

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 13th April, 1999

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

### QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

#### CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN BENANE DIVISION

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that there is an outbreak of cholera in Benane Division that has so far killed six people?

(b) If the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what immediate measures has the Ministry taken to safeguard the rest of the residents from this epidemic?

**The Minister for Health** (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

I wish to state that the deaths which have so far occurred in Benane Division of Garissa District have not been caused by cholera, but by an outbreak of malaria. So far, 14 deaths have occurred of mostly children and women. About 200 people have been affected. However, a fully-equipped health management team has already visited the affected areas. The team is still there, trying to combat the disease.

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister for his answer. Benane Division has only one dispensary, which caters for about 10,000 people in that area. Unfortunately, the dispensary has neither a clinical officer nor a vehicle. So, first and foremost, I would like the Minister to send a clinical officer to the dispensary. Secondly, I would like him to upgrade the dispensary to a health centre.

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. We are looking for medical staff to send to the dispensary. I have already dispatched a nurse there, but we are still trying to mobilise some medical staff to the area. At the same time, the North Eastern Province is more or less a closed province in one way or the other. My Ministry is trying to open a drugs store in Wajir and Garissa Towns. This is because, if it rains while the drugs are in Garissa, they cannot reach the other parts of the Province.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have talked to the hon. Member, and we have agreed that I will tour the area to see how best we can handle the situation.

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is what we might call the malaria season in Kenya, and the more malaria-prone areas are likely to suffer from this epidemic very soon since the rainy season is on. So, could the Minister tell us what measures he will put in place before the epidemic occurs to ensure that malaria is kept under control not only in the North Eastern Province, but also across the country generally?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Anyona for his very important supplementary question. The World Health Organisation has declared this year, next year, and the years that follow, years for fighting malaria. We will launch some of the projects in the malaria-prone areas of the country. As of now, we have enough drugs to fight the disease in those areas. The respective Medical Officers of Health in the relevant districts have set up surveillance teams to monitor any outbreak of the disease. Also, we have a national surveillance team in Nairobi to monitor those areas so that if anything happens, we will move in faster to contain the disease before it affects our people.

**Mr. Shill:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware that the medical personnel in Garissa District are really frustrated because of lack of vehicles? In the whole district, there are only two vehicles. One of them was donated by the Aids Project. The other vehicle is not serviceable. Funds at the District Treasury are only in paper form, but no cash is available. Recently, a similar thing happened in Fafi Constituency, and I had to fuel a Government vehicle because the District Treasury in the area did not have cash. Is the Minister aware of this situation?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the first part of the hon. Member's question, I would like to say that I am looking for Four-Wheel Drive vehicles for that area. I even sent there the vehicle referred to by the hon. Member. So, the matter is under serious

**[Mr. Kalweo]**

consideration. However, the issue of finances at the District Treasury can be addressed better by the Office of the President.

**Mr. N. Nyagah:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving this opportunity. Whereas I would like to disagree with the Minister about the question of the malaria epidemic, could he confirm that his Ministry does not have any vaccine in stock? I am not asking for an alarmist statement, but is he also aware that the donor community is very concerned about that position? With the outbreak of cholera, 10 people died in Kisumu. This outbreak and the subsequent deaths were reported the Press yesterday. What is the Government going to do to ensure that vaccines are brought into the country? It takes six months to bring vaccines into this country.

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now, we are able to contain any situation that may crop up. Secondly, the same donors have given the Ministry some money - I cannot recall the exact amount - for additional purchase of vaccines.

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this incident happened, it took about two weeks for the Government to respond. There is one NGO in Garissa called Mikono Internal of Japan that assisted and provided the funds to reach there. Could the Minister tell us how much money he has allocated for the entire province for such an emergency because at the moment, there is only Kshs300,000 for the Financial Year throughout the province for this kind of activity which is not even enough?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the figures in my head but in the coming Budget, I think the issue will be better addressed. However, as of now, it took some time because of communication problems between Garissa and Benane Division. The area is quite vast and in fact, it took our people who had a vehicle two days to reach there. So, it was a communication problem.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Mwenje, is your point of order on this question?

**Mr. Mwenje:** No, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** And I have not even consulted you about anybody.

**Mr. Mwenje:** Not necessarily on that one, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Be patient. I will give one Member the Floor. Mr. Leshore!

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like, first and foremost, to thank the Minister for Health for responding to the Benane situation. I would also like to thank him for what he did for my people's sufferings when they were struck by the cholera epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to assure this House that, in order to avoid loss of many lives, adequate health facilities will be provided. And while considering provision of dispensaries and transport facilities, I would also like him to assure this House that, in his next budget, is he going to install telecommunication equipment in those dispensaries in arid areas like radio calls?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am doing everything possible to see that the areas, especially malaria-prone areas, are reached quickly. So, it is a question that I am addressing so well.

**Mr. Muithia:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware that the Health Policy Framework was completed in 1986 and it was meant to address the problems of communication by decentralising the supply of drugs?

Secondly, when will the Health Policy Framework be implemented?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a process that is going on even now. It is not something that we can do overnight. It is something that requires some consultations here and there. However, it is a process that is on the move.

**Mr. Osundwa:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister says that it has taken his officers 14 days to reach this area and yet, he has not told us what steps he has taken to ensure that this project is implemented. He further tells us that everything possible is being done. Could the Minister say what he is doing instead of saying that everything is being done? What is he doing?

**Mr. Kalweo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I say everything, I mean that people went to that area. The sick people were all treated and discharged. They went into the villages and there are two vehicles. One has already gone back to Garissa to take the Provincial Medical Officer of Health (PMO) back to the office and it will be going back to the same area again. So, they will be going to the *manyattas* to check more on these incidences.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. That should be the end of it now. The Minister for Finance!

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT****INCREASE IN MINIMUM SAVINGS  
AND CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES**

**The Minister for Finance** (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the public outcry with regard to the recent increase in the minimum savings and current account balances by some commercial banks in the country and, therefore, see the need for a Ministerial Statement on the matter.

As hon. Members are aware, the Kenyan financial sector is fully liberalised and is now market-driven. Therefore, commercial banks and other deposits-taking financial institutions are now free to set the minimum balances that must be maintained in their accounts as well as charges which they levy on the various services they provide to them. Banks are now using this right to target different levels of customers they want to deal with in the economy and hence, the wide variations in the levels of minimum balances being set by each one of them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a competitive market, customers should on their part, exercise their freedom to look for institutions in which they feel welcome. The financial sector is fairly competitive with many players in this market. There are at present 56 commercial banks, 15 non-bank financial institutions and four building societies in operation. This gives Kenyans a wide choice, in case one or two of these enterprises takes them for granted. I urge the small but valuable savers who are likely to find the minimum balance requirements by the two banks unaffordable, to feel free to move elsewhere. This will in no doubt inconvenience some of the customers who may be forced to seek banking services farther than they are currently getting; but it is in their best interests to bank where they feel they are wanted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to assist savers in their search for a bank that meets their requirements, the Central Bank will be providing on a weekly basis, information on the minimum balances as reported by each commercial bank. We trust that the provision of this information will not only result in a better understanding of how various commercial banks are now operating in the increasingly competitive financial market, but will also enable our small savers to get institutions that meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, though we are operating in a liberalised environment and the banks like all other enterprises are free to set terms for their services, they must be conscious of the concerns of their customers. They must appreciate the fact that a market; be it a financial one or otherwise, can only exist if there are people willing and able to buy their services. Without such support, it is not possible to sustain long-term commercial interests. Business enterprises must always remember they exist by virtue of support of their customers. We trust that banks will in future bear these facts in mind, when making decisions that might scare away or hurt their customers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to reiterate that, the Government is fully committed to the liberalisation of our economy and has no intention to go back to controls.

However, as we liberalise our economy, it is important that our business community, including banks, respond responsibly to the concerns of the public themselves. This is the only way we can ensure we maximise the advent of liberalisation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Kibaki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could I ask the Minister to explain to us what we shall do as Kenyans, because these banks are the ones that have many branches in the rural areas. The message that the Minister is telling us is relevant to town people; that is, all these 56 banks are not available in the rural areas and these banks are the ones which made Kshs3 billion from us ordinary rural folk and now, they are choosing to withdraw services?

Secondly, could the Minister also explain that he will now allow us, as farmers, to start our own bank so that we may compete with these people?

**Mr. Speaker:** Could you move nearer to the microphone so that you are heard?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sympathy for the former Finance Minister's concern about what Kenyans will do now that the two major banks which have many branches in the country have raised the deposit levels of savings and current accounts. For the small savers, there is a network of Post Bank and other branches of the National Bank of Kenya. I do not see why we should particularly insist on the Standard Chartered Bank or Barclays; there are other banks which also have branches in very many parts of the country. Those are the banks that we recommend to the people.

On the second question of starting other banks, with the proliferation of banking institutions and the numerous failures that we have faced in the near past; I do not particularly recommend that we go on the course

that we have been on of establishing banks which are ill-prepared, ill-equipped to survive, but the door is open. We have raised the threshold to Kshs500 million for a commercial bank and if anybody has enough resources and you qualify under the current rules that we have established, you are free to apply and we will consider your application for starting a bank.

**Mr. Gitonga:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to tell us about Post Bank when the same Government has put people there to manage the bank and have looted it completely?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): Apart from Post Bank which might be facing problems, there are other banks.

**Mr. Michuki:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister is aware that in any nation, the investment that goes into development of a country comes from savings. It is incumbent, therefore, on the Ministry of Finance to encourage savings. Could the Minister tell this House how he intends to raise the level of our national savings in Kenya, which, in fact, is so low that there is nothing to talk about, from a poor 19 per cent to 30 per cent which should be the case? How will he do this in circumstances where millions of people have been denied the opportunity to save?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): It is not true that our savings level is dismal. Hon. Michuki has already referred to 19 per cent, that is not too bad. However, we want to increase the levels of savings in the country because it is from savings that we would realise investments. It is also from investments that we would realise growth and development. We will ensure that appropriate actions are taken to ensure that the small savers are not starved of avenues for deposit. I have already indicated that there is a good network of banks in the country. We should not just insist that once threshold for deposits have been raised for both savings and current accounts, when that happens something has happened that would deter people from savings. There are institutions that would accept your savings if you have any.

**Mr. Mugalla:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister aware that although the Government has allowed liberalisation, it will be improper for millions of workers to be discriminated against by those two banks?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): I think I answered that question.

The mere fact that two banks have raised their threshold does not mean there are no avenues for savers to deposit their savings.

**Mr. Ndicho:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to mislead this House and the nation that there is liberalisation in allowing banks to be established? He has said that the minimum balance required is Kshs500 million when we know that the farmers' bank or the farmers themselves as per today have already saved Kshs510 million and his Ministry has refused to license a farmers bank? Why do we apply double standards?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): We have not rejected the application for the commencement of a farmers bank, but we have asked them to fulfil the various conditions which have been spelt out to the applicants.

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the small-savers are the majority of Kenyans, many of them small business people and farmers. It is the responsibility of the Government to mobilise savings among our people so that we can stop depending on foreign aid. In view of the decision taken by those two banks to raise their minimum balances, and in view of the fact that the Minister has no way of stopping the other banks from raising their deposits, what policy is the Ministry and the Government going to put in place to ensure that our people are not stopped from saving? Secondly, could the Minister explain what is behind a decision by two foreign-owned banks to start creating this kind of a problem when we need to mobilise all the savings we have? Is there some kind of "blackmail" in this process? What is going on?

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Masakhalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to impute any motive on the part of those two banks. I think they are doing business. That is my response to the first question. On the second question about what we are going to do to ensure that the banks behave in a manner we want, I would like to reiterate that we do not want to go back on our liberalisation policy. We want to do positive things. We do not want to go back and start to regulate the banks again because of the departure from certain norms that we consider appropriate. We can talk to the banks and tell them that what they are doing has got these implications; like the ones you have talked about of discouraging savings from small-savers. We can apply more persuasion, we do not want to go back to regulations.

**Dr. Kituyi:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would the Minister agree with me that beyond the substances of words and about freedoms of choosing banks; the crisis we are facing with the two main foreign

banks are: One, they are looking for an excuse to reduce the number of small scale depositors in order to off-load African employees in those two banks? The fewer the accounts, the more the chances of retrenchment which is their main goal at this moment. Secondly, the reason why it is a concern to many bankers or depositors that Barclays and Standard Chartered Banks are punitive in their behavior it is not because there is no Kenya Commercial Bank and National Bank of Kenya. It is because people in your Government have abused privilege and office so much that they have reduced the public respect of those two banks particularly National Bank of Kenya which is on the brink of collapse. You cannot ask any person to put his money in a bank which is collapsing because of portfolios held by people in the Government. Do you not think that is a reality?

*(Applause)*

**The Minister for Minister** (Mr. Masakhalia): Again, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would reiterate my response earlier that I do not want to impute any motives or reasons on the two banks. That is my response to the first question.

**Dr. Kituyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is a new Member of this House; he might not know what imputing improper motives means.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Who has given you the Floor? Order! Would you sit down? What were you saying, Mr. Minister?

**The Minister for Finance** (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member seems to know what is in the mind of the management of the two banks that have attracted the hon. Members' attention.

**Hon. Members:** We know!

**The Minister for Finance** (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to put myself into their positions and guess what motivated them to take that decision. So, Dr. Kituyi, that is my response to your first question.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the last question regarding officials in the Government, that is also an assertion that has no substance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well, next Order!

## POINTS OF ORDER

### HEALTH ALERT ON FISHING IN LAKE VICTORIA

**Mr. Kajwang:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister for Health to issue a statement on the issue of health alert which was issued by the Director of Medical Services on fish trawling on Lake Victoria. As a result of this pronouncement, it has turned out to be a fish crisis and this is very serious. I understand that people are not eating fish in Kisumu, and if Luos are not eating it, I do not know whether the Kikuyus will eat it or whether it will be exported. This is a very serious matter and the Minister should say something about it.

**The Minister for Health** (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course, I do agree with the hon. Member that there was a fish crisis but today, for the information of the House, the Government lifted the suspension earlier imposed. This was after the technical evaluation and sampling that was done in a duration of two weeks continuously after picking fish from various places. So, technically, they have not been identified with any residues.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** That is very good information. I think we are happy with that.

### ARREST OF HON. MEMBERS BY POLICE

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we sit in this House, three hon. Members are not with us because they have been chased like rats by police officers. They are hon. Thirikwa, hon. Muiruri and hon. Orenge. So, we want a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, who is in charge of internal security to tell us precisely what is happening to these three hon. Members who are being chased left and right by the police

officers. We do not know what they have done. They have not committed any offence as far as we are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has formed a habit of chasing people like they did to me some time ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Mwenje, make your point of order! It is not free time!

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would like to ask the Minister of State, who is in charge of internal security, to tell us what is happening with these hon. Members; why they are not in this House and why they are being chased around.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unaware of the allegations.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order hon. Members! I do not know what to do. The Minister says he is unaware while hon. Mwenje says hon. Members--- Hon. Mwenje, are the three hon. Members under arrest or on the run? Can you tell us a little more than what you have told the House?

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we sit here, more than 10 police officers are surrounding hon. Thirikwa's house in Nyahururu. He cannot come out of that house. For hon. Orengo, the latest information is that he is under arrest.

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

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Is there something wrong with hon. Members sitting at the back? An hon. Member must sit still when another hon. Member is on a point of order. If you do not obey the rules of the House, do not expect the Chair to give you an indulgence. You can stand up and sit down for as long as you want, but as long as you do not respect the rules of the House, I will not see you. Hon. Mwenje, what were you saying?

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, forgive them for they do not know what they are saying.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that hon. Orengo, as we sit here, is under arrest. We do not know what he has done but we have only been informed that it is something to do with grabbing of land. So, we want to hear from the Minister of State, Office of the President, in charge of internal security, what is happening and why police officers have to chase hon. Members. We expect these hon. Members to be respected in this country as they are elected representatives. The Government appears not to have respect for the Constitution of this country. The Minister said he was unaware of that but the arrest of hon. Orengo was even in the 1.00 p.m. radio news broadcast. It appears that the Minister does not know his responsibility. The police officers appear not to have informed him about that. This is serious as hon. Members are people to be respected; they are not people to be chased around. If the Minister does not know about that, it is only fair that he goes and brings that information before the House rises today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Madoka, what do you think about that?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had said, I am unaware of the allegations as put by hon. Mwenje. I will check on that and report to the House.

**Mr. Anyona:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to seek the guidance of the Chair on this matter. In accordance with our rules, hon. Members enjoy immunity on their way to attend a Sitting of Parliament and on their way home from Parliament. Today being a sitting day of the House, the presumption would be that those hon. Members who are alleged to have been arrested or to be on the run were on their way to Parliament. If it is true that they have either been arrested or prevented from attending Parliament, that will constitute a breach of privilege. I thought that the Chair would like to take an opportunity to intervene.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! I did not want to get involved in this fray at this particular time before all facts are known. There is, of course, the Powers and Privileges Act which states as the hon. Anyona had put it. But that applies only to the extent that the case is of a civil depth. I know of no law that would stop an hon. Member from being arrested for a criminal offence. So, until we get the facts, I do not think that it is right for me to get involved in the fray. Let us give the Minister time to find out the facts. Let the House know the facts tomorrow. Maybe by that time you will be in a position to ask me about the Chair's position, but let it be understood by this House that no person is immune from arrest for a criminal offence anywhere. You cannot say

that you can commit murder and then run to Parliament so that you avoid being arrested. I do not think that, that will ever be allowed within democratic societies. So, let us understand that very clear. In the meantime, can the Minister get the facts? I hope that hon. Members are not being prevented from coming to the House on very frivolous charges. Honestly, I hope not.

**Mr. Muithia:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was a news item at one o'clock that hon. Orengo had been arrested in Siaya. The Minister says that he does not know about that while it was in the radio broadcast. Hon. Orengo is being persecuted for standing firm and stopping the grabbing of a public utility plot which was donated by his community. The plot had been grabbed by some people with the assistance of the DC. The Minister should come out strong today and have hon. Orengo released immediately.

**Mr. Speaker:** I really do not know what to do. Mr. Minister, you have heard those concerns. Can you investigate and let the House know about that tomorrow, or today, if you can?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would rather report in full to the House tomorrow morning. **Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in Nyahururu this morning and about 40 policemen had surrounded the house of hon. Thirikwa Kamau and I wonder who was working at Nyahururu Police Station at that time---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, Mr. Kiunjuri! You are just repeating what another member has said. Whether they are 45 or 10, they are still policemen. Shall we go to something else?

UNSOLD SUGAR STOCKS BY  
MUMIAS SUGAR COMPANY

**Mr. Osundwa:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Agriculture regarding the state of affairs in Mumias Sugar Company. As I am talking now, the company has 75,000 tonnes of unsold sugar and the company has not paid farmers for cane delivered six months ago. Could the Minister give a statement to the House tomorrow regarding this state of affairs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Order!

**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 6th April, 1999.

*(The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and  
National Development on 7.4.99)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 8.4.99)*

**Mr. Parpai:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to continue with my contribution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having listened to the Presidential Speech, one notices that a few issues were touched, for instance, education, poverty, security, corruption and even the constitutional review stalemate. Those of us who were listening keenly expected to hear that some action has been taken on those who have been said to be corrupt by our local dailies and also by the Controller and Auditor-General and the Auditor-General (Corporations). It is unfortunate that everyday, when a leader stands up to talk about corruption, he only talks about it in general terms. Kenyans are already tired and fed up with whatever they hear from their own leaders, who never mean what they say. Indeed, in very many fora, people condemn corruption and they talk about taking action against those who are found to be corrupt. People have been giving very many theories on what action they will take against those who are found to be corrupt. We want the Government to take action against those who are found to be corrupt and it should lead the way by being seen to be above corruption. They should not talk of corruption when they are practising that corruption. Why we are unable to wipe out corruption is because most of those people who are given the responsibility of fighting corruption in this country are corrupt themselves. It is high time we took action against those people. If we do not take action, then we had better not talk about it.

On the issue of education, it is very interesting that we get to hear about papers that are written in Nairobi

and they talk about wananchi providing physical facilities to schools and yet some areas in this country are known to be receiving relief food. How do you expect a person who receives relief food to provide physical facilities in his own area? It is ridiculous! It is a clear indication that those who sit down and write these policies do not know what happens on the ground. It is high time people went to the ground and found out exactly what is happening. There are areas which depend quite a lot on relief food and you do not expect people from such areas to build schools. In spite of the fact that parents in other areas build schools, they are told to provide teachers for their own schools. What a responsibility the Government is trying to shed from itself! The Government should start zoning Kenya. Kenya differs in development; richness and there are areas which cannot afford to do the things that they are being asked to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting that the same Government has forgotten pastoralists. We used to have a Ministry of Livestock Development but that Ministry has been reduced to a department in the Ministry of Agriculture just like any other department and it is not a very important department, so to say. As a result of that, veterinary and extension services are no longer being provided in the rural areas. Marketing of livestock is something of the past. That department in the Ministry of Agriculture should come up with a policy of assisting the livestock owners in marketing their animals. It should not only market the animals locally but they should look for markets outside the country. That must be done if poverty is to be alleviated in those pastoralist areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year, just around this time, when I made my Maiden Speech, I highlighted that there was a bumper harvest of maize in Oloitoktok at that time. At that time, farmers were selling maize at Kshs400 and I said here that the Government should look for money in order to assist those farmers to buy the maize, otherwise, the prices they were receiving were not profitable. Unfortunately, the Minister did not heed my advice. Interestingly enough, as if Oloitoktok is not in Kenya and as if the residents of Oloitoktok do not pay taxes, when maize was harvested in the North Rift districts, farmers there made noise and the same Minister stepped in and bought maize at Kshs1,000. What a shame? This is a Government that does not treat all its citizens equally.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very unreal when we use double-standards on the residents of this country. My area has been ignored. There are no roads. Loitokitok used to produce a lot of horticulture. These days, because of impassable roads, the horticultural industry has gone to rust. I would request the Minister - I do not know whether it is the Minister for Public Works and Housing or the Minister in charge of poverty---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Your time is up. Let us listen to hon. Anyona.

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Presidential Speech. Right at the outset, I would like to say that today, being the 4th day of the debate on this Motion, the Chair is clearly beginning to get tired of speeches which really become a repetition of what has been said at the very beginning. This is because of the nature of, first of all, the Address itself, and secondly, the manner in which the debate is structured. I would like to depart from the practice of merely adding on the complaints from both sides of the House; both about the Speech, and about the state of affairs in the country. I think that we, as leaders and Parliament, are responsible for the shortcomings of which we are complaining. I think you really must be very strong to sit here for seven days and listen to leaders complaining against themselves. The country wonders who then is supposed to take action and to listen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the status and importance of this Speech, and what it implies in the management of the affairs of this country. At the risk of appearing stereo-type, I just would like to illustrate this point by using two documents. This is our Presidential Speech. It is four and half pages. It touches on a large number of issues, but does not, seriously in depth, analyse those issues. That is part of the complaints that hon. Kibaki raised that it was not a Speech and there was nothing in it. Yet, more or less, the same Speech has been made for many years, including the ten years of which hon. Kibaki was the Vice-President of this Republic.

Now, on the other hand, I would like to use this book here. It is another Presidential Address from another country; that is South Africa. You can see how thick and how big it is. If you go through it, you can see a nation that is analysing itself; asking itself questions and trying to provide answers so that it is no longer a simplified Speech by the President which we come here to tear apart, or a Speech by the Government, in which case, the responsibility of the Opposition is to tear it apart, but a message to the nation; the state of the nation. In fact, this one is called the state of the nation, and it is equivalent to the American State of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just doing that to illustrate that we cannot deal with our problems 36 years after Independence by producing a Speech of this kind in a national Parliament. Therefore, I would like to say this: That the status and importance of the Presidential Address lies in the fact that it is made by the President under our Standing Order No.16, as the Head of State. I think a lot of us never realise that you vacate that seat so that the President can address the House as the Head of State. This is because normally, when he does that, he either



sits there or comes to the Front Bench. So, therefore, this is the message that sets the agenda for the nation for the whole year. It is not an annual ritual which we come here, listen to and make statements about it and go away. It is even of more importance that the President is also the Head of the Government. This is because in other countries, the Queen would come and make a speech that maybe a ritual and she goes away. The Prime Minister will then sit in the House and answer the questions that are raised in that speech. Now, ours is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are in a multiparty Parliament. There must be a difference between a multi-party Parliament and a one party state. There is a biblical metaphorical expression which says: "Do not put new wine in old bottles." What we have done in this country is: We have new wine in way of multiparty democracy and we have put it in old bottles. That is why we are able to produce a speech like this. New wine is powerful in its state of fermentation. It expands and if you put it in old bottles, they will break. So, you do need to put the new wine in new bottles. It is important that the Presidential Statement constitutes a political message to the country. It is the rallying point for the country and this Parliament. It is not meant to be a point of departure, where the Opposition and the Government find a field to fight each other. We are meant to focus on the issues that face this nation. As I said, it is the agenda for this Republic for the next 12 months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say this: That in this Statement, there is neither exposition nor public policy. Now, why is that? The weakness lies in the manner in which this Speech, and many others before, are prepared. This Speech is prepared by some anonymous civil servants, or group of civil servants. Now, if there are failures in this country, and a large portion of those failures can be attributed to the civil service, you do not expect them to come here and expose those weaknesses, and tell us what to do. Being a political statement, therefore, it must have a political input and direction in it. The President is too busy to find time to go through various drafts of the Presidential Address. That is why I would like to suggest that in the old times, the Presidential Address, after it had been drafted by the civil service, was finally sanctioned by a Cabinet Committee.

At Independence, the Committee of Cabinet was chaired by hon. the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, and its role was to ensure that when the President stands up here and speaks, he speaks for all of us.

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Anyona set himself the task of educating us on what a Presidential Speech is. But in the course of time, he has misled this House that the Queen of England, for instance, comes to address the House of Commons or both Houses as Head of State, and not as Head of Government. Is that not a falsehood because she only reads what the Prime Minister and the Government has prepared? So, could he correct that, Mr. Speaker, Sir?

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to get involved in any debate. The fact of the matter is that the Queen being the Head of State, and being non-political, the statement is drafted in such a way that it portrays that position of neutrality. It is left to the Prime Minister to do the political battles on the Floor of the House. That is the correct position. In any case, what I was saying is that from now on, we do want the Presidential Address to be prepared with the input of the Ministers, so that they can be sure that the various problems in their Ministries are addressed in the Speech so that when it comes to this House, we would be dealing with real issues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was also going to suggest that instead of this monotony of talking for seven days repeating each other; that we restructure the Speech so that on the first day - and I would like to borrow from Erskine May, pages 234 and 235, as to how the Speech by the Queen is debated in Parliament - it is general debate on all the policy issues raised in the Speech. The second day and for the next few days, the Opposition decides on which areas of Government policy they would like to concentrate on. That is what is debated so that the Government can respond. Sometimes before the end of the Speech, the Leader of the Official Opposition and his Front Bench propose amendments to the Speech in certain areas. That is the only way we can have our input. The President did ask us to have an input in this Speech. How do you do it if you just come here and grumble and say things that do not get into the Speech? We can then have constructive amendments proposed by the Opposition.

On the last day, the rest of Opposition Members then propose any other areas intended to strengthen the Presidential Address. Secondly, it is important that having heard the President at the beginning of the Session, to hear him at the close of the Session in terms of the implementation of the many policies that had been enunciated in the speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you said the other day, we want more and more addresses by Ministers in this House.

I do not see anything wrong in having more and more regular addresses by the President of this Republic to tell us how various policies in place are going and what this Parliament can do to influence them. I do think, therefore, at the end of this Session, we would like to invite the President to come back and give us an audit of

what has happened in terms of implementation. In the meantime, we would like the Ministers to have regular appraisals of the various policies and suggestions that have been proposed in this Speech.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that this Parliament and this particular Session of Parliament, cannot be a success without constitutional reform.

Thank you, Sir.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to the debate on the Presidential speech. May I begin by saying that it was a pertinent Speech. It was quite topical and loaded with issues which are of relevance to all Kenyans and all those concerned. I know others have picked bones with this particular Speech; others have said that it was not a right Speech, that it should have included programmes and projects that the Government is undertaking. May I state here, and now, that a policy is not a programme and it is not a project. Those are two different aspects of the development process. Therefore, to expect a whole President to come here and talk about programmes and projects or to expect him to talk about the details which are a preserve of the civil servants would be demoting the Head of State. Some of the hon. Members who are making comments of such a nature, have sought high office in this country. I am left to wonder how they can seek higher offices in this country while they cannot differentiate between a policy and a programme. Are they seeking to be the President or programme officers in this particular Republic?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to state very fundamentally that the Speech contained issues that are of relevance to all of us. For anyone of us to brush them aside, he should be telling Kenyans what issues he would like to be addressed here. If one cannot really understand and appreciate that these are the issues of the day, then that shows that those who are brushing this particular speech and the issues raised therein aside no longer care about the fate of Kenyans. They should tell us whom they represent in this particular House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of issues were raised relating to the constitutional review process, corruption, poverty alleviation as well as ways of combating corruption in this country. The issue of constitutional review process is very relevant and very topical today. I agree with what the President said that the Constitution that we are all mooting will belong to all us. We will need the support and contribution of each one of us to make that particular process a success. It is up to Parliament to work out the modalities and to ensure that the process succeeds. It is the duty of this Parliament to own up and to know that, ultimately, the responsibility to come up with the right Constitution belongs to us and not to anybody else. Indeed, it is true that the constitutional review process has so far faced a number of problems, but I think sometimes we fail to understand the root causes of those problems. May I underline it here that the problems which confront the Constitutional review process as of now, are not legal but political. They are political in the sense that they touch on the issue of distribution of power in society---

**Mr. Wanjala:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister is not reading a Ministerial Statement here. He is supposed to be debating, but he is very busy reading. Is it in order for him to keep on reading statements to us?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! The Minister is very literate and he is only making references. Proceed!

*(Laughter)*

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was only making quick reference to whatever issues that I wanted really to raise. I do not want to miss a single point.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all I am saying is that the problems which confront the constitutional review process today are not necessarily legal. They are political because they relate to the distribution of power in society. Whereas the Government side is genuinely interested in seeing to it that the new constitutional order will enhance good governance and effective management of Kenya, and further the interests of all of us, one side of this House is only interested in short-term gains. The primary aim of those in the Opposition is to see to it that KANU's mandate comes to an end prematurely. Their short term interest is to ensure that President Moi's tenure of office is terminated prematurely. Those are the basic issues. Unless, we can come up with a solution where we can resolve those competing needs and goals, we are not bound to go far--

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

**Mr. Speaker:** What is your point of order? By the way, this is a timed debate.

**Dr. Kituyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, having informed us that this hon. Member is a literate member of the society; is it in order for a Minister of Government to allege in this House that the agenda of the Opposition is the

premature termination of their tenure in the Government when there is no constitutional provision for it now? Can he substantiate such a serious allegation?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I cannot substantiate the obvious.

What I am simply saying is that let us harmonise our goals. Let us have similar goals. We should not have discrepancies in our goals where one side is interested in short term goals which are very destructive and can lead to the termination of the tenure of a Government and end the rule of KANU prematurely. It is not easy to reconcile those short-term goals with the national goals which we all want to subscribe to.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we really need to enhance this particular constitutional review process to ensure that it succeeds. KANU has stated its stand. The Opposition has also stated its stand. We need to come together and have some harmony in this process.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I do not encourage points of order on a ten minutes' debate. What is it, Mr. Michuki?

**Mr. Michuki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer the Minister to Section 9 of the Constitution. Could he tell us whether that constitutional provision is short term? It states very clearly that the President will be elected for a five year term---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Michuki, you may have differed with the opinion of the Minister on the interpretation of the Constitution, but this is certainly not Question Time. Proceed.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not misleading the House at all. The essence of the constitutional review process is to examine the current Constitution in its entirety. As to what should be sustained and what should be excluded, that is the preserve of the Constitutional Review Commission according to the current arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that if we cannot break the impasse the current constitutional review process is in, it is high time we formulated new alternatives to end the stalemate surrounding the process. It is upon this House to explore whether or not a Parliamentary Select Committee on the constitutional review process is not a viable alternative. This will save this country a lot of money because there is a cost and a time element in this particular issue. I am sure that it is within the mandate and the ambit of this House to sort out the problem under a different arrangement or through a Parliamentary Select Committee composed of experts. I know that this House has experts such as lawyers, anthropologists and political scientists. These professionals can use their expertise to try and at least come up with a document that could be of use to Kenyans.

The second issue that was raised in the Presidential Address was in relation to corruption. I agree that this vice does not augur well for the development of this country. This is because it increases the cost of projects and inefficiency. It is high time that we came together and controlled corruption because it is widespread. While it is common for people to focus on the public sector as the root cause of corruption in this country, this maybe erroneous because this is a widespread problem. The root cause of corruption in this country lies in the civil society and the churches.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I support the Motion on the Presidential Address.

**Mr. Karume:** Bw. Spika, ahsante sana kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili nichangie Hotuba ya Rais Daniel arap Moi. Kwanza, shida ambayo iko sasa ni kwamba hata jambo likizungumziwa hapa hakuna mtu anaamini kwamba litatekelezwa. Hii ni kwa sababu Serikali inazungumza kuhusu mambo fulani na haiyatekelezi. Tunajua kwamba wakati Rais anapofungua Bunge hili, au anapoenda mahali fulani, anazungumza mambo mengi. Rais alizungumza mambo mengi wakati alipotoa Hotuba hapa lakini ni nani atakayeyatekeleza mambo hayo? Hii ni kwa sababu Rais amezungumza mambo mengi ambayo hayatekelezwi. Wakati umewadia kwetu kujishughulisha na mambo ambayo yatawasaidia wananchi wa Kenya, ambao wana taabu nyingi sana na ni maskini. Kuna wananchi wetu ambao hawana chakula hali wengine hawawezi kuwasomesha watoto wao kwa sababu ni maskini. Hata kama Rais anasema kwamba ameteua kamati ya kushughulikia umaskini miongoni mwa watu wetu--- Hata kama kamati kumi zitateuliwa, zitashughulikia vipi umaskini? Wale watu ambao watachaguliwa katika kamati hiyo watakuwa wakiongeza umaskini humu nchini kwa sababu watatumia pesa za Serikali wakati wakienda wanaenda Mombasa na kwingineko na kuchunguza jinsi ya kuuondoa umaskini.

Umaskini si kitu ambacho kamati hii itaenda kutafuta na kuangamiza! Hii kamati itakuwa ya bure! Pesa ambazo kamati hiyo itatumia zingetumiwa kufanyia kazi yingine muhimu. Tunazunguka huko na kule wakati tunapojua mahali taabu iko. Kama Serikali inataka kuuondoa umaskini humu nchini inafaa iwaambie wale watu ambao waliiba pesa za uma wazirudishe. Watu hao wakirudisha pesa hizo zitatumiwa kujenga viwanda na

barabara, na watu watapata kazi. Tunaweza kuondoa umaskini kwa kufanya hivyo, na si kwa kuunda kamati ya kushughulikia umaskini. Kamati hii iko na pesa ngapi za kuondoa umaskini. Pengine wale watu ambao watateuliwa katika kamati hiyo ni maskini sana na watatumia nafasi hiyo kujiendeleza. Kwa hivyo, wakati umewadia kwetu kutekeleza mambo ambayo tunazungumza. Kwa mfano, kila kiongozi wa nchi hii amezungumza kuhusu ufisadi lakini bado unaendelea. Pia ufisadi unazungumziwa kortini. Kwa hivyo, huu ni wakati wa Serikali kuingilia kati ili imalize ufisadi. Inafaa kama mtu ameiba au ameongwa akamatwe na ashitakiwe kotini kama watu wengine. Tunaweza kuuangamiza umaskini kwa njia hii, na si kwa kuunda kamati ambayo itashughulikia jambo hili.

Bw. Spika, tunaona ya kwamba Serikali imeanza kuingilia magari ya abiria au matatu bali imeshindwa kutoa huduma za usafiri humu nchini. Yale mabasi ya Nyayo Bus Service ambayo tulipewa bure ili yawasaidie watu wetu yalienda wapi? Hakuna hata basi moja ya shirika hilo ambalo liko barabarani! Pia, hatujui mahali ambapo pesa shirika hilo lilikuwa linatengeneza zilienda. Kama Serikali ilishidwa na kuliendesha shirika hilo, kwa nini inaingilia watu wa matatu? Watu wa matatu wametoa jasho kufikia mahali walipo. Matatu ni industry ya maana ambayo inawasaidia watu wa Kenya kufika kila mahali hapa nchini. Kwa hivyo hakuna haja ya Serikali kuingilia watu wa matatu kwa sababu ilishidwa kuliendesha Nyayo Bus Service. Hii ni kwa sababu wanalipa mishahara wafanyakazi wao na kodi kwa Serikali. Serikali ikiingilia matatu halafu magari hayo yaangamie wananchi watakuwa na shida ya usafiri na hawataweza kufika kila mahali. Kwa hivyo ni heri Serikali iwaaje watu wa matatu waendeleo na huduma zao vile wanavyoendelea sasa hivi. Wale watu ambao waliangusha Nyayo Bus Service wazikubaliwe kuingilia magari ya abiria.

Bw. Spika, hatuna barabara iliyo katika hali nzuri hapa nchini. Ukitaka kwenda Industrial Area huwezi kufika huko kama huna gari la four wheel drive. Hatuoni aibu wakati wageni wanaotoka nje wanapokwama barabarani wakati wanapoenda kulala hotelini? Ni heri Serikali itekeleze mambo ambayo inazungumza. Barabara za lami zimeharibika huko Kiambaa na wananchi wa huko wanajaribu kuweka mawe ili waweze kuzitumia. Mimi ninafikiri kwamba Rais wetu anazungumza mambo mengi lakini hana mtu wa kumsaidia. Watu wengine wanakula tu na hawamsaidii Rais. Ukiwa maskini uko Kiambu na uwe mgonjwa halafu upelekwe hospitali Kuu ya Kiambu, basi watoto hawatakuwa na blanketi ya kujifunika kwa sababu utahitajika kupeleka blanketi ya kujifunika katika hiyo hospitali. Hii ni kwa sababu hospitali hiyo haina blanketi na vitu vingine.

Bw. Spika, wananchi wa Kenya wanasoma magazeti na kuona kwamba fulani ameiba pesa kiasi fulani, na hata akikamatwa hashitakiwi kortini. Sisi watu wa Kenya tulipigania Uhuru ili tujitawale kwa kila jambo. Siku hizi hakuna Mzungu au Mhindi ambaye anamheshimu Mwafrika. Siku hisi hao watu huwatakana Wafrika. Sijui kama tutapigana vita vingine na hao watu. Benki za nje sasa zinatuma watu wasiojua kuzungumza Kiingereza au Kiswahili iwapokuwa Wafrika wamesoma na kupata shahada wanajaa nchini. Wakati umefika ambapo ni lazima tujue kwamba nchi hii ni yetu.

**Mr. Wafula:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Njenga Karume is misleading the House by saying that he fought for Independence when he is a well known home-guard.

**Mr. Karume:** Bw. Spika, pengine mhe. Wafula hakuwa bado amezaliwa wakati huo. Nitaleta nambari zangu zote za kizuizini ili uone mahali nilikuwa nimezuiliwa. Useless! Wewe mtoto umelewa; umefanya nini?

**Mr. Obwocha:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member for Kiambaa, hon. Njenga Karume, in order to refer to hon. Wafula as "mtoto when he knows that he is a Member of Parliament?"

**Mr. Karume:** Nimetaja umri wake kwa sababu wakati tulipokuwa tukipigania Uhuru alikua ndani ya tumbo la mama yake; bado hakuwa amezaliwa. Kama angekuwa amezaliwa, angejua mimi ndiye nilipigwa kuliko wale wengine waliopigania Uhuru. Yeye anakula bure bila kupigania Uhuru.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, Mr. Karume! Order, Mr. Wafula! Mr. Karume, will you now address the Chair? Forget all that Mr. Wafula exists.

**Mr. Karume:** Bw. Spika ninakumbuka vile nilivyopigwa na homeguards na mali yangu ilivyohamishwa na ikachukuliwa yote. Duka yangu ilivunjwa na nikapelekwa kizuizini halafu huyu mhe. Wafula anakuja kuota mchana hapa. Hiyo ndiyo sababu unaona nimekasirika.

**Mr. Wafula:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is he in order to say that an hon. Member is dreaming in this House?

**Mr. Karume:** Bw. Spika, mimi ninasema anaota kwa sababu kama hangekuwa analala angejua kuwa mimi nilikuwa kizuizini.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Karume, you are not allowed to say that hon. Members dream. They think. Your time is up.

**The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. arap Leting):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the President for his supreme, informative and good Speech. His Speech reiterated and stated the brief facts as they are today. It gives the assessment of the state of the nation or the way the nation is to use your words. The problems cited in the Speech have been with us and they are still with us up to today. I was even glad that before he came to address us, His Excellency the President had visited various parts of the country to see for himself the problems and predicaments that wananchi are facing. It was gratifying to note that he is aware that there is unemployment in the country, hunger malnutrition, poor roads, lack of water supply et cetera. Some hon. Members have said that the speech should have included the various actions to be undertaken by the Government on the issues that were raised. I think the way the Speech was written was such that if that was to be done, the Speech was going to be too long and voluminous. For action to be taken in such a short time the resources must be identified. The issues cited in the Speech may require financial support or human resources which might not be available.

However it is assumed that although the actions to be taken were not cited, it is mandatory that these will be coming in due course as each issue is handled as resources become available. In any case for each of those issues cited in the Speech, the actions will be stated here in Parliament in one way or another as each of them will be handled as soon as resources are found. Looking at the speech the way it is, the role of Parliament is negligible because it was merely a statement on the problems that exist and I think it was meant for us to note and expect a follow-up. Of course some of the issues raised will come to us in terms of Bills to be passed through Sessional Papers, Motions or matters of security. That is where we will be involved. The Speech talked briefly about development.

Talking now as an ordinary Member of Parliament, I could say that during the previous long recess due to poor economic situation in the country as a result of the way Government machinery works and because of lack of funds within the Government and the country, at large no projects were initiated except where we had foreign aided projects. But in other areas there was nothing to be inspected because our people are very desperate since their poverty status is getting worse and worse as the days go by.

It was even embarrassing to note that some of the Government projects in some areas came to a standstill without any warning. In my district, for example, there was one road which was being funded by the Government and all of a sudden, without any information the contractor wound up on Kapsabet-Kaptumo-Serem Road. This is very demoralising to the ordinary person. Some projects have continued to stall. In some areas projects have stalled for ten years and this is giving a bad image to the Government. During the recess some hon. Members had difficulties in trying to defend the Government because some of the issues that affected the people were difficult to defend. It is difficult to defend the Government when projects come to a sudden halt. In some areas there is no security and roads are very poor. In other areas there is destruction of forests going on. There are no services in the districts. When you put all these together it is difficult as an MP to give answers to the ordinary people who do not necessarily follow the procedures of the Government.

When you visit a district headquarters you will find that there are no services such as telephone. Vehicles cannot move because the officers there claim that there is no money for fuel or service of vehicles. You can imagine the type of image that is being created in the field.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are some of the experiences that some of us faced during the recess. We must know that things have been better in the past and people are feeling that things are going from good to bad and from bad to worse.

**An hon. Member:** Why?

**The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement** (Mr. arap Leting): The Parliamentarians ought to be involved. For example, with matters touching on forests, people see few individuals who are lucky cutting down trees and they ask us how they were given permission to cut trees. The idea of cutting down trees is not a bad one if it is properly co-ordinated; but the problem is, how are those who are cutting trees selected? Maybe, transparency is required.

Another area that people ask us questions and they want an explanation is when it comes to allocation of land or plots. For example, people want to know how one is selected to get that piece of land. These are the issues we as the Government need to review in order to assist the people. Nobody refuses anybody to get a plot but what people want is competition. If there are two plots and there are ten people who want them, let them queue and fight for them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards security matters, the mwananchi does not understand why the Government is unable to maintain security in particular areas despite the fact that it has all the machinery that is supposed to take care of security. In all cases, the Government must be seen to be fair to everybody. It also must be seen not to lose a battle. When the Government says that it wants to eradicate banditry, it should deal with it and the result should

come out that the Government has won. You hear that security has been beefed up in such places and after five months or so, we have similar problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the farmers face a problem in marketing their products, they are told that it is because of importation of other foodstuffs from outside. Normally, the Government says that it has imposed duty on a certain commodity and, therefore, it will stop; but this importation does not stop importation. So, the mwananchi who is a farmer will think that the Government has been defeated again.

**Dr. Kituyi:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to also record my thanks and appreciation to you for your eloquent exposition of Parliamentary Policy.

*(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I come to the gist of my substance, which is to endorse a struggle for the empowerment of Parliament as a political institution in the governance of this country, I want to request those in the Government and who regularly talk to the President - the Leader of Government Business in the House and any other person who regularly talk to the President - to advise him that when he has nothing to say, he should not do it in 30 minutes. He did that on 6th April. We were anxious, but at least, you saved the day. There was something for us to debate for the next seven days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country is in a major crisis; a crisis of governance. A crisis which is partly developing because the political class is shunning its sole responsibility to show direction and a sense of purpose. At a time when we are struggling to give new power to Parliament, to give a new dignity to ourselves, we the primary beneficiaries of such dignity are not ready to appropriate it. At a time when the rest of the country is ready to move on with the constitutional review process, it is only us Parliamentarians who cannot count from one to 13; then you come here and gerrymander and create all manner of excuses. That is why even the Kenya Women Political Caucus who were asked to bring two people cannot count one to two, instead they bring 21 nominees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country is not going to sit back and wait for leadership from a class that has proved its inability to appropriate leadership. It is our collective responsibility as Parliamentarians to define the direction for this country. Today, we are not even able to inform and reconcile, we have to call churches in order to sit down and reconcile with each other. It is a disgrace to those who will inherit Parliament from us, that we have demonstrated our inability to talk among ourselves. That the only time we can talk is either to trade insults or to go to the Press and sound "holier than thou", pointing fingers at those who we think do not know how to count from one to 13.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am elated by the prospect that in the coming session this House is going to be able to even pull those who are reluctant in appropriating their historical responsibility in shaping an important balancing act towards the executive--- In a preliminary way, I am elated by the possibility that there is going to be a bi-partisan agreement on that historical need. I hope, parallel to that, we will be growing an awareness among members of Parliament that we do not need to be "baby-sat" by others before we do what we are supposed to do and what we are paid to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the threats to true progress in this country is the cloud over the horizon on the economy. However much you may like hearing our voices, those who pay for the reproduction of the political class must be satisfied that they are getting a good return on their investment before we can pretend that we can continue enjoying the privileges we enjoy in our society. Today, the taxpayers do not have anything to show that their returns are higher than their investment in the political system we have. Today, even this progress, as we talk about the next millennium is clouded by the threats of the crisis in the financial sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the National Bank of Kenya (NBK) collapses, like it is very likely to collapse, the ramifications of that collapse, *inter-alia*, will mean the collapse of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) which was forced to deposit money in the NBK. That money was turned into 42 per cent shareholding of a shell company, wrecked by the political class. The consequences of those two phenomena go beyond our pretensions about writing a democratic constitution. The onus is on the Government, we cannot spread out our shoulders to bear a burden as if we also stole. The onus is on the Government to sort out those among its ranks who are responsible for borrowing money without securities; for forcing NSSF to deposit money into an enterprise that was collapsing and who, without a board resolution, forced the NSSF to convert its deposits into equity in the NBK. If the Government is going to sort out the banking sector, it should sort out including those who are liked by those in the Government. We have heard of heads rolling in Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) because some directors had loans with the bank. Why did Hosea Kiplagat not lose his position in the Co-operative Bank of Kenya when he owes Kshs250 million to the bank which he is the executive of?

*(Applause)*

There has to be consistency in the administration of these rules. Whether you belong to those who are liked or not liked, if you commit the same crimes, you must face the same consequences. Otherwise, what the Government is pretending to be doing to the financial sector will be cosmetic and the consequences are larger than the fall of the Government. They threaten all that we have built over the past 34 years.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a maize growing area whose peasants after selling maize at Kshs400 a bag, are now buying fertilizer at Kshs1,700 for a 50 kilo bag and seeds for one acre at Kshs1,000. Already the projection is that the cost of investment is larger than any possible returns on investments at the end of the year. Is this what we expect in a country which is considering the requirement of food security or is this a neglect occasioned by unawareness, that the correct ones can import subsidized cereals from other countries when there is a deficit in the country? Is this the way to manage a country on the brink of the new millennium? Is this a way of starting our declared fight against poverty?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have neighbours in a district called Mt. Elgon who have been suffering a major crisis. Unfortunately for them, their forest is not next to Nairobi and Gigiri, but for 28 years Rai Ply Company has been robbing Mt. Elgon of Elgon Teak wantonly. Now they have destroyed the major water catchment areas for Western Kenya.

**An. hon. Member:** Who owns it?

**Dr. Kituyi:** Mr. Speaker Sir, Rai Ply is owned by Asians and President Moi. I congratulate the councillors of Mt. Elgon who impounded some trucks from Rai Ply Company and I have already declared for Bungoma that if they are intimidated - we have declared that no Rai Ply Company truck will ever pass through Bungoma District to harvest timber in Mt. Elgon. Because this is the only language that this Government understands; that you have to burn their vehicles before they realise that there is limit to how much you must steal from the public. Yet, we are the domicile of the UN agency concerned with environmental matters. We want to pretend the way the forests are destroyed, be it Kakamega, Karura, Mt. Kenya or Mt. Elgon, but this is the Government--

**The Minister for Co-operative Development (Dr. Anangwe):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to talk about a hon. Member of this House without a substantive Motion? He made reference to President Moi!

**Dr. Kituyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion we are discussing is about President Moi. I wish to inform the hon. Minister that he is not inventing the policies of sycophants. It has been here before, justice is never rewarded. We know some of these things. Before I finish, I now want to say this--

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Dr. Kituyi, I think you are going over board. Do not be insulting to your colleagues. There are no sycophants in the House!

**Hon. Members:** There are!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Those of you who want to shout that there are, how do you feel to get a return-match which you are likely to? So, I will not allow that kind of insulting and obscene language in the House. So, can you please continue!

**Dr. Kituyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to learn that there are no sycophants in this House. I am very glad and I hope you are right.

The hon. Njenga Karume mentioned the matter of matatus there. I wish to disagree with him. Once in a while, perhaps sometimes by accident, this Government announces some policy that is right, but since they do not show any consistency, sometimes they do not even defend what is right. I think the matatu sector has proved its inability to regulate itself. The matatu sector in this country displaces our culture in its worst element. And if you talk about industry's self-regulation, the industry is transport, but not matatu. I think if we are liberalising, we are streamlining management of sectors that are critical to the economy, it is relevant for Government, in an appropriate way, to move into liberalising the transport sector. Matatus are controlled by some cartels and they are allowing the persons who are displaying the most negative attributes in public life to impose it on the rest of Kenyans. I am not saying that that industry is not important in this country. It is very important and I want it to grow, but it has also to grow in a certain way that reflects what is good in our collective society. We cannot just

defend it without qualifying that it has failed to reduce its worst elements.

Finally, the constitutional crisis is a creation of Government and it should not whimper about it before the rest of us.

**The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Sasura):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. After such a long recess which actually is intended to give Members a break after the Business of the House, it is important to note that what we come back with here is a collection of the current situation back at home or in our constituencies.

Coming to the President's Speech, it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches more. I would like to dwell on the issue of poverty considering that I come from an ASAL zone. It is said that three per cent of the poor in this nation come from the ASAL zones. When we talk about three per cent of the poor in this nation, we are talking about the entire population of those areas. And when we talk about poverty in that zone, we are talking about absolute poverty. We cannot speak of relative poverty in ASAL areas because when we talk about relative poverty, we are comparing the situation of a particular poor person with a better one. But because there is no better one, it is only correct to refer to the situation in ASAL zones as absolute poverty.

*(Mr. Speaker left the Chair)*

*(Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention that this is not the first attempt by the Government to eradicate poverty. In 1983, there was introduced a programme called District Focus for Rural Development. This programme was a failure and unless we know why it has failed, it will be very difficult for us to talk about new measures to eradicate or reduce poverty. One of the reasons why the District Focus for Rural Development programme failed was as a result of poor preparation. We were not prepared for that programme where funds were decentralised to the districts. Secondly, the most important is what we could refer to as "participatory planning". In most cases, we find that in the districts, projects are not planned in such a way that the people involved or the stakeholders are allowed to participate in the planning of these projects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after that, in 1994 was introduced the programme of the Social Dimensions of Development Program (SDDP) was introduced. This was rather more concise and I think up-to-date planning, but it failed to take off or rather it has taken off and for the last four years, SDDP has not reached anywhere. It was well planned because it started from the national level where we had a Committee to the sub-locational level where participatory planning was involved.

When we talk about poverty, it cannot be separated from environment. I would like to challenge environmentalists in this country who get a lot of funds from the donor community in the name of protecting or conserving the environment. Sometimes I wonder whether the word "environment" refers only to the existing forests. When people talk about destruction of forests and we in the arid and semi-arid zones who are endangered or threatened by the encroachment of the desert at a very fast rate, I wonder whether environmentalists in this country have any policy for us in the arid areas. Do they have any policy to try and stop or prevent the threatening encroachment of the desert to our areas? Do they have policies to try and give us species of plants that our livestock can survive upon in our areas? This is a challenge to the environmentalists. I think they will do us more good when they come and tell us how much they can help us instead of just pumping money into Nairobi matatus and talking about Karura Forest. Well, I must appreciate protecting the Karura Forest, but this is a lot of money. Could they just give us Kshs2 million or even Kshs3 million to see our environment is improved?.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about poverty, it is not a party issue. When we are talking about reduction of poverty in this country, I think it should be a concerted effort by all political parties to come together and criticise, if need be, the policies of Government that increases or decreases poverty. I would like to take issue with the Democratic Party Members for their absence in the forum for eradication of poverty. It does not pay to come here and criticise such an important forum. I think their suggestions would have been very important in that forum. Unless we give the eradication of poverty a different approach and stop considering it as a political necessity rather than an economic imperative for the development of this country, we shall not be convinced by anybody telling us that this---

**Mr. Ndwiga:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not wish to interrupt the hon. Member on the Floor, but is he in order to say that he is taking up an issue with the Democratic Party Members for not attending a useless thing in Mbagathi? The Democratic Party did not create poverty in this country.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! Just raise your point of order; do not argue with him.



**Mr. Ndwiga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is not in order because the Democratic Party has not been in power in this country; it did not create poverty; you created poverty, so eradicate poverty.

**The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities** (Mr. Sasura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very clear that the Democratic Party has never been in power and might never be in power. But some hon. Members of the Democratic Party were in the previous governments and so they cannot put on another clothe and talk another language.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that aside, we can categorise security in three sections. The first one is urban security. We should give credit where it is due and I must commend the police - after the reshuffle - for trying their best to reduce the rate of crime in Nairobi. But my major area of concern is insecurity in the rural areas, with special reference to ASAL areas. I would not entirely agree that insecurity, especially in the ASAL areas, is caused by the Government. While it is the moral obligation and responsibility of the Government to protect life and property of its citizens, it is also important to note that the leaders of the ASAL areas have a responsibility to educate their people not to fight. It was mentioned here that nobody cares since it is a marginalised zone.

It is important for the Government to increase the speed at which it deals with incidents of banditry in northern Kenya. In most cases, the people in northern Kenya are in conflict because of the scarce resources in their area. We know the Government cannot provide grass for our livestock or money for all of us. But the Government can provide water for our livestock which is one of the major resources which bring conflict in northern Kenya. Livestock is paramount to the people of northern Kenya and that is the only source of their survival. If livestock ceases to exist, they would not exist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, petty corruption on the roads between greedy police officers and overloaded matatus should not be over-emphasised as to over-shadow hitech corruption in parastatals in this country. I think the most important thing which I support fully is the report of the Public Accounts Committee. The findings of their investigations and their recommendations should be implemented. Specifically, the recommendations on the National Housing Corporation which is going down the drain very fast should be focused on.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Ndicho:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to say a few words. I am particularly touched to hear the Government emphasising on the issue of eradication of poverty in this country. Eradication of poverty must be a concerted effort by all of us. It must be borne in mind that when we talk about poverty, the youth of this nation are suffering a lot because they are the same people who are growing up in poverty. Some of the old people grew up when there was wealth in this nation. We are worried that the Government is talking one thing and doing the other.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to support hon. Karume on the issue of matatu business. The matatu industry has created 4.5 million jobs. It has employed over 4.5 million Kenyans directly and indirectly. When we see the Government coming up with contradictory policies, trying to get more and more money from the industry and declaring that touts should be removed from this industry, then we see no seriousness in the Government when it talks about eradicating poverty in this nation. We would like to appeal to the Government, and Mr. Francis ole Sompisha, to forget about the matatu industry, because he knows very little about it. This industry has employed many youths both in the rural and urban areas. If they are removed from this lucrative industry, the rate of crime will definitely go up. We are, therefore, requesting the Government to keep off its hands from this industry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, matatus or vehicles generally, pay a lot of money to Government in form of road licences, insurance, PSV, stickers and the daily taxes, where police must be given money to allow them ply on the Kenyan roads. So, when they impose another tax through TLB, it defeats all reason as to why the Government should not be able to support this industry to thrive and help to assimilate many youths and other Kenyans in this industry. It must also be borne in mind that even graduates from universities who miss to get employment elsewhere create their own jobs. So, when we see the Government trying to interfere in this matatu business we get irritated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government must be concerned about creation of employment in this nation. As we stand here today, our nation is almost being taken over by Asians. Asians are in the manufacturing, wholesale and retailing sectors of our economy. In the factories - and this is a trend the Asians have taken to - drivers are people from India who do cannot speak English or Kiswahili. They can only speak Gujarati. It is high time the Government took seriously the issue of creating employment opportunities in this nation.

As we talk about liberalization, we should borrow a leaf from the United States Government which protects its citizens irrespective of the fact that there is liberalization. Asians cannot take up jobs in the United States simply because there is liberalization.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like a situation where our country relegates its people to the rural areas to create jobs for foreigners. For example, even businessman Kamlesh Pattni had to employ body-guards from Pakistan and other far east nations. It is a shame that while the Government is allowing foreigners to create employment here, they are instead importing labour from their countries of origin. The Government must take cue and stop this habit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to air my views concerning the banks. I would like to urge all Kenyans of African origin, both the rich and the poor, to withdraw all their monies from Barclays Bank and Standard Chattered Bank and put them in our home-grown banks. This is why the government must license the Farmers' Bank. When we talk of the Farmers' Bank, it is not only the coffee and tea farmers, but all farmers in this country, including those that grow maize, cotton, beans and livestock farmers. In the Netherlands, the Co-operative Bank is owned by the farmers and there is no conflict, because the farmers save their money in their own bank and they have made it grow. I heard the Minister for Finance saying that one of the conditions of allowing the establishment of the Farmers' Bank or any other bank, is to have a minimum of Kshs500 million. This figure was put there simply because the farmers had Kshs300 million. Before that, the sealing was Kshs200 million. But when the Government realised that the farmers had Kshs300 million, they increased the figure to Kshs500 million. Now, the farmers have Kshs510 million in the Kenya Commercial Bank. If the Government wants to create employment and eradicate poverty, it should therefore, encourage our own people to create employment opportunities and this Farmers' Bank is one institution that will definitely create more jobs for our young people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is high time the Government checked on the utterances of its officers. I sympathise with our brothers from Kisumu, and I know hon. Kajwang' is very concerned. When a Government declares that there is a problem with fish, nobody will take it. Hon. Kajwang' raised the question: "If the Luos are not eating that fish, what about Kikuyus who are trying to learn how to eat fish?" The Government must learn not to issue irresponsible statements that will cause a catastrophe in this kind of industry. It is not enough for the Minister for Health to come and say: "I have lifted the ban." He said just casually, without knowing the devastation that his Ministry brought to the fishing industry, making prices to plummet to very low levels. I would not be surprised if the crime rate in Kisumu rose, because the fishing industry has employed many youths in Lake Victoria. When there is no money, how do you expect them to get their daily bread? So, the Government should be ashamed of its own statement and desist from giving conflicting statements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say that as Kenyans, especially those of us in the Opposition, our concerns should not be about what KANU does. I heard many people airing their concerns about the re-appointment of Prof. Saitoti as Vice-President. I thought that our concern should be who will be our President and Vice-President, not the KANU's President and Vice-President. So, whether KANU appointed Kalonzo Musyoka, Musalia Mudavadi or any of the Ministers, it should be their concern. We should be waiting for them to pack up and go. It is our responsibility as the Opposition to organise our own house especially as we approach the year 2002, when we are expected to hold another general election. That is why I do not support the constitutional review process. The Constitution as it is, is better for us at the moment. If we try to change it, we are going to mess up a lot of things. In 1976 when hon. Kihika Kimani was going round propagating the change of the Constitution, he was doing it for the sole purpose of ensuring that a clique of people will be favoured by that clause of the Constitution as at that time. It was not in the interest of Kenyans to change the Constitution in 1976. It was just to block Moi from succeeding Mzee Kenyatta as President. Even now, the people who are agitating for the change of the Constitution, I wonder whether this is in the interest of the entire nation. For me, as hon. Ndicho, I oppose it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Ndicho, we debated the Bill here and passed it into law, whether you are for or against it.

**Mr. Ndicho:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that Act is already obsolete. Unless it is brought here for amendment, it is already obsolete.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Ndicho. Your time is up. Hon. Kajwang'?

**Mr. Kajwang':** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First, I want to say that the recess was too long---

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Kajwang' entitled to speak from the front?

**Mr. Kajwang':** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this was the nearest microphone.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Kajwang', you must know your place in society.

*(Laughter)*

*(Hon. Kajwang' moved to the Back Bench)*

**Mr. Kajwang':** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not really mind where I stand. However, I just wanted to start by saying that the recess was too long and soon or later when hon. Oloo-Aringo brings that Bill which we want him to bring here, we shall regulate our own time table, so that we work here for 11 months. We want to go on leave for only one month. Some of us were professionals where we were and we were very busy people and we do not like coming here and idling for four months. We have come here to work and we are being paid for it and we want to do it thoroughly. We want to be sitting here for 11 months and we go for Christmas and resume work in January.

Otherwise, I want to thank Mr. Speaker, for his speech. He spoke for Parliament for the first time and we feel that he spoke for us to the 'King' and he heard it. I hope he responds accordingly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have looked at the President's Speech. In this Order Paper, this Motion is referred to as "Exposition of Public Policy." I have looked at the public policy in that Speech and I have not found it. I have searched that Speech in and out, left and right, and I have not seen the public policy. That is why it is difficult for me to support what is called "Exposition of Public Policy" when I cannot see any public policy. What I have seen is a litany of mourning by the President that there is a lot of poverty, hunger and corruption in the country. Is that public policy?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we got Independence 35 years ago, there was an exposition of public policy. KANU said, those days, that they were going to eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease. But 35 years later after an uninterrupted rule--- They took a stride for a few hours but they were there---

*(Laughter)*

KANU has had an uninterrupted leadership of 35 years. After all that time, the President tells us from the Chair of State that he wants to eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease in 15 years. Then, on top of all those three, he adds corruption. So, corruption has become a major problem again which needs to be eradicated. They do not ask themselves what they have done for the last 35 years. I thought the President would come to tell us what has happened to make poverty stick with us or even increase. Ignorance has stuck with us and has even increased. And disease; now, we cannot even treat ourselves. You go to hospital and die because there are no drugs. It is a serious matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development was here. I would have liked to speak about these things while he is in the House, but it appears that he has run away before I could do so. In 1991 and 1992, something very traumatic happened in this country. The 1992 general election was coming, and the Kenya African National Union (KANU) was frightened of losing. So, the Government looted money from the Treasury, printed some paper money and flooded the country's economy with it. When KANU won the elections, the Government realised that it had a big problem at hand. They wondered: "What are we going to do with so much money flooding the economy?" With so much paper money flooding the economy, the inflation rate soared and came in through the window. The US Dollar exchange rate jumped from between Kshs23 and Ksh25 to Kshs70. Bank interest rates jumped from 19 per cent to 70 per cent. This happened because the Government was mopping up the money it had pumped into the economy prior to the 1992 general election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to mop up this money the Government had to buy it, thus raising the interest rates on Treasury Bills to 70 per cent. So, we were buying money which we had off-loaded into the economy illegally. By doing so, we created a hefty domestic debt. This debt was not created because we built roads or hospitals. Had we incurred this debt through building roads or hospitals, at least we would be happy. However, the debt was created because we printed paper money and poured it into the economy and, now, we were buying it back. That is how we came to be in this dungeon.

I wanted to tell this to Prof. Saitoti because when the economy was flooded with paper money, he was the Vice-President and Minister for Finance. He presided over the looting of this country's economy. Now, I have heard people congratulate him for having been appointed Vice-President once again. Sometimes I feel ashamed. How can somebody who brought down---

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Obwocha:** On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to inform my colleague that when the Government mopped this money from the economy, it collected Kshs83 billion.

**Mr. Kajwang':** Excellent piece of information! So, that is what happened to the economy of this county. We are now being told that we have a domestic debt, which we are servicing by paying Kshs34 billion interest each year. The Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has said that we are still buying money not to give it to Treasury, but to pay certain pending debts. I do not know what debts the CBK has ever had. The CBK has so much debt because it bought back the money that was printed and pumped into this economy. The Government has ruined the economy and, now, we do not know what to do.

Now, when somebody comes into this House and tells us about his exclusive exposition of public policy, as the late hon. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga used to couch it, and talks of ignorance, disease and corruption--- The President has been in Government for more than 30 years, first as Vice-President and, now, as President for over 20 years. Sometimes I wonder what he really talks about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what happened immediately the Government started buying the money that had flooded the economy was that interest rates jumped to 71 per cent. A Ksh200,000 loan I had secured from a bank then shot up to about Kshs2 million within two months. I told the bank's management: "I cannot pay you; you are a thief! How can you raise the interest rate from 19 per cent to 71 per cent and expect me to pay the money? What kind of business am I going to do to enable me pay that money?" I had borrowed that money knowing that the interest rate was 19 per cent, and that I would raise some money to repay it. But how was I to repay it when the interest rate had shot up to 71 per cent? The bank's management thought that it would get me. The consequence was that the banks collapsed because nobody could repay the loans. That is what is "killing" the National Bank of Kenya (NBK), the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and all other banks.

Sometimes, we laugh when banks collapse, and only look at the owners of those banks. However, we tend not to realise that those banks do not have money of their own. Most of the money that enables banks to survive is from the public. Most of the billions of shillings that enable banks to tick comprise of my little savings, those of other hon. Members, and other members of the public. When a bank collapses, it does so with very many businesses and ruins many people. That happens to be a loss to our people. Somebody talks of fighting poverty when the little money I had saved with banks has gone. How do you eradicate poverty by bringing down a bank through bad policy of printing money, off-loading it into the economy, buying it back, and thus killing every body? Prof. Saitoti was presiding over these things, and I wish he was present. This country will not recover.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not wish to interrupt the hon. Member who is on the Floor, but this House has Standing Orders which prohibit an hon. Member from discussing another hon. member from the Floor without bringing to the House a Substantive Motion. Is the hon. Member on the Floor in order to discuss hon. Prof. Saitoti without bringing a Substantive Motion?

**Mr. Kajwang:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not discussed Prof. Saitoti. What I said is that he was presiding over this country's economy at that time. That is not discussing him. What I have stated is a fact. Who was running this economy?

Let me tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. At one time, the Roman Empire had an emperor called Nero. This emperor was put under intense pressure by the senate. The Romans were civilised very early. By 32 *Anno Domino* (AD), they had a senate already, which could remove the king from office. Although the king was of importance, if the senate decided that he was an enemy of the people, he would be killed. So, when Emperor Nero realised that the senate was going to remove him from office, because he had become an enemy of the people through bad politics, he burnt the whole of Rome.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Emperor Nero torched Rome, he started singing outside the gate of his palace. I heard that he had a guitar which the Romans call a "fiddle". So, he used to play his fiddle and sung that he should have been given time. He sung and said: "This is very bad. These people have ruined Rome. They have burnt it. In fact, it must be Peter and Paul; these Christians. They are the ones who have burnt Rome---"

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order, Mr. Kajwang! Hon. Odongo, proceed!

**Mr. Odongo:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Two speeches were read in this House on 6th April, 1999. One was read by His Excellency the President,

and the other one came from the Chair. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, congratulation to the Chair for that speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would classify the President's Address to this House as a good "cow" that has been sold to us, but which has no legs. How do we move this cow? We need some definite proposals on the points which have been raised in the President's Address for us to be able to market it. The President's Address does not just end with us in this House. It is an Address which we must go back to our constituencies and talk about. But where are the legs? We cannot manufacture legs and fix them on this cow.

**Mr. Ndwiga:** You can put it in a pick-up!

**Mr. Odongo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Address, at one point, says: "We are now in the process of eradicating poverty---" Maybe, one of these days, I will hear it from the experts, but is there any country in the world which has eradicated poverty?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is there any? Maybe the word "eradication" should have been substituted with the word "reduction". We could reduce poverty but I do not know if in 15 years, as my colleague mentions across, we can eradicate poverty. Before you eradicate poverty and the people are with you and the country is looking at you, I think you need help. Before you start saying that So-and-so is poor, can we make sure that we have good health facilities? Today, this is an issue in this country that needs a lot of attention. Whenever that is raised in this Chamber about health, medicine and about the general welfare of Kenyans as far as health is concerned, I get appalled because I do not get a definite reply directly to it as this afternoon, the Minister for Health has not been able to tell us what he is doing in his Ministry to counter cholera outbreaks all over the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1997 when we were approaching general elections, I decided to contest on a KANU ticket and I went to my constituency and told them: "Look we have a future and give hon. Moi your votes on a KANU ticket and also give me your votes as your member of Parliament on a KANU ticket".

**Mr. Kitonga:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not understand what the hon. Member is trying to put across.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Kitonga! Proceed, Mr. Odongo

**Mr. Odongo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether he has ever stood for elections on a KANU ticket but you can cross over.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! This is a debate where hon. Members have only ten minutes and so, please give them a chance to make their contributions. Proceed, hon. Odongo!

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Wafula, you had better make sure that it is a point of order!

**Mr. Wafula:** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to raise this point of order. It has been the tradition of the House that, when a Member is making a Maiden Speech, he should not be interrupted by anybody and now hon. Kitonga is interrupting hon. Odongo.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! You have done even worse than hon. Kitonga! If hon. Odongo is making his Maiden Speech, then let him be heard in silence. Proceed!

**Mr. Odongo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think my friend hon. Wafula is right. I am not making a Maiden Speech!

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since 1947, there has been a hospital in my constituency called Mwhila Hospital. As soon as we did elect this Parliament, that hospital closed its doors to the public in January 1998. I have stated it here before. I have seen all those that could be contacted on the matter and I am asking the Minister for Health to come forward and find out why this hospital, that has served our people in that region for all these years, is no longer doing that job. Minister for Health, please come forward!

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Odongo, if you do not want that information, continue.

**Mr. Odongo:** Thank you. I will need it when I meet you next time.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the textile industry in this country at one stage, that is 20 years ago employed over 80,000 Kenyans. From the cotton farmer, to the transporter, the ginners and up to the production of clothes, this industry has been run down by ourselves. What are we doing about it? This is because we have allowed

*mitumba* to overtake what we had established well in this country. Today, we no longer have cotton growing in Western Kenya as was the case before. We have the fish and the sugar industries also on the way out. Where do we people from Western Kenya go to, if we cannot have these essential industries in this part of Kenya? Can somebody tell us? It is now appropriate somebody must tell us that, the textile industry has gone down because of the decline in cotton growing and also the sugar and fish industries are almost gone and what should we do in Western Kenya to revive these industries?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me say something about my own constituency. This is a constituency that I know of in Western Kenya where there is no electricity and no tarmac roads at all. I am asking: Why should I have to see my neighbouring constituencies with some of these facilities?

**A hon. Member:** That is the work of your former Member of Parliament!

**Mr. Odongo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why is it that if these developments have been undertaken in the neighbouring constituencies by the same Government, why has Khwisero been left out?

**Mr. Munyasia:** But you are their Member of Parliament and you should tell your people!

**Mr. Odongo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am now appealing that they should be assisted.

**Mr. Wamae:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution.

**Mr. Obwocha:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir! In all fairness, the Democratic Party has been give three chances before others have even had a second chance.

**Mr. Wamae:** Who are these?

**Mr. Obwocha:** That is hon. Njenga Karume and yourself!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Obwocha! For your own information, seven FORD (K) Members of Parliament have spoken. Proceed!

**Mr. Wamae:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for keeping the order. As has been stated by many Members, there is really no exposition of Government policy in the Speech by His Excellency the President. I think it did not go far enough and we must state clearly that in future, we hope that the civil servants who write these speeches will be more serious and at least, there will be some political input into these statements, so that they can have a meaning for the country. We do not want an analogy of problems; we want proposals for some solutions and therefore, to have a balanced Speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that a Vice-President has been appointed lately and although this is a KANU affair, we have provided the Head of State with the State House. We have provided him also with the Office of the President and when he makes such important announcements, they should be made in a proper place and not in market places and roadsides. They should be made in State House or in the Office of the President, so that they are made with the dignity they deserve and I hope that this will be noted for the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President said in his Speech that he had gone round the country and he had found, as if he did not know, unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and the burden of cost-sharing in schools and hospitals are some of the problems that call for our urgent attention. These are not new problems, they have been there. I would like to remind this House that in 1978 when the current President took over, Kenya had a *per capita* income of US\$420 per person. In 1985, that *per capita* income had come down to US\$350 per person. As we speak today, the *per capita* income of Kenya is US\$250 per person. At this rate, where are we going? We are now the 22nd poorest nation on earth because of the problems which have been created by this Government. Hon. Kajwang' has talked about some of them. He has mentioned about the printing of money in 1991/92. The printing of money to finance KANU elections is part of the problems this country is facing today. If we have Kshs160 billion in domestic debts which was mopping up the money printed for elections in 1991/92 costing about Kshs35 billion to Kshs40 billion a year in interest rates; this money is not building roads, it is not providing drugs in hospitals, it is not doing anything, it is just going into the pockets of those commercial banks and foreigners who have come here to invest their money in Treasury Bills. This is part of the problem.

The other problem is corruption which has worsened. The money meant for the people, for roads, schools and drugs has been stolen. Therefore, there are no benefits. We have reached a situation whereby we are getting worse day by day. Unemployment is rising. University students, Form Four students, Standard Eight pupils and even doctors are not guaranteed of jobs. We have just closed down all primary teacher training colleges. Where are we heading to? Where is this country heading to? What do we have in this Speech which tries to give a guideline on what we should do about those problems? There is none here, nothing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been told that we are going to to have the National Poverty Eradication Plan. First of all, you can never eradicate poverty completely. That is an illusion. You can only reduce it. Thirdly,

have we now realised that we need another 15 years to reduce poverty? The definition of "poverty" today is US\$1 per day per person. One US Dollar is Kshs60. That is what we are telling Kenyans; that in 15 years time they will have Kshs60 per day per person. That is what we call poverty level which is Kshs60 per day. If we are going to tell Kenyans that in another 15 years is when everybody is going to have Kshs60 per day per person; that is not acceptable. They will lose hope. No commission is going to solve this problem. Another Commission has been appointed. We have too many commissions on everything; Commission on Ngai Ndethya Bridge, Commission on AIDS and so on, and they have not solved the problems of this country. Why do we have all the civil servants in the Ministries who are being paid salaries and every time we have to appoint more commissioners and pay them more allowances? They are going to eat more of our revenues. What are the civil servants who are in every Ministry in this Government doing?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my next point is about the matatu business. If we are liberalising the banks and the Minister said that we should not touch the banks because they have been liberalised; they can decide the terms to charge their customers; let the matatu business also be liberalised. Why should we start interfering with matatus by introducing Transport Licensing Board (TLB)? Introducing TLB is controlling their routes. Why do you want to control their routes, is it because it is an African business? We need discipline in the matatu business and the police should do their work so that everybody is free to ply whichever route he wants. If there are some who are misbehaving, they should be dealt with in accordance with the existing laws. We do not want the Government to take over the matatu business, they had Nyayo Bus Service which collapsed because they could not manage the Corporation. Let the Government not put its fingers in the matatu business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have said that industries are collapsing because of liberalisation. The liberalisation we have done in this country is excessive. We used to have mitumba textiles, now we have mitumba shoes everywhere and Bata is closing down. What are we doing in this country? Even when we liberalise, there must be a level of duty which protects our domestic industries, even America and Britain have imposed those duties. I would like the Minister for Finance, when he presents his Budget Speech this year to come up with some duties to protect our textile industry, our shoe industry and other sectors which have been destroyed by irresponsible importation and dumping in this country. Therefore, this is a very, very urgent matter.

On matters of corruption, if the Government, from the top, says there will be no corruption; there would be no corruption. They do not have to come here and preach to us. They need to stop corruption from President Moi downwards and corruption would be finished. We in the Opposition have no opportunity for corruption. We should start from State House downwards and there would be no problem. We do not even need all those commissions we are appointing about corruption.

I would like to mention one thing about the banks. Banks have collapsed and they will continue collapsing, but we have seen double standards being applied. When African banks were collapsing, they were not assisted by the Central Bank of Kenya. They were even being forced to go under very quickly. We had Kenya Finance Corporation where the depositors and shareholders pleaded with the Central Bank of Kenya to be allowed to reconstitute the bank, they were refused. Now, the same Central Bank of Kenya is pleading with the shareholders and depositors of Trust Bank Ltd that they should be allowed time to reform the bank and resuscitate it. Why do we apply double standards in the cases of Trust Bank Ltd and Kenya Finance Corporation? Is it because one bank is owned by Africans and the other one is owned by Indians and others? Why is the Central Bank of Kenya applying double standards? We need an explanation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, I want to comment on roads. Roads have collapsed in this country. We in Nyeri have roads. The roads which were tarmacked before are now murramed. H.Z. Company which is owned by Mr. Biwott, came and removed the tarmac which was there and replaced it with the murram and disappeared. We even had to demonstrate and as a result of that demonstration, they have done some little work here and there, but nothing much has been done. This Government must be serious about the question of roads because they are key to the communication and movement of our people.

With those few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Motion.

**Mr. Shill:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have two issues to talk about - security and corruption. Security really touches the hearts of my constituents because many of them die because of lack of it. The Government does not render services to my people because it does not have money because of corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, security in this country is very much deteriorating every other day. People are being killed on a daily basis, whether they are in remote areas, like in North Eastern Province or in the City of Nairobi. Recently, even our Provincial Police Officer - North Eastern - was a victim of thuggery. The police officers themselves are not spared. If that is so, where do you think the public will go? Guns are coming in through our border points and airports every day. The security checks in our airports are lax that even the cases of

Kurdish leader, Mr. Ocalan, being in Nairobi and the bomb blast incident have rocked the nation and even made our diplomatic missions abroad vulnerable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while we welcome the Presidential Address, that the army will be used to counter insecurity, I wonder what they have been doing all that time. We have been paying taxes to the Government for their operations and payments. The army was supposed to take care of our borders. In North Eastern, for instance, the Police Force is weak. The force does not have resources like vehicles and communication sets. Some of the police officers are paid their salaries late, and not at the end of the month. Some 20 years ago, divisions in northern Kenya - Isiolo, Turkana and Marsabit - used to function. There used to be a DO and a police station with vehicles and telecommunication devices and with a flag flying, but these days we do not even have flags flying at our police stations and the DOs' offices. Services in divisions have collapsed. The signs of a collapsing Government are that, first, it collapses from the periphery until it comes to the centre. Most of our security officers, because of the poor infrastructure, give an excuse that they cannot police the area very well, yet it is the responsibility of this Government to improve the infrastructure so that security is enhanced.

Adding insult to injury, today I was reading that the Kenya National Library Service will be serving people in that region using camels. Are we going back to the old days? Instead of improving things, people are now reverting to the old age system whereby they want to transport their library services using a camel. Next time, you will see the Government using a camel for transportation purposes. How will you reach people through that means? We are almost in the next millennium! Do not waste that money; give it to us so that we can buy cars and Land Rovers. We should not have big houses in Muthaiga and other places while those people who have elected us are really suffering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Address, we have been told that we, hon. Members, should go back to the people and tell them about the prevailing problems. Recently some of us in the pastoral areas thought that we should come together because our problems are common and really argue our cases to the Government, but a senior Cabinet Minister is undermining that move. Yet his boss is telling us to go back to the people. How do we do that? People are thinking about simple issues like succession and forgetting about the many problems of Kenyans. We like saying that we are representatives of the people, a force to reckon with and that we are stakeholders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still on insecurity, these days pastoral areas have become massacre grounds. One would wonder what we are fighting for given that our land is barren; we are scattered. We are already poor and malnourished, yet we have these AK-47 guns. People boast that we have a wonderful security system and a military with so many generals. The Government power is being seen, and yet we have that problem. We believe that there are people who are instigating these things. They want to keep us busy while they are mining in those areas using their companies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans have lost patriotism. Corruption is a monster that cannot be defeated in Kenya these days. Look at our attitude, people who "eat" are applauded; they are given more grades. Even their communities say that they are good. But if you are an honest civil servant and you only use your salary, you will be told: "You are useless. Wewe ulikuwa unakaa bure."

**Mr. Shaaban:** Tell them!

**Mr. Shill:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the kind of attitude that Kenyans are nourishing. When one is appointed a Cabinet Minister, everyone becomes happy and thinks that he or she will "eat" because their people have been appointed.

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Tell hon. Kalonzo Musyoka!

**Mr. Shill:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people are rushing for the Presidential seat. They believe that if one of their own ascends to the Presidency, their tribe will loot; the way the former President looted public coffers using his tribesmen. This is the attitude that we have in Kenya, yet one comes out openly and urges us to eradicate corruption. How can we eradicate corruption while you practise it? Some of us from the minority tribes are really worried.

We wonder where we will go if Kenya is destroyed. We have seen these things at our door-step in Somalia, Burundi and Rwanda. Most of these civil wars arose because of acts of corruption. Today we talk of liberation, and if you look at Nairobi, early in the morning, you will see an exodus of people from Kibera slums and Mathare Valley going to Industrial Area. If we loot and make sure that these areas in Industrial Area collapse, what will happen to those people who go for their livelihood there? They will come to your Muthaiga house and velvet-coated offices to loot, whether you like it or not. Mr. Chinua Achebe said: "When the centre cannot hold, things fall apart."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mombasa Port had been a centre of corruption. Many people perpetrated



corruption through Mombasa Port by bringing substandard goods and uncustomed goods like sugar into the country. But after hue and cry, stringent measures to check this have been introduced. These people then shifted to Eldoret Airport where stringent measures were also introduced. Now they are bringing these uncustomed goods through Liboi.

Very many people are involved in those corrupt practises with the blessings of the Government. Customs officials are issuing receipts for about four lorries at a cost of Kshs60,000 and they use that to bring those substandard things. We always make some racist remarks to the effect that Asians have done this or that while we know that it is our people who are doing these things---

*(Loud consultations)*

Could you protect me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Could we listen to the Member on the Floor? Proceed!

**Mr. Shill:** I was saying that it is our people at the top who are colluding with those Asians to abet corruption. Corruption is going on daily in this country and we are losing millions of shillings. People are always being told about Goldenberg. This issue of Goldenberg has gone on for so long. How will my constituents benefit from this issue of Goldenberg?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Shill, your time is up. Hon. Ngilu!

**Mr. Shaaban:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to seek your guidance because your eye seems to be seeing only the left side of the House. It is important that you also look at the right side of the House. We would also like to contribute to this very important Motion!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Mr. Speaker's eye sees the Member who stands up first. For your information, there were three KANU Members earlier on who contributed to this Motion in a row because they caught my eye first. Proceed, hon. Ngilu!

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a contribution on the Presidential Address that was delivered to this House a week ago.

In his Address, His Excellency the President was emphatic on three issues namely: Poverty eradication, a society free of corruption and the constitutional review process that is on, in the country. The issue of poverty eradication is in everyone's heart and mind. We are talking about it both in the rural areas and the urban centres and it is everywhere. I would say that the President's Address was fantastic because he said what every Kenyan wanted to hear but the biggest problem that we have is the lack of implementation of the policies that are contained in the Policy Papers and the Sessional Papers that are brought to this House. The President tries very much every time he brings out a Paper like this to also put in place some working process but unfortunately, he does not go out to seek the views of the elected leaders. He often comes to this House and delivers his Speech and he leaves it to us to deliberate on it. He should sit with us for seven days and listen to what we are saying and what proposals we are making. After all, the President is also a Member of Parliament and he should sit here and listen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Commission that the President appointed, out of the 12 members, there is only one woman. I wonder what the members of this Commission know about poverty eradication. I would have expected the President to give those names on the Floor of this House so that we get them thoroughly vetted and agreed upon. By so doing, we could also stipulate how we are going to work with them. Otherwise, it is just another Commission that has been set up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the writing of Sessional Papers is also done by bureaucratic people who have not even researched and have not been on the ground to know what the people themselves can do. To eradicate poverty, it will have to be done by the people themselves. All Kenyans need to be given an opportunity and they need to be availed with an effective way of running their own lives. Kenyans have been denied their own rights, even the right to think! These hon. Members here do everything for the people they represent. If you go to the home of any of these Members of Parliament--- Every time a Member of Parliament is in his or her home, people just throng there so that the MP can help them out of their own problems. For how long are we going to go on like this in this country? Kenyans have become so dependent on their own leaders such that if you come out of your home and you have not given them something "small" they will even have the audacity to tell you that the next General Election is just two years away and they will make sure that you are not elected back to Parliament. This is because of poverty, but what do we do about it? We have got to harness all the resources, manpower and the material wealth that we have in this country. Kenya has been said to be one of the poorest countries in the world but in 1963, we were at the level of the Asian Tigers. What has happened to our country?

The President did also address the issue of corruption. I think this is where the problem of this country lies. We have a few billionaires in this country and the rest of Kenyans are paupers. How do you correct this? The Government must take positive steps now to eradicate poverty by facilitating human activities and give affordable facilities to Kenyans like healthcare. Anybody who gets sick in this country has got to use every cent that they have to go to hospital. The problem here is that people have got to go to private doctors because Government hospitals have no drugs and no care.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got to have affordable opportunities for farmers. The farmers today have become poorer than they were before. In a liberalised economy, we need to go to our supermarkets to see what is in our market; green pepper that we use and which we should have in our own country is coming from South Africa and Holland. We also have butter and honey from New Zealand and oranges are coming from the desert countries of Egypt and Israel. What is Kenya producing? Even in the era of liberalisation, the Government should surely put some tariffs to make sure that anything that comes in is not affordable in order to protect our farmers. The Government should also ensure the availability of correct prices in the market for wheat, maize and beans and it should also check the marketing of these products. We need, therefore, to get the Government to prevent these foreign goods that are killing our domestic products.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water shortage has become a problem in this country. I have seen that we now have another Sessional Paper that is talking about water. In 1974, the Government promised Kenyans that we were going to have water in every woman's doorstep by the year 2000. Tomorrow is the year 2000 and women in Kitui, and Ukambani as a whole, are still carrying water on their backs for 20 kilometres. Surely, are we going to have water on our doorsteps in the next six months? Today, the people of Mutomo are being cheated that, that will be done. When are we going to tell the electorate the truth? When is the Government going to cultivate some sense of confidence in the people by not telling them lies? I think all these fall on the feet of the President of this country. He has a duty to make good his promises and the pledges that he made in 1997. How he will do it, it is only him and his Cabinet who know. I suppose he should do so by sitting down and doing some work instead of running around campaigning and buying Members of Parliament from other political parties like he has done so far, in my own party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we therefore, need to note that poverty cannot be eradicated through the endless Harambees we are conducting everyday. I think time has come for us to finish the idea of Harambee. In fact, the idea of Harambee has brought more corruption in this country as other hon. Members have said. It is that person who takes so much money to a Harambee that is seen to be interested in development. Where do they get this money from? It has surprised me to see a Permanent Secretary handing in a donation of Kshs500,000 to the President. Surely we need to check where that money has come from. It is also ironical that the Commissioner of Police gives to the Head of State Kshs100,000. Somebody needs to stand up and say: "But Mr. Commissioner of Police, where have you got this money from?" That should also apply to the Permanent Secretary.

"Mr. PS, where have you got all this money from?" I mean it is obvious. He knows it and he can see it and he says: "Clap loudly for that man who likes development." Those of us who cannot give that much are not development-conscious. I think this needs to be brought to the Floor of this House to be discussed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President also talked about the constitutional review process that is currently going on. I think Kenyans know better about the laws of this country. We need to get the gains that we made through the constitutional amendments in 1997 implemented. One of the things that needs to be checked is the Chief's Act and de-linking of the Provincial Administration from politics. Today, I was happy to hear Mr. Kuindwa asking the civil servants to keep away from politics. They are in the thick of it. Every chief and DO is campaigning in Tigania today. Every DO, chief and even the DC is campaigning in Mutomo. When are we going to have the amendments implemented? Hon. Orenge was arrested today by a DO! How can a chief or a DO arrest an honourable Member of Parliament? This has happened to us so many times. I think time has come for Kenyans to fight to put the Constitution in place, whether the Government---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Your time is up!

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Therefore, I wish to support this Motion if only it can be implemented.

**Mr. E.T. Morogo:** Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa kunipa fursa hii niweze kusema machache kuhusu Hotuba ya Rais katika Kikao hiki. Kwanza, ningependa kusema kwamba mambo ya wakulima katika Jamhuri yetu ya Kenya yamesahuliwa kabisa, ingawa wao wanatupatia chakula na kuendeleza uchumi. Ningependa Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) ianze kufanya kazi tena. Hii ni kwa sababu miaka miwili iliyopita, AFC haijaweza kutoa pesa za kuwawezesha wakulima kulima ngano, mahindi na mimea mingineyo. Ningeomba Serikali ichukue hatua haraka ili msimu huu wakulima waweze kupata mikopo kutoka kwa Serikali kupitia kwa AFC. Tunajua kwamba, wakulima wanaofuga ng'ombe, hawapati pesa zao kwa wakati unaofaa.

Kama Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) kwa mfano, haijawalipa wakulima kwa muda mrefu. Hatuoni jinsi KCC itaweza kuwalipa wakulima. Ningeomba Waziri wa Kilimo ahakikishe kwamba KCC inawalipa wakulima kabla ya kufilisika kabisa! Rasilmali ya KCC kwa sasa isiuzwe na kulipa wafanyakazi peke yao. Lazima wakulima waangaliwe. Wakulima wa Kenya nzima, na hasa wa Rongai zaidi, wana shida sana.

Kuhusu usalama wa nchi, Rais alisema kwamba mipaka yetu na nchi zingine yafaa iangaliwe. Ingawa nakubaliana naye, ningetaka kuongeza kwamba, hakuna usalama hasa ndani ya nchi, nikitoa mfano wa Nairobi. Utasikia mara kwa mara kwamba gari la mheshimiwa Mbunge fulani au mwananchi fulani limeibiwa kwa nguvu.

Wiki iliyopita peke yake, kuliripotiwa zaidi ya visa kumi vya wizi wa magari! Ningeomba Idara ya Polisi na Waziri anayehusika wachukue hatua kuhusu ukosefu wa usalama hapa Nairobