is for the interests of Kenyans.

However, I fear that the new faces which I see on the Government side - which have good brains - might be polluted sooner than later and start engaging in robotic voting in this House. We are co-existing to alleviate the problems which have been brought in by the Government. It is for the Government to take the Opposition in, so that whatever debate we bring in helps it to put its house in order. Who has put this House or the economy in disarray? We have heard the statement from the Minister for Finance, indicating the way forward. This is welcome, but it has come a bit too late when we are already on our knees.

This country is going through a very dangerous situation because of poverty. The Government does not appear to be discussing how to provide the basic needs of the poor in this country. I am talking about the provision of basic shelter, basic balanced diet and clothing. Last Saturday there was a big fight between some watchmen and urchins in Nairobi. We have talked for a long time about the street children. This Government has been in existence from time immemorial, but instead of bringing to the House matters that will help street children it has compounded the situation by arresting them and putting them behind bars. It has not made any effort to make their lives comfortable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of unemployment in this country. While our graduates continue roaming the streets, Asian businessmen have been allowed to bring in their fellow Asians to work in front offices in shops and godowns. What is the Government doing about it? I have not heard about any move by the Minister concerned as to how we are going to alleviate this problem.

In his Address the President talked about encouraging savings to inspire growth. In the same breath, the Finance Minister slammed a punitive tax on the poor. How do we expect poor workers who have been taxed heavily to save and inspire growth? Whenever the workers rise against oppression the Government uses the media to suppress their views because they are less privileged.

A case in point is this: After the taxes were raised, the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC) came up in defence of the poor, but the Government used the media to demonise the NCEC, so that it could make the poor poorer. The Government raised taxes instead of taking appropriate measures to inspire growth in this country.

The plight of the farmers has not been recognised by the Government. The farmers are not being given enough incentives to produce so that the Government can collect their taxes. I propose that the Minister concerned should come up with tangible proposals to fund the farmers. I have in mind the Co-operatives Production Crop Loan Scheme, where the Government made loans available to the farmers so that the loans are guaranteed by the co-operative Societies and the loans are deducted directly from the proceeds of the farmers. I do not see why farmers who support this country, should not be able to get loans to buy good cars from their proceeds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when one is asked to get the loan at commercial rates bearing in mind one is a poor farmer, this is not going to help the farmer in any way, neither is it going to help the Government in collecting taxes. The infrastructure has already collapsed. Most of the tea is rotting in the field because the roads in Central Province are impassable. The Government has been taxing the farmers, but has not been ploughing back that money into the areas where production is high. Recently, the World Bank agreed to give infrastructure money for "Roads 2000" in Central Province. They demanded that the Government puts in place a trust fund where that money would be put, but the Government has refused to start the trust fund, and, therefore, we do not have money in Central Province. I do not know whether this is due to the fact that Central Province is a strong Opposition zone.

The health system in Kenya has totally collapsed because of mismanagement by the Government. In my constituency, there is a health centre which was started in 1985 at a cost of Kshs 7.4 million. Due to lack of exchequer issues from the Government, the project has stalled. It is anticipated that by the time it will be completed, it will cost Kshs 62 Million. This amount of money would have provided eight, 24 bed capacity health centres in Gatundu. This is a big shame. Who is stealing sugar money in the form of customs and duties? Who is bringing sugar into this country?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Oporo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Bonchari voters for having voted for me to come into this august House. I would like to also thank them very much for having voted overwhelmingly for the President, His Excellency Daniel arap Moi. I would wish, along with them, to reiterate our appreciation to his Excellency the President for having appointed me an Assistant Minister in the Republic of Kenya. I wish to thank those in this House who wrote to me to congratulate me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would wish to congratulate you for having been re-elected the Speaker along with your Deputy Speaker in this House, and I wish you well in your duties in this Eighth Parliament. Finally, I would wish to send congratulations to all Members of Parliament and the Nominated Members for having been elected or nominated to come into this House.

On the Presidential Address, I would wish to actually say that I support the Address mainly because it was open, frank and very appropriate considering the state of our economy at this juncture in time. Our economy today faces a lot of problems and all of them centre mainly on unemployment, poverty and all those destinies that are very essential if the economy is to move forward and record appropriate growth. If we were successfully to tackle all these problems in the country, we require the seriousness of all Members of Parliament and Government officers in the rural areas and urban centres. We should also realise that a lot of Kenyans stay in the rural areas and a lot of attention has to be focused on how best to serve the Kenyans in the rural areas so that their standards of living can be improved. We should see how best we as Members of Parliament, can supplement the Government efforts in the rural areas. Our efforts should be geared towards improving the standards of living of the people by co-operating with Government agencies in the rural areas. We should also see how best small scale-farmers can be assisted to work in their farms. Only through this, can we expect the rural community to produce not only enough food for themselves, but also a surplus which can be transformed into money to supplement their other activities.

There are other activities which can assist in cost-sharing in dispensaries and developing our economy. It is important for us to encourage them to increase these activities in order to reduce poverty in the country. For example, unemployment can be tackled by increasing the volume of formal and informal sectors. As we know, job opportunities which are generated by the formal sector cannot keep pace with the rate at which we produce graduates and school leavers from our learning institutions. This being the case, it is fair that we focus our attention on expanding our informal sector so that school-leavers can be assimilated into this sector through Jua Kali and related activities. If we were to do that, we need to speed up rural electrification in schools, polytechnics and other areas in order to give opportunity to school-leavers and polytechnic attendants to utilise electricity to do their work.

There is need for rural access roads to be made passable so that the movement of agricultural produce from the shambas to the market centres or to other areas is made easier. This can bring about development in the rural areas. I have talked about health in this country. A healthy nation contributes a lot to development because it means there is increased productivity. There is need for expansion of health centres in this country so that we can reduce the distances between health centres and dispensaries. We could also increase the number of personnel who man these health centres so that we have healthier people who are able to work in the agricultural sector. For us to improve the health of the people in the rural areas, we should be able to increase our output. For example, Bonchari Constituency is mainly agricultural. The roads and health centres, which I have talked about, need to be rehabilitated so that they can be of use to people as they carry on their day to day activities. All these can be achieved through co-operation. The co-operation which I have talked about is the co-operation whereby the elected Members of Parliament assist our policy implementers in order to develop our country.

I would like to state that nothing can be achieved in the economy if there is no peace. Peace is paramount and we should strive to maintain it as hon. Members of Parliament.

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

The Member for Langata (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am very happy to stand before this august House again as an elected Member of Parliament for Langata. I am happy to see some old Members back in the House. I am also happy to see very many new Members come to this House. There has been an infusion of new blood in this House and I see this as very healthy. I remember there was a very old Member in the House who bade us goodbye last time. He said that he was not going to see some of our faces again in the Eighth Parliament. Unfortunately, I do not see his face in this House today.

A lot has already been said and I will not repeat it. I will confine myself to what I consider to be important on the speech that was delivered by the President here. The economy is the key issue here. We all agree that the economy, at the present moment, is in a mess. We also agree with the prognosis of the Minister for Finance. We do not quite agree with some of his prescriptions as to the solution to the problem. The Minister has suggested a cut in spending by Kshs20 billion per annum. He has also proposed to reduce the size of the Civil Service. He has equally proposed to limit the expenditure to revenue. He has also said that there will be no

funding to complete projects that have already been started. Indeed, by doing this, we hope to create a quick deal with the IMF. These are prescriptions as per the World Bank and the IMF. Ordinarily, the Government would be able to resist some of these very unpalatable prescriptions. This Government would only do this if the economy was doing well, as some other countries have done. But when our economy is in the intensive care unit (ICU), we have no choice, but to accept the prescriptions of the doctor who has extended to us a life-saving line.

With regard to limiting expenditure to revenue which is very noble, indeed, the Minister has not shown us that the Government is serious in trying to raise or increase revenue by introducing measures aimed at eliminating corruption which is responsible for lack of revenue collection.

Kenyans have heard about this so many times that they do not want words any more. They want to see action taken against the culprits. They also do not want to see "omena" being fried all the time. "Omena" is a small fish. Kenyans want to see the big fish like "kamongo" and "mbuta" on the frying pan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, until such a time that people who have robbed the Government of revenue are brought to book, Kenyans will not take these statements seriously. If you go to the rural areas of this country, you will see them dotted with palaces and villas which have been put up by civil servants, who do not have any other source of revenue other than their salaries. These houses are constructed with cash, without any loan from any financial institution. This is an indication that these civil servants are misappropriating Government funds. So, there is evidence in the rural areas for somebody to see, but no action is being taken against these people. We would like to see some action being taken against these people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about land grabbing and we, Members of Parliament in Nairobi, have been reduced to doing nothing else, other than dealing with cases of land grabbing on a daily basis. I would urge the Minister for Lands and Settlement to suspend all the cases of land allocated for the last four years, until a commission to investigate corruption in land dealings is established, and this matter is finally brought to an end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time when the Government is introducing austerity measures to cope with the serious economic situation, it is a paradox of a kind, or a contradiction, that the size of the Cabinet should be enlarged. This is the time when the Government should trim the size of the Cabinet. I would suggest that the Ministry of Trade and that of Industrial Development be combined with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as it has always been in the past. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should also be combined with the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation. Likewise, the Ministry of Natural Resources should be combined with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constitutional reform is a very important issue in the current era in our country. You will remember that, before the dissolution of the Seventh Parliament, the IPPG package was brokered. My party, the NDP, was the only party that stayed away from the IPPG. We did so out of the conviction that the IPPG was introduced to short-change the reform movement that had built up pressure at that time. We said that the measures that were introduced by the IPPG were insufficient to guarantee free and fair elections. That is the reason why, when the election results were finally announced, we were not surprised. Of course, we did say that the elections were rigged. But on sober reflection, we realised that rigging was done across-board and we felt that instead of wasting time in calling for a repeat of those elections, when the machinery for rigging was still in place, we should go towards comprehensive constitutional reforms.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter that Kenyans need to debate without being emotional. This is a matter that needs to be debated with a sober mind. That is why we have said that some people should not try to impose their ideas on Kenyans; that we must have a constitutional conference presided over by the churches; that we must have a constitutional convention. What we are saying is that the ground work that has been laid is fine. Let somebody come and tell us why he thinks that such a conference is superior to a commission. Let somebody also tell us why he thinks that the convention is better than a commission. We believe that this matter can be discussed amicably among Kenyans. Constitutional reforms have been carried out in other countries. In Mozambique, they did it through a constitutional conference presided over by the United Nations in Rome, but the country was under civil war. In Benin and Mali, they also had a transitional government but they did it through a conference and came out with a constitution which was acceptable to the people. In South Africa, there was the CODESA which also came up with a constitution that was acceptable, through a convention. But in Uganda, next door, they did it through a presidential commission. They came up with a constitution that was acceptable to the majority of the

people of Uganda. That is why we are saying that there is nothing wrong in going through a constitutional commission, so long as we make it broad-based and representative of all the people of Kenya.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want this matter to be decided on quickly, and that is why we support the formation of an Inter-Parties Parliamentary Committee to receive views from Kenyans, which will then be used as a basis for amending the current Acts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of industrialisation of our country is something that is crucial. The Government needs to come up with a comprehensive policy that will not kill the existing industries, but will promote the development of local industries. No country in the world has ever opened up its economy to be "scooped" by outsiders. What is happening at the moment, through liberalisation, is that we are actually killing a lot of industries that have taken us many years to build. Shops in this country are flooded with goods from South Africa, like toothpaste, cooking oil from Europe, juices, sausages, jams, and cheese.

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

The Member for Lamu East (Mr. Salim): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for according me this opportunity. My name is Mohammed Haji Salim from Lamu East Constituency. First and foremost, I would like to thank the people of Lamu East for electing me as their representative in this House. I would also like to support the Presidential Speech given on the State Opening of this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an issue of national importance here. As we very well know, we have got 42 tribes which are classified as indigenous tribes in this nation. However, it is very unfortunate that some other tribes have been forgotten completely, especially those ones found at the Coast. Our land has been grabbed, our job opportunities have also been taken by other tribes and nothing has been done for us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bajunis are classified as indigenous. This means that Kenyans are also being discriminated against in this nation. When a Bajuni applies for a passport, he is required to produce the birth certificate of his great grandfather, when other Kenyans are not required to do the same. This is discrimination of the highest order and a violation of human rights. It is also contrary to the Constitution of this country. Section 82 of the Constitution clearly states that there will be no discrimination against any tribe. But the Department of Immigration is practising this openly. I also ask the authority concerned to address this issue, because the matter is slowly getting out of control. It is sad to note that people at the Coast who have got a long history here and have contributed a language to this nation, which is a symbol of unity for the whole of Africa, are still being classified as "second class" citizens. This is unfair.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order for Kenyans to unite, we have to be treated equally. This discrimination is a social ill which requires a comprehensive policy in order to rout it out completely. This discrimination makes us feel that we have been eliminated in this country, in terms of privileges and rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Member for Kitui Central (Mrs. Ngilu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. First, I would like to thank the people of Kitui Central for voting me back to Parliament. Second, I would like to thank all Kenyans who supported and encouraged me in my presidential bid. I also want to thank the thousands of Kenyans who actually voted for me. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Social Democratic Party of Kenya (SDP) Members who have been elected and nominated to this House. I would like to assure Kenyans that although we did not win the race, we are ready and we shall be waiting for next time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that this House did not get as many elected women as in 1992. In the 1992 General Elections, we had six women elected into this House as opposed to the current four. I hope that during the next nominations, every political party in this House will see to it that, at least, a third of those nominated to vie for the various constituencies will be women. I hope this will be done by all the parties. My party, at least, did so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the SDP and the party's parliamentary group, I would like to assure Kenyans that our participation in this House will be patriotic and nationalistic as long as whatever will be discussed will be for the enhancement of the dignity and pride of Kenyans. We shall also oppose anything that will not be for Kenyans' dignity. As I toured the eight provinces of the country during the run-up to the general elections, I noticed one thing that we have denied Kenyans: Their pride as Kenyans. Kenyans have been impoverished to such an extent that, whenever each one of us visited them, Kenyans would stretch out their hands and say: "Mheshimiwa, nipatie kitu kidogo".

(Applause)

This is a shame for a country that has so much in terms of resources. I am aware of some politicians, especially from the Government, who have spent so much money to "buy" Kenyans so that they can be elected into this

House. This is a practice we all have to eliminate, so that whenever we are elected into Parliament or any other elective office, we will know that we have been elected due to our leadership qualities and not because of the money that we have given Kenyans.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, there are only two major topics on every Kenyan's lips and they are: economic and constitutional reforms. We are all aware of the root cause of the economic problems in this country. We know the people who have reduced our country to what it is now. We are treating the symptoms rather than the causes of the problems. This is the time to address, squarely, the causes of the problems of our country's economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when President Moi was opening this House two weeks ago, he appealed to Kenyans to help him eradicate corruption, and I quote him: "My Government is committed to eradicating corruption". He said that he would like to ask every Kenyan to help him eradicate corruption. The Minister for Finance, Mr. Simeon Nyachae, has said the same thing. Kenyans voted President Moi into office so that he could sort out their problems. He knows very well that the most corrupt people are found in his Government. He also knows that there are some senior civil servants, Cabinet Ministers and parastatal chiefs who hold meetings daily with corrupt Asian businessmen who are known to us. Now, I would like to pose a question to President Moi and the Minister for Finance: Where is the common man going to get these people, so that they can be dealt with in our courts?

(Applause)

So, it does not help to tell Kenyans to help him bring to court those people involved in corrupt practices. The common Kenyans can only deal with that petty thief who snatches a woman's handbag in the streets. He will surely administer "mob justice" to such a person, but he cannot deal with a corrupt Minister, senior civil servant and a parastatal chief executive.

An hon. Member: Where is hon. Sajjad?

The Member for Kitui Central (Mrs. Ngilu): To see a Minister in this country is more difficult than seeing the President himself or even Queen Elizabeth. How is the common mwananchi going to help the Minister for Finance and the President eradicate corruption in the country? These people are asking the mwananchi who walks from Kibera to Lungalunga in the Industrial Area in search of a job, which brings him only Kshs100, to help them bring to book corrupt Ministers and senior civil servants!

(Laughter)

What I would like to tell the President is that, if he has failed to solve these problems, then he should understand that falsehood will prevail over justice. Although we do not advocate for mass action, if these people really want wananchi's assistance, they can walk into offices of these corrupt Ministers and senior civil servants and get them out. These corrupt Ministers eat with their corrupt dealers in the dark, and in sleek hotels of the magnitude of the Grand Regency and Inter-Continental, where the common mwananchi cannot go. The common mwananchi cannot sign procurement documents and tendering papers, but these people can do that. I am sure that if the mwananchi is told to get these people out of their offices, he can surely do that, and we can sort out these things.

An hon. Member: They can be lynched with tyres!

The Member for Kitui Central (Mrs. Ngilu): No, we cannot lynch Ministers with tyres.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Finance has also gone into record as having said he is going to do everything possible to help the common mwananchi. How is he doing this when in actual fact, he only increases taxes? The bankers have shop stewards who protest such taxes, but what about the common man? He has nobody to protect him except us. That is why NCEC is coming in. However, I hope that most of us will not get into this or that, because this can be sorted out. Let us see the Minister act on the Controller and Auditor-General's Report. Let us see him take to court those who have been named. Let us see these courts listen to these cases soon. We get surprised when we see the case of Kamlesh Pattni taking too long. It is now known where the problem is. Let this be done away with quickly, so that we eradicate corruption in this country. Corruption has eroded every institution in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that this is happening to our country. The answer to the problems that we have now lie in the very constitutional changes that Kenyans are demanding. Let this be done expeditiously.

Let us get Kenyans to know how they can protect their own businesses, first of all, by letting them know how the Constitution protects them, how they fit in it and how their lifestyles fit within it. We are talking about it amongst ourselves here and outside Parliament.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Kitui East Constituency in Kitui District for electing me to this august House.

Hon. Members: Kitui East?!

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Sorry, Kitui West Constituency.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Members! I do not expect Members to do what they cannot do legally. Legally, you cannot interrupt a new Member. So, illegally, Mr. Ndicho is leading a crowd in heckling. Can you desist from doing what you cannot legally do?

Proceed!

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi for appointing me to the Cabinet, and God for enabling me win the elections under very difficult campaign conditions. I believe in God and believe that he had a purpose for me to come to this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the biggest concern for every Kenyan is the economy. Everybody is trying to see how we can improve our economy. I have a few observations and ideas to put forward, to see whether we can put the economy back on track. I would like to suggest that while we liberalise the economy and advocate for free trade, we have to protect our local industries. One way of protecting our local industries is by imposing higher taxes on imported goods that can be locally produced. If we do not do that, the country will be flooded with goods from countries that produce them cheaply. They will be dumped here, and as a result, our local industries will collapse, unemployment will rise and these could lead to other vices like corruption. So, the first step is to set in place some policies that protect our local industries. For example, when I was young there was a factory that manufactured pencils using lead. Right now, I do not see any pencils manufactured in Kenya. Most of them are manufactured in China. I think one of the best ways to salvage the economy is to protect our industries. India is a case-study which we can borrow from.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the economies of South East Asia, Indonesia and other countries in the Pacific are collapsing, India's economy is not affected. One of the main reasons is because India has protected its local industries by imposing higher taxes on imported commodities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to promote trade by selling more of our products to the outside world and thus putting our economy back on track. We cannot compete effectively with these big multinationals, especially the American and European companies, because they are very advanced in advertising. Advertising is like cheating or trying to beautify a product for sale. One Kenyan professor at one time said somewhere that, there was once a man in history called Hitler. He used to have a great propagandist called Goebbels who used to believe that if a lie is told so many times, people tend to believe and accept it. He used that and it worked. So the multinational companies advertise many times so that what is not really good will look appealing, and we end up buying those commodities. As hon. Raila said, that is why goods from South Africa are wrapped very well and we think they are better than those that are produced locally. Let us promote our local products.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we protected our textile industry by putting on what is Kenyan, we would not have that big taste for suits from Paris and other countries. We should eat what is Kenyan and use what is Kenyan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another issue is that, most of the economies in the world are not doing very well. There are several factors to that effect. Instead of hon. Members blaming the Government wholly, it is better for us to offer solutions. In the President's Speech, he invited everybody to give ideas and see to it that we improve and put our economy back on track. We have been talking about corruption and many other vices. But one thing I know is that, if the economy does well, and grows at 10 per cent per annum, I think there would be very few complaints. This is because most of the problems facing us, like corruption, unemployment and the rest, are based on the performance of the economy. I would like to request hon. Members to put more consideration on ways of improving the economy. Once we do that, things will start moving very well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, comparatively, the Kenyan economy is better than that of our neighbouring countries. But as it has always happened, there is always a vicious cycle in the growth of the economy. The economy has to grow or decline. That does not mean that it has collapsed. Let us try to work very hard to improve the economy and everything else will be positive.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to request hon. Members that as we meet our constituents, we should preach to them that the population growth rate should not outpace the economic growth. So, if they gave birth to fewer children, our economy would start to pick up. The population growth rate of developed countries like Germany, France, Italy and the United States of America is less than 1 per cent. That is why their economies are growing at a faster rate. But in most of the Third World Countries, the population growth rate is faster than the economic growth rate. That is why we sometimes find ourselves in poverty.

Lastly, I would like to say that I am very convinced that whatever I used to read in the papers before I was elected to this House--- I have read about hon. Members contributing; I have never read about Members trying to disagree, or trying to shout at each other, because we are honourable Members. I would like to see exactly what I used to read. I used to admire some Members of this House, like the hon. Anyona, I am sorry to say, because he has a very independent mind and supports what is right. I would like also to ask hon. Members not to reduce the debate in this House into shouting matches.

Thank you very much.

The Member for Fafi (Mr. Shill): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Fafi Constituency for electing me to Parliament on a SAFINA ticket and I am proud to be in SAFINA. When I came to this Parliament, I had high expectations and I hope that Members of this House will debate issues in a mature way and that heckling will not be the order of the day. We are a civilised society and because there is individual diversity, we also have different opinions. So, we must respect each other and respect each other's opinion. We believe everybody has been respected by his constituents and hence elected, so that we all serve the Kenyan people's interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Presidential Speech, the infrastructure which was damaged by the *El Nino* was also mentioned. I would like to revisit that. It is said that a lot of money has been spent and most of the Government's revenue has been relocated there to repair roads and the rest. Very unfortunately, in North Eastern Province, which has had very poor roads, we have suffered the effects of the *El Nino* because of the poor infrastructure. Now, after so many months and the rain is over, still the people of North Eastern Province cannot get access to food and medicine, due to the poor roads. I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that very little money will be spent on those roads, because they are all-weather roads. So, I really urge the Government to make sure these roads are repaired as urgently as possible, because a lot of money is being spent elsewhere and not in our area. We are Kenyans and we deserve our share.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on education, especially the bursary scheme, many poor children in my constituency did not go to school last term due to lack of school fees. While this has been happening throughout the country, the system of acquiring bursary funds needs to be revisited. This is because bursaries are given according to districts. Some districts are richer than others and so, they should not be given money on quota basis. I think we have what we call the poorest of the poor and we had better look at those poor people and give them bursaries. Last term, almost half of the students who were eligible for Form One in Garissa District never went to school because of lack of school fees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me talk a little bit on the economy. Every Tom, Dick and Harry has been arguing about the state of our economy. I am surprised that the few who looted and the few who are also happy because it has been looted, think that because it has been looted, somebody somewhere will suffer. But I am sure Members will agree with me that the people who are going to suffer are the majority of Kenyans. The state of the economy has been getting worse over the years. I have not heard anybody giving an alternative policy on our economy. I have not heard people standing together and saying "no" in the strongest terms when these things have been going on. Now, the economy is at its worst state and we are pointing accusing fingers at each other. We know the responsibility of managing the economy is on the Government and maybe, they took it as free-for-all and things went out of control.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we, the pastoralist people, who have contributed over 12.5 per cent of the GDP for the last five or six years, have not had anywhere to sell our livestock and as such, our contribution to the economy has been undermined. camels, which are the backbone of our economy, have no place in Kenya. I do not know why we have no policy regrading this. I thought the camels in Kenya are for Kenyans an not for anybody else, and as such, it is untapped and there is no market for these kind of animals. If we had a market for camels today, we would contribute a lot to the economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on the issue of insecurity. It is very unfortunate that Kenyans have been killing each other for sometime for no apparent reason. We are always being told to unite and it is true that unity is the only way that we can serve the wishes of Kenyans and the future of our children. But this has just become a mere talk. Insecurity has been with us in North Eastern Province for too long and very little has been done. Mass punishments have been the order of the day from 1963 todate. Communal punishment--- Recently, during the clamour for multi-partyism, I heard people talking about human rights, but I wonder when these will come. There has been rampant abuse of human rights for so long. I am a victim of human rights abuse. I remember vividly on 25th May, 1967, just because a lorry carrying security personnel hit a land mine--- I was in class six, very innocent and our headmaster rang a bell and told us to go home. That day, hell broke loose, and for six good days, we were punished collectively and brought up under a tree and that incident is vivid in my memory. I have been traumatised and today, I thank Allah that I am a Member of Parliament in Kenya.

The attitude of this country towards the Somali community has been very hostile. I do not want to raise tempers in this House. We have to respect and protect the rights of each and every citizen of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the debate on the Constitution has been turned into a discussion for the elites of this society. There must be a provision for civic education. The issue of re-writing the Constitution has been demonised and people have been made to believe that talking about changing the Constitution amounts to being against the Government. So, there should be some time set aside for civic education.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Mwakalu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to begin by congratulating you for being elected Speaker of this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, every culture has got within its traditions a place for thanksgiving; and if thanking someone for services rendered or for favours well done, the depth of gratitude, naturally, has to be expressed in a sincere and heartfelt manner. I would like to thank His Excellency the President for appointing me as an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Local Authorities, under the able leadership of hon. Prof. Ongeru, and the team at the Ministry's headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going into all this because since the last three months, there has evolved a partnership approach in doing the business of this nation. In that Ministry, the bleak prospects confronting local authorities countrywide have started to be turned around. We have evolved a work package to rehabilitate the infrastructure and to improve efficiency, and that includes, among other things, cultivating the spirit of partnership between the councillors and chief officers in the various local authorities. We have come out in the open with the Fourth Estate, the Press establishment with the transparency and truthfulness that is seldom witnessed in this country. We have invited them to witness the way we are facing specific issues, be they shoddy and sluggish work attitudes by our officers or those grabbing cemeteries and other places of public utility.

Dr. Kituyi: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Ninafahamu kwamba mhe. Mwakalu ni mpya katika Bunge hili lakini anaweza kusema bila kusoma?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Dr. Kituyi! Why did you interrupt him? I am sorry that the Chair will not see you or hear you.

Proceed, Mr. Mwakalu.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Mwakalu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are re-orienting attitudes in our Ministry. We are transcending the *status quo* and all these international interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Bahari Constituency for giving me the chance to come to this august House in order to contribute to the national well-being at a time when this country is undergoing a general crisis.

Irrespective of party affiliations and our voting preferences which we left behind after the elections, I feel that it is the obligation of this august House---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mwakalu, do not read your notes; just refer to them.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Mwakalu): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for that guidance. I will not be reading my notes but I will refer to them. To be or not to be an august House, to be or not to be the Eighth Parliament that transcended the general crisis of our times, to be or not to be, the democratic and united peaceful Kenya, will depend on how this august House addresses the issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House has a patriotic democratic right and duty to this country. It has the challenge to come up with a crisis response package to address the issues of the moment that will either transcend the status quo or will hold us back into the quagmire of historical ineptitude. Given a country like this one of ours, in its social, economic and political predicament, what ought to be done and what is the challenge that should confront all the well-wishers within and without this House?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the duty of this august House to come up with specific solutions to the problem of corruption that has become a cancer in our society. Corruption transcends political parties and their ideology. It also transcends religious and other moral standards that can be used to measure how this evil accumulation has come to score high in our country's social structure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on character assassinations, innuendos, rumours, casting aspersions, assisting and abetting the problem that confront this country, I believe that this House has a responsibility to come out of the social crisis with specific remedies that I will proceed to suggest.

In place of the upward mobility which is based on a spoilt system and patronage, let us have merit governing the appointment of professionals and others in doing the business of this country. In place of graft, embezzlement and kick-backs, let us have the moral courage to confront the code of ethics on how this country should be run. The problems that face us have nothing to do with the nomads, peasants or fishermen of this

country. I think when the elite has a problem in circulating around the table room eaters, they break up into the tribal crowds and whip up ethnicity, such that now, ethnic politics have become chronic in the body-politic of this country. It is high time that we stood up to the very challenging and called-for independent commissions with the right obligations, duties, strength, independence and right of tenure to do the work for which they are appointed to perform for the good of this country. If this country is going to get out of this political mess, there must be efficient time management in doing the business of this country. There must be work discipline. There must be a revolution in work ethics and above all, there has to be a cultural revolution in this country. We will have to alter the entire value system, the attitudes, needs and expectations and the style of doing the work of this country, if we are going to move in the direction of a cohesive nation that is democratised, united and for the good of all the coming generations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind this august House that this is the time for managerial marksmanship. This House has found this country in a quandary because in part, the former House failed by omission and commission, to do what was needful for the well-being of this nation. I think it is time to set aside the rhetoric of blaming one another, put aside the attitude or value of passing the buck to somebody else and have self purity; that once you are in the Opposition, then all the problems are with the Government. It is upon this House to understand that the Government has the executor on the executive branch of the Government, but above all, the Government is constituted by the supreme institution of this House. This august House is the supreme responsibility-bearer of what happens or does not happen in this country. This is the one place where co-operation is more important than confrontation.

The Member for Kajiado South (Mr. Parpai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity, so that I can thank my constituents for electing me to this august House.

Kajiado South constituency is in Loitokitok which cannot be reached by road now. Even before the *El Nino*, there has never been a good road leading to Loitokitok, despite it being a very rich agricultural area. It leads the country in the production of beans. But somehow, the Government has forgotten the potential of the area. To make matters worse, from 1989 up to last week, when the Minister for Finance was bold enough to tell us that the proposal to tarmac the Loitokitok Road is no more, we had very high hopes that the road will be tarmacked. If this is the way some parts of this country are going to be treated, then we are failing. We are failing because Loitokitok produces a lot of maize and beans. We have National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) stores there which are full of maize. We are harvesting now but we cannot transport the maize out of that area and yet, everybody is talking about famine being around the corner. How do we expect those farmers there to sell their maize, if the area is inaccessible? In fact, people in that area are selling their maize to Tanzania. That is the only place that lorries can get to. The Government has completely forgotten about that area. I appeal to the Minister for Public Works and Housing to open up that area, so that the NCPB can transport maize from those stores to other parts of the country. If that is not done, farmers there will not only be demoralised, but even the Government is going to spend more in importing maize from abroad, when there is maize in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also horrifying to hear that if somebody wants to go to Loitokitok, he has to pass through Tanzania first. This is so and yet we claim that we are better off than Tanzania and Uganda. In fact from now on, we better not say that because we will be cheating ourselves.

It is also very interesting to note that the only project that the Government has undertaken in Loitokitok was a water project, which was meant to dry a river, to enable an individual to water his flowers at Athi River. It is quite interesting. I am talking about drying a river. Those living downstream are now suffering. In fact, we have closed schools and dips around that area. Even some homes have moved away from that area, just because whoever designed that project decided to make the people there to suffer, just because an individual wanted to water his flowers. This is actually ridiculous. That is the only major project that was ever undertaken in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Minister of Water Resources to send his experts to either reduce the pipes that are drying the river, or give an alternative route for that water. I am not going to incite the people there but I know something will happen very soon. We cannot stand and see some people taking water from us while we suffer. It is very unfair!

It is also very interesting that after the *El Nino*, so many diseases and problems cropped up. My area had cholera. I would like to thank the district medical team who did their best. But they did not receive much support from the Ministry of Health Headquarters. Interesting enough, we had to go around asking individuals, churches and other organisations to assist in transporting the sick to hospitals and clinics. Imagine a Government which cannot step in at times of emergencies and deaths! Where are we heading to? I had to give away my car for a whole week to save lives. I called, went and saw everybody in the Ministry of Health but nothing was

forthcoming. Please, if this is what is happening across the country, then I am sure you cannot manage another *El Nino*. Better tell the people: "Survive if you can! If you do not, it is up to you!" We better raise up our hands and surrender! We cannot see our brothers and sisters dying when we have a Government in power. It is really bad!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who spoke before me talked a lot about what they are doing for the local authority in my district, Ol Kejuado County Council. Like any other local authority, it has problems in raising its revenue. But it is the only local authority which is denied the collection of levies from minerals in the district. We have Magadi Soda Company paying a lot of money to the Central Government but the poor local authority is not even allowed to collect a penny and yet, you are telling local authorities to look for ways and means of raising revenue to enable them run their small affairs in the councils. I appeal to the Minister concerned to take up the matter and see to it that they, at least, get something small from that mineral that is being mined there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we talk of nominations, that local authority which is already in a financial mess, is over-nominated by two councillors. In fact, when they are supposed to get about 14 nominated councillors, they have nominated 16 councillors. Wherever they got the authority to nominate more than is required by law, is only known by the Minister, because we do not know.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is again very interesting when we hear the Government talking about combating corruption when among the employees and even Ministers, corruption is still going on. Land is being grabbed every day as if grabbing of land is not corruption. In our areas public plots are being taken over by individuals for their own use. It is the same individuals who go round talking about fighting corruption. I think some of these fellows need some seminars to educate them as Kenyans, that some of these things being done amount to corruption because some of them seem not to know. When one person goes for two or three or two plots, he tends to think that it is his right. Okay, it is a right for an individual to have a plot or land anywhere in the country but it would look too greedy to have more than what you need. In fact, it is not plots that they are looking for but they have used that as a way of speculating. In fact, it is a way of getting wealth out of those parcels of land.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to urge the Commissioner of Lands to be a bit careful, not just to allocate land to friends. In fact, this land is not being allocated to ordinary Kenyans. Those who are allocated look more Kenyan than some of us. So, I would request the Minister concerned to regulate the allocation.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Dr. Galgalo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am the Member of Parliament for Moyale Constituency. First of all, I would like to thank my constituents for having brought me into this House to serve them in this privileged position. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for having recognised my people's efforts and having therefore appointed me an Assistant Minister in his Government.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Speech to this House was what it was supposed to be. It was indeed, a dignified statement that set an agenda for this House on how to run the matters of this country and for which we are very grateful. The Presidential Address touched on the economy and it has been said here that our economy is ailing. I do not agree with those who said that it has collapsed or it is collapsing. But it is agreeable that it is ailing. When it is ailing, it is the responsibility of all the Members of this House, and Kenyans in general, to work together and get out of it. Pointing fingers at each other will not help the economy of this country.

Some hon. Members who have stood up in this House to blame the Government for the economic problems of this country have been in the Government from the time some of us were born. Their names have been synonymous with the Government and Parliament in this country. Like the Leader of the Official Opposition, I have known him as a Government Minister for a long time. It is unfair for him to condemn other people and blame the Government for the problems which we are facing. The problems which we are facing are cumulative. They have accumulated over the years, even during the time when some of the hon. Members of the Opposition, who are now in Parliament, were in power. They were parastatal heads and permanent secretaries. So, if the Government is at fault, then they cannot run away from that responsibility. So, if we are to point fingers at each other, there is nobody who is not involved. It is our problem and it is up to us to come together, as His Excellency the President said in his Presidential Address, and work for our people so that we get out of the problems rather than pointing fingers at each other.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our infrastructure is in a problem. In some parts of this country, infrastructural facilities do not exist, particularly some areas of Northern Kenya. Even this afternoon, some hon. Members of this House indicated that they do not want to be associated with certain parts of this country, just because those are remote parts of this country. But remote or not, we are all part and parcel of the same country and we are all brothers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Turkana are not inferior to the people in the rest of the country in any way. It will be recalled that Turkana District was in the first position in KCPE results last year but one. That is proof enough that the potential is there for everybody in this country to perform as well as the other, so long as the facilities are provided. Whether you are from Kiambu or from Moyale, like myself, or from Turkana, we are all Kenyans and we all have our own potentials. We are all gifted in our own ways and it is up to us as leaders of this country to assist our people in different parts of the country, and to work together for our people rather than making inflammatory statements or unwarranted attacks on one another to create problems for each other.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on constitutional review, Kenyans have been told that they are free to air their views. It is not fair for certain people or certain groups of elites within the country to speak for the majority. Let the people talk for themselves. Allow the people, and not one group, calling itself NCEC or whatever forum they are--- They have no right to speak for us. Some of us have no representation in any of those organs and we would want to speak for ourselves. There is no point restricting us. We want to be given that opportunity to speak for ourselves.

For example, issues like majimboism; it is not a criminal offence to talk about majimboism. Majimboism has worked well in several countries. It has worked well in the United States of America under a federal system. Essentially, that is majimbo. It has worked for them. On the other hand, there are places where majimboism cannot work. Fine! Where do we fall? It is up to us to identify where we are. Will majimboism work for us like it has worked for the USA or is it going to lead us into problems like it has done, causing disintegration in the USSR? We should discuss it instead of criminalising that talk. We should be free to talk about it and make a better decision. Federalism is a way of bringing services closer to the people. It is a recognition of the different social and democratic realities that exist in our country and as leaders, we should ask ourselves the question: How do we harmonize the differences in our country and bring our people together under whatever system? We should stop pointing fingers at each other. That is the most important thing, particularly at this time when we are at cross-roads. We are demanding for economic reforms and we need to talk together.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to make carefully thought out statements. Some leaders make statements that tend to split the nation rather than uniting it. I appeal to all of us to include in our prayers the following: "Oh God help me to close my mouth until I know what I am talking about." We need to weigh our statements before uttering them and causing problems to the rest of Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, northern Kenya has been marginalised for a long time. Educational institutions, infrastructure and industries are non-existent. Although we have livestock, its production has not been supported.

An hon. Member: Ask KANU.

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Dr. Galgalo): It is not KANU. KANU is a party that is leading this country today and most of the Members in the Opposition were once in KANU. If they have to blame KANU for all the mess, then they should also take responsibility for it. Northern Kenya is facing a myriad of problems. I would call upon the Government, in conjunction with this august House, to come up with an affirmative action plan similar to what they have in the USA, that looks after disadvantaged communities in terms of creating employment and opening up other development projects in those areas, so that its residents can enjoy the fruits of Independence just as the rest of this country is doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need the assistance of all bodies that are involved in development in this country and particularly this House, to come up with a programme of saving Northern Kenya from the problems, it has faced for a long time.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Member for Malava (Shitanda): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am hon. Soita Shitanda, Member for Malava. Malava is a constituency in two districts, courtesy of the tribal districts. One part is in Kakamega District while the other is in Lugari District.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Malava for having voted for me to represent them in this House and articulate their problems. They have a myriad of problems, most of them man-made. I want to assure them that I will give them the representation that they have been lacking to the best of my ability.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to comment on the Presidential Speech which dwelt very much on the current economic performance of our country. For a long time, our country has primarily depended on agriculture.

In foreign earnings, agriculture has been a major contributor to our economy until the early 1990s when gold almost overtook it. We do not know where those goldmines are, but time will tell. The agricultural sector in this country, is facing a very bleak future. Most of the agricultural activities are not performing as they should perform and whatever we are experiencing in the overall economic performance of our country is as a result of the poor performance in the agricultural sector.

The cost of the agricultural inputs has made it almost impossible for the small-scale farmers to even engage in subsistence farming. As we are sitting in this House, there was one time Western Province, particularly Kakamega District, was a major producer of maize in this country. Most of these farmers have turned to sugarcane farming, partly because of the cost of inputs and due to the Government intervention in the late 1970s and early 1980s when they encouraged farmers to diversify their farming from maize to sugarcane growing. We have had a lot of problems in the sugar industry and the farmers have a right to blame the Government for most of these problems because they are caused by the inability of the existing factories to crush the crop that is in the field. We have the example of the West Kenya Sugar Factory where we have a private investor with a sugar factory. This sugar factory has a crushing capacity of 700 tonnes a day and what is rotting in the field can give the factory a daily tonnage of about 3,000. So, we have a deficit of 2,300 tonnes per day meaning that in any one given day, the farmers in Malava are not able to sell 2,300 tonnes of cane a day.

As a result, farmers are uprooting their sugar-canes to try and grow other crops. This cane was grown at the request of the government. The farmers have played their part, may be it was their contract. They have planted the cane but now, they do not have the market for their produce. The ministry of agriculture and, generally the government is to blame for some of the woes facing the farmers in this country. The Kenya Sugar Authority has put in place, rules and regulations that do not favour the farmer in any way. These rules and regulations are designed to benefit the millers at the expense of the poor farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about the ministry of agriculture not having uniform rules for the agricultural sector of this country, we have good illustrations. For example, there was a time the dairy farming was facing a crisis through the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). The government intervened and bailed KCC out of its financial crisis by giving Kshs800 million from state coffers. We have sugar cane farmers in Malava and by extension, in Shinyalu and all other areas in this country, including Nyanza region, who have financial problems but has the government tried to do anything for them? What efforts has the government tried to put in place to ensure that these farmers are helped, if we are seriously talking about poverty alleviation? Why should it let the farmers suffer? Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) is offloading all its factories to farmers in their respective areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir we have Mumias Sugar Factory which we are told is going to be sold through the stock exchange. We want the government to have uniform rules for the whole farming sector in this country. The Mumia Sugar Factory was built on the sweat and toil of Mumias farmers and then, we turn around and sell it to outsiders before giving the local farmers a chance to own that factory. The government must also come out clearly and tell us the fate of the Busia Sugar Factory. The government went out to ask farmers to abandon growing other crops and go for sugar-cane. The farmers heeded the directive and the sugar is there, ready in the fields. The government has not yet constructed the sugar factory. Every other day, we get conflicting reports about the construction of that factory. We must be fair to our farmers and the economy of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption is the biggest impediment to national development in this country. Corruption in Kenya is an issue the President addressed in his speech. It is something which the President talks about every other day. But unfortunately, it still goes on everyday. High on the list of corrupt practices is land grabbing. Land grabbing, as we talk here today, is a vice that would bring down this country. We have civil servants who have been implicated in land grabbing. They have been left to go scot-free. There is a particular civil servant who had grabbed 47 plots in Kilimani estate of Kakamega town. These were government houses built on the plots which he had hived off and todate, the only punishment taken against him was to transfer him from Kakamega to Nairobi. The Kakamega provincial hospital right now has no cemetery because the municipal engineer allocated the cemetery to individuals. The list of land grabbing cases is endless. The Lugari Forest land which was meant to settle 3,000 squatters in this country has also been grabbed. Out of the 3,000 squatters to be settled on this land, less than 300 of them were settled. The rest of the land was shared among civil servants and their cronies. If, indeed, we have to fight corruption and resuscitate our economy, then we must examine ourselves first as leaders, and then review the structures in the civil service that facilitate individuals to grab land indiscriminately. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Member for North Mugirango/Borabu (Mr. Ombasa): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like in the first place, to thank the good people of North Mugirango/Borabu for electing me to come to this august House. I wish also to congratulate the Speaker and his Deputy for being elected by these Members.

Going through the Presidential Speech, I personally find it stimulating. This is because His Excellency the President talked about matters that are in the fore-front and are major issues to all of us. The ailing economy and its resultant effects are difficult conditions which we must come out from. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is disappointing to find some members rise and say the President did not touch on certain key issues. The President talked about poverty which now affects about 46 per cent of the Kenyan population. Those in this percentage live below the poverty line. Three million people live in Kenya and have nothing to do but wait for the day they would secure a job. Those are matters which when I think of my constituency, I find them to be of the same concern. These are the same issues the President asked Members of this House to address, so that we can get solutions to those pressing issues. This is because we have been elected by the people to come and represent them, by solving the problems that affect them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had said these issues affect my people and I will try to show that if these pressing issues are solved, then the standard of living in North Mugirango and the whole Kenya will improve. My constituency is a tea and coffee growing area. The existing roads that serve the farmers have been washed away by the recent rains and their produce cannot reach the factories. If the roads were improved, that would at least bring more income to the farmers of North Mugirango/Borabu and particularly, the area known as Borabu Division. All these roads are impassable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the roads issue should be looked into so as to improve the amount of tea that ends up in the factories, so as to improve the standards of living of the people of North Mugirango/Borabu.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the division called Borabu, would do very well in producing passion fruits. I would urge that the growing of passion fruits be encouraged in that division because that would create employment for many people who live there and are not employed at the moment and that would also improve their standards of living.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, talking about tea, there is the Kenya Tea Development Authority issue. I would urge KTDA to be very honest when dealing with farmers. A lot of farmers' money is misused. They have something called management agreement. The farmers collect their tea, transport it up to Mombasa, they process their own tea before transporting it, and it is not known why management fees sky-rocket and become very high. In the future, perhaps, we would like farmers to manage their own tea and sell it and appoint their own agents who will be able to sell their tea. The same thing also applies to coffee farmers. The unions that were said to be beneficial to farmers have turned out to be money-guzzlers. The coffee farmers in my constituency, as of now, do not get enough income from that coffee, yet it is collected from the societies and sold to KPCU or the Coffee Board here in Nairobi by the same farmers. I would urge that those institutions that have been charged with the responsibility of handling farmers affairs be honest and deal with the farmers in a way that is beneficial to the farmer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency can also grow pyrethrum. There was a time when pyrethrum growing was popular in the area. Again, if that was encouraged, farmers would improve their standards of living.

Nationally, the issue of land has been mentioned severally in this House. In my view, if we had a land policy in which the area under cultivation, is increased, for instance, the wheatlands of Narok, if something was done about it, that would improve the incomes of people in this country. We would have a lease system where we do not necessarily take away the land of the Maasai of Narok, but we lease it for wheat farming; we lease the land in Trans-Mara for maize farming. Some of those people who have nothing to do, particularly in North Mugirango/Borabu would be very happy to work in those areas and particularly if there were some credit facilities accorded to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about the Constitutional reforms, many Members have talked in this House and I need not say so much about it. I need only say that it should be an exercise which will involve all the people. Let nobody think that he is the expert in giving views about the constitution. I wish to agree with Members who have argued that a constitutional conference is not necessarily the only remedy. The issue is whether everybody has been included; whether everybody has given an opinion which we shall collectively put in the final constitution that will guide us into the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue I want to talk about is that the President gave advice, in his view, on how we could improve our economy. He talked about collection of revenue. I would wish to congratulate the Minister for Finance who has taken a bold step--- Some of the measures he has suggested may not apply because they may affect the general population adversely, but he needs to be congratulated for what he has done.

Thank you very much.

The Member for Kangema (Mr. Michuki): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. In particular, I note from the Speech, the views of the President on the liberalisation of agriculture, especially milk, tea and coffee, sectors and also what he said about the need to have

farmers supported, and I am glad that the Minister for Agriculture is there, so that farming becomes profitable.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, quite a lot has been said here about the problems that the farmers experience. I would like to join those who said that there is no way farming can become profitable unless the Government finds a way of providing fertilisers and insecticides that farmers can afford. Our farmers are over-burdened and the prices of fertilisers and insecticides are beyond their reach. We are saying that the Government should take action and if necessary, this House should be asked to vote money to subsidise the prices of those inputs. If we look at the small holder tea farmers who would ordinarily pick about 400kg a month, the production has not gone beyond one kilogramme per tea plant and yet, we know that with fertilisers that are affordable to the farmers, we can actually triple the current tea production without planting any more tea, so that at least, we get a minimum of three kilogrammes per tea plant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been said here, it is action that is now required. Idle talk has emanated from the Government side. For all these years, it has been talk and talk. Let us see action this time if, indeed, what is being said here is of any use to anybody in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I note with a lot of interest the recognition the President gave to this House and in particular when he talked about the supremacy of Parliament. This is because if there is anything that has been eroded over the years by the KANU Government, it is the supremacy and sovereignty of this House. The other day, when bank workers went on strike, some people in the Government had the audacity to say that the taxation that was imposed, of 22 per cent interest, was passed by this House, unaware that the law prevents this House from making any amendment on any fiscal measure that is brought here by the Minister for Finance and that the best any Member here can do is to show disgust by a token reduction of one pound to whatever vote that relates to the Ministry that has transgressed. Therefore, when are we going to be open and transparent if we can turn round issues which are so clear in the law? There is no point in continuing to blame each other. If we really want to change, then that law that prevents this House from amending a finance Bill which has a particular measure should be repealed. That is the answer to all that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also note with great interest the proposal that His Excellency made, that he intends to meet leaders of the Opposition. He should have met them yesterday. We hope that this matter is not going to be derailed any further if there is seriousness in the proposal. If there is seriousness in the proposal, then that genuineness must be displayed by the convening of a meeting for that purpose, otherwise, it should not have been said.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of the finances, some people in this country want to comfort themselves by trying to minimise the problems that are before this country. The problem, which we have today, and I reckon it is much bigger than what the Minister for Finance has stated, started in 1993 following a lot of money that was introduced in the economy through the 1992 elections. That is when Treasury bills were started. This is not a thing that came from the Kenyatta regime. I know the rest of it. It started in 1993. If you really want to be truthful and we have gone as far as borrowing from the local banks and insurance companies an amount equal to our own annual revenue which as the Minister for Finance or the former Minister for Finance would have witnessed is just about Kshs160 billion. That is what we have borrowed. If you add the Treasury Bonds and the borrowing of Kshs7.2 billion from the Central Bank, that is what we are talking about. Therefore, we must accept that there is no way we shall be able to pay these Treasury Bills unless we take other measures. This is because we have other services that must be financed from the revenue that we collect. The Minister for Finance thinks that taxation is a matter of mathematical calculation. It is not. You just do not project and say that you know that if I impose two shillings on every bottle of beer, I will therefore--- It does not go that way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are things that touch on the economies that we call the marginal utility of the shilling. There is a limit to which you can continue to add your shilling to a price of any commodity and that will force you to go into other substitutes. Therefore, I am saying that the Minister for Finance must rationalise taxation in Kenya which is very high. I commend the measures that he has proposed. Indeed, I had the honour to discuss this with him about two months ago. As a citizen of this country, I felt I ought to contribute for whatever my opinions were worth. What we want is implementation.

In the Seventh Parliament, we talked about implementation. We brought motions in this House. We gave advice on how we could increase employment, but because we were in the Opposition, nobody listened to us. Let us hope that this time when the President has directed the hardcores in this KANU Government to reconcile with everybody in the country, that we shall come to discuss this matter and that this is the time to do it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards other matters on taxation, you cannot punish the taxpayer who is always open to you. I am referring to a law that came into effect on the first of January where the same person who is paying taxes is now going to be overburdened with penalties if he is late, thus forgetting about the evader. It is the man who has come forward who is now being overburdened in that his penalties are going to be 20 per cent

instead of five per cent which was prevailing. These are matters that the Minister for Finance must look into and ensure that he gets his taxes from---

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Member for Eldoret North (Mr. S.W.Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to most sincerely thank the people of Eldoret North for electing me to come into this august House to represent and present their interests, needs and demands, a duty which I believe very strongly that I will do the utmost to try and achieve.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to mention a few things which were contained in the Speech delivered in this House by His Excellency the President which, in my opinion, formed the core of what Kenyans wish and demand from this House. The hand of unity that has been extended by His Excellency the President to all Members of this House irrespective of their political affiliations is an area we, as hon. Members of this House, need to explore.

I wish to say, to those who will respond to this call of co-operation or unity that they should come into this unity with their heads and not stomachs.

(Laughter)

Kenyans expect the Members of the House to think deeply about the social, the very pressing economic and other problems that affect Kenyans today in this country. We all need to co-operate on that. I believe we will demonstrate to a great extent the length to which we can go as Kenyans to solve our problems, if we are going to stand up in this House with one voice and with unity of purpose to focus on the problems facing Kenyans, irrespective of our party affiliations.

I believe very strongly that we shall demonstrate to Kenyans that it is possible to unite this country and unite all Kenyans irrespective of their tribe, colour and any other barriers that exist today in this country. If the 224 of us are going to show the way to Kenyans that it is possible to unite and face our problems together, the better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so much has been said about the economy of these country, and I was amazed at the contributions that Members have given especially on the economy. I believe very strongly this contributions have been made before. I concur with Members who said it is time for action. So many Motions have been passed in this House, so much has been said about the economy. I think it is time for action. When we talk about the economy, although I am not an expert like hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and Prof. Saitoti, I would like to believe that we are talking about the economy of Kenyans and when we talk about the economy of Kenyans or this country, it has a relationship with the individual economy of a Kenyan. It will be very difficult for us to keep on discussing about our national economy if we are not addressing the economy of the individual Kenyan. For example, the Kenya Co-operative Creameries which handles 70 per cent of the milk in this country is on the verge of collapse. A lot of Kenyans depend on this milk to educate their children and do many other things but so far nine months have elapsed and they have not seen a penny from KCC.

(Applause)

If we cannot assist our dairy farmers, then which economy are we talking about? We are talking about the economy of this country and yet we are not talking about the maize farmers. I come from Uashin-Gishu District which I think is the granary of this country. It costs Kshs.700 to produce a bag of maize. The Government and, indeed, the leadership of this country did advise farmers in Uashin-Gishu District to store their produce, because the price was not good by then. I am very surprised that the Minister for Finance has approved the importation of maize duty free, when we have our own maize in Eldoret and Uashin-Gishu stores.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am made to understand that the ships carrying maize hover around Mombasa and they influence the Minister to go ahead and issue duty-free facilities for the importation of maize. This is very dangerous! We are talking about the economy of this country, yet we are trampling on the economy of the maize grower. I do not know whether the economy of the maize farmers has any bearing on the economy of this country or whether it is one and the same.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking about agriculture being the back-bone of the economy of this country.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Muchilwa): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Muchilwa, hon. Ruto is making a maiden speech.

The Member for Eldoret North (Mr. S. W. Ruto): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for saving me from the hon. Muchilwa. We shall go round in circles if we are going to discuss the economy of this country without addressing the very pertinent issues that we can see. On this note, I wish to thank his Excellency the President for issuing a statement on the Kenya Co-operative Creameries this afternoon, which might lead to a restructuring programme to save the dairy farmers in this country from the impending financial danger. The company has not paid them for the past nine months for the milk they delivered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would have said many things, for example, about the Rivatex Company in Eldoret. The company is going to close down, maybe, in the next one week.

An hon. Member: It has already been closed down!

The Member for Eldoret North (Mr. S. W. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Managing Director of Rivatex is a full time "politician" and a civil servant at the same time. In fact, I do not know whether the economy of this country has anything to do with the company. So, when we are talking about the economy of this country it is good for us to be practical.

The Member for Kerugoya/Kutus (Mr. Keriri): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Kerugoya/Kutus for electing me as their Member of Parliament. Although I am not new in this House, I would like to tell those who do not know me that my names are Matere Keriri, M.P. for Kerugoya/Kutus in Kirinyaga District. I would also like to thank those who assisted and prayed for me and made it possible for me to return to this House, after I had been thrown away by the "shorter queue" of the then KANU moto. That was the same KANU moto that in regretting the loss they incurred in Mr. Matere Keriri defeating their beloved son, went ahead and stopped on-going projects in the District. There are several road projects that were stopped and I would like to plead with my dear friend, the hon. Minister for Public Works to listen to this.

One of the roads was the one that ran from Kerugoya through Baricho, Kaggio and Kibirigwe which, as the Minister would have known, passed through very productive areas of this country. But because it was associated with someone who was not a KANU moto, work on this road was stopped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you walk, because you cannot drive on that road as it has got gullies and everything else that can stop you from doing so, you will find steel and concrete works, purchased with taxpayers' money, gazing at you. Instead of helping the taxpayer to transport goods to the market, the road and all that is found on it poses a danger to human life. People who pass through there fall over steelworks which injure them and some fall over the concrete works which fall into the river.

The other project which was similarly discontinued was the Rural Electrification Project of Ndia Division. When we speak about improving the economy of this country and then go ahead and discontinue the infrastructure already being implemented just because someone is not liked by someone else somewhere, it is a pity. I would like to request the Minister for Public Works and Housing to replace the steelworks on this road so that the road can be passable and, therefore, enable us transport our tea, coffee, rice and maize to the markets. Kirinyaga District is very rich in these farm products. The District produces everything and, if you help us, Mr. Minister, we will achieve a lot of economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the Presidential Speech, I would like to start by saying that if what is normally said openly by the hon. Ministers on the Government side, and especially by their boss, is implemented with the welfare of Kenyans at heart, this country would have achieved tremendous economic development instead of being in the economic chaos it is today. The other day, the President directed the Minister for Finance to find ways of attaining revenue collection targets. That is a very good thing to say, but I pity the Minister for Finance. How can the Minister achieve the target if those vested with the responsibility of collecting revenue are big fish, with political patronage? They are officers who were appointed on political patronage just because they were KANU moto.

The Assistant Minister for Research and Technology (Mr. Ombasa): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am getting lost on the use of the words "KANU moto" Is it in order for the Hon. Member to use a word which Members do not understand?

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that Hon. Member belongs to KANU and he should know what KANU is. You are either "KANU moto" or you are nothing. There is no KANU blood.

How can the Minister for Finance collect taxes when there are some businessmen who are patronised and fronted by some State House operatives? I pity the Minister for Finance because he wants to do something but he

may not be able to do it. What we want to do is to eradicate corruption. The trouble is that this corruption is built-in in the system.

I support the Minister for Finance on the measures that he intends to take. I think he has shown a lot of courage but I hope that he will convince his boss to allow him to implement those measures. It is very important to cut down on Government expenditure and to collect tax revenues. But this is easier said than done. He must do it quickly. However, the question of reducing the salaries of civil servants is wrong. I think the Minister must have forgotten something which he knew when he was a civil servant: It is that, legally, salaries cannot be reduced. That is why civil servants have been asking why we do not start by reducing the salaries of Ministers and MPs.

What should be done is to reduce the Civil Service and employ people on merit, so that they can [Mr. Keriri] collect Government money. That money should be collected and those who import sugar and petroleum illegally should be punished. When a *Matatu* driver goes to obtain petrol from an illegal petrol station, he is arrested, but the owner of that petrol station is not arrested. Is that fighting corruption? It is not. We must collect the money that we are expected to collect in the right way.

The President spoke about co-operation. It is not enough for the President to meet politicians only. I think we need a big consultative meeting, which should consist of this House, the private sector and the donors. Even though the donors may not be giving us what we need, they are important.

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Kimkung'): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name is Kimkung' and I represent Mount Elgon Constituency. I would like to thank the people of Mount Elgon for electing me to be their representative. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for appointing me as an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Development.

I come from an area that is well endowed with rich soil, enough rain and a forest. Sometimes we do not even need fertiliser to plant crops. Unfortunately we do not have enough roads. Mt. Elgon is very backward in many other ways like other places. I urge the Minister concerned to assist us.

I would like to fully support the Presidential Address and touch on one or two areas which a few of my colleagues talked about. The first issue touches on co-operation between KANU and other parties. I have heard some hon. Members question the issue of co-operation by asking whether it is going to be beneficial to the people of this country. The word in itself connotes a positive element. Co-operation between two people or parties is a positive move and KANU has opened the doors for all parties to join in this co-operation. If NDP came and asked for co-operation, and we are co-operating well, I do not see why other parties should complain. You are all welcome to join us for the sake of the people of this country.

The economic situation in this country is in dire straits. We are living on borrowed times. We must address the pressing issues facing our people like poverty and unemployment. The challenge is for all of us and not just one side of this House. We should unite and tackle these problems and let politics take the back seat. There is so much energy spent on matters that will not assist the people of this country. There is a lot of talk that goes on which makes some of us rather sad. You often see Kenyans idling and saying that: "You have eaten and it is now our turn to eat", This is very dangerous talk indeed. It is high time we told our people not to indulge in that kind of talk, but to concern themselves not with eating but with planting so that there shall be something for all to eat or drink. The President touched on the need for Kenyans to co-exist. That is a noble thing! I wish to state that in this House we have hon. Members who have are old enough to be my father. It is a privilege to serve with them in this House. I and a number of my colleagues here who are about my age, look upon them for guidance and advice. With our youthful enthusiasm, we shall drink from the fountain of wisdom. Our generation has now matured, and we would like our elders to portray to us and the future generation that we need to have a peaceful and united Kenya.

(Hon. Maitha stood up)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Maitha, please resume your seat. Order! hon. Maitha! Order!

An hon. Member: He is reading his speech!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kimkung, you can refer to your notes extensively, but you must never read from notes. Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Kimkung): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am only referring to these notes, but I am not reading them. If the hon. Members would like me to look at them, I can do so. There is no problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should at all times respect one another's views. I have had a lot of respect for

older Members of this House and I did not know that I will have the opportunity of being in this House with them. When I heard them talk, I was left wondering whether these are the same people that I have had so much respect for, because, there are so many hecklers that we never listen to one another.

An hon. Member: Like you!

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Kimkung): I have never been a heckler, so I do not agree with that hon. Member. We should wait till one Member finishes their contributions before we give our comments. Let us not abuse and point fingers at one other. That way, I think we can debate more effectively in this House.

An hon. Member: Very good!

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Kimkung): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a matter of fact, in the spirit of co-operation, I have even invited some Members of the Opposition to Harambees. I have invited hon. Raila to do a harambee for me. So, we want co-operation of that kind. Let us build this country as friends, because we all belong to this country. Opposition Members are not only supposed to oppose the Government, they are there to guide the Government.

An hon. Member: Raila, leta harambee!

The Assistant Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Kimkung): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am mentioning all these so that Members can understand what co-operation is all about. We are all here for the sake of the people of this nation. We are not here to heckle one another. We are here to debate serious issues that affect this country. We are not going to spend two weeks debating over a single Motion and yet certain Motions are brought to this House without any sincerity. There are some Members who are not sincere, they only come up with Motions to get the Government side off-guard. This is not what we should do.

I remember the other day, hon. Orenge brought a Motion to the House, not because he sincerely believed in it, but because he knew that there were not enough Members on the Government side. This was a very sad thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to say much because most of what I would have wished to say has been said by other Members.

I beg to support the Motion.

The Member for Rongo (Mr. Ochilo): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for according me the opportunity to address the Eighth Parliament for the first time. For those of you who do not know where Rongo Constituency is, it is in Migori District, formerly South Nyanza District or part of South Nyanza.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first I would like to take this opportunity to thank my constituents for honouring me by allowing me to be part of the Eighth Parliament. Secondly, I am grateful to other Kenyans who assisted me in one way or another to make it to Parliament. I would also like, at this juncture, to congratulate all Members of the Eighth Parliament on their success in the recently concluded General Elections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have much to say in respect of the Presidential Speech, because many hon. Members have aired views similar to those that I intended to comment on, and I do not intend to be repetitive in that regard. However, there are a few things that I feel compelled to talk about. One of the things which I noted in the Presidential Address was the President's admission that the economy of this country needs serious attention. That was a very honest opinion of the President and in that regard, I support him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other parts of the Speech that were not quite agreeable to me, particularly the aspect of the speech that did not make suggestions on the curative measures that we need to adopt in order to move in the right direction in terms of curing our economy which is in tatters. In an economic setting there is the private and the public part of it. The Minister for Finance has been lately attending to the public part of the economy. He has suggested some remedies that are intended to cure the shortfalls that we are having in the public part of the economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the departments of the Government are silent on measures that should be adopted to cure the private aspect of the economy. It is the private aspect of the economy that is useful to the citizens of this country. The public aspect of the economy is necessary but not as important as the private aspect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Rongo are generally farmers. They grow sugarcane. As of now, the people of Rongo have sugarcane in their shambas that is 40 months old and has not been harvested for 22 months. I have not heard from any of the relevant Government departments and more specifically the Minister for Agriculture what is going to be done to salvage the situation. It is very sad that those who are contributing immensely to this economy are neglected. I heard hon. Ruto speak about the plight of farmers and I salute him from this side of the House. He was quite sensitive to the plight of farmers. If we are not going to address the private aspect of the economy and remove the impediments that are militating against farming, it would be idle to

talk about an economy that is in shambles. What we need now is to improve on our revenue collection and block all the avenues of corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about corruption in his speech and the Controller and Auditor-General has identified a few corrupt people. It is sad that those people and the Ministries they work in are still operational. It is as if we are not committed to what we are saying here. If we are not committed, we may make very beautiful speeches and have many people cheering us, but this is not what Kenyans need. Kenyans need commitment. I wish the hon. Attorney-General was here. I would have given him a few names of people that I believe should be prosecuted instantly, to act as examples to Kenyans; that looting and theft of public property is illegal. However since he is not here and I know that there is a Standing Order that prohibits that, I cannot venture into that although this is my maiden speech and I enjoy the Chair's protection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us have agreed that the Constitution requires reforms. We are agreed that this Constitution should be reformed and Kenyans from all walks of life should inject their input in the process of reform.

However, there are certain things we should also address. For example, if we look at our present Constitution, we will find very few defects in it. We are merely scape-goating. The problem we have is that we have not sanctified or held up our Constitution as a sacred document. We are busy disobeying our Constitution. For instance, the individual who wields executive powers has even declined to appoint the Vice-President, and yet the Constitution empowers him to do so. If the Office of the President is not following the Constitution to the letter, then even if we reform the Constitution, there is no guarantee that the one that is reformed will be obeyed and will be held as sanctified or sacred.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other things that I would have wished to talk about, but they have already been addressed by my colleagues. In view of the fact that time is almost up, I beg to oppose the Presidential address with the remarks that I have given, honestly.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications Mr. Obure): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name is Mr. Christopher Obure, Member for Bobasi, in Gucha District of Nyanza Province.

I would like to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank the people of Bobasi who elected me to represent them in this Parliament and to articulate their aspirations. In particular, I would like to thank those who worked tirelessly towards my election, and those who prayed and sent me good wishes and so on. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election. I have no doubt in my mind that both of them have the ability and competence to handle and guide the affairs of this House. I also take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President for appointing me as the Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications in this Government. I will do everything possible within my powers to co-operate with my colleagues to ensure that government programmes are effected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to join my colleagues who have spoken before me to support this Motion. I want to associate myself with those who have contributed ideas in relation to the performance of the economy in particular. The speech by His Excellency the President, in my opinion, was comprehensive as it covered most aspects that relate to the lives of Kenyans. The Speech touched on every major aspect of the economy of this country. He touched on very crucial problems that pertain to the lives of Kenyans; the question of increasing poverty, high unemployment level, deteriorating health standards and so on. These are major problems facing this country and they pose a major challenge to us all. I feel it is not the right time to apportion blame. The challenges face all of us, irrespective of our party affiliations or stations in life. I call upon all of us to join hands and come together in seeking a solution to these common problems. I am convinced that it is incumbent upon us, as Kenyans, to seek solutions to these problems, irrespective of our beliefs because we are all Kenyans, we share a common destiny, and thirdly---

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 15th April, 1998, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.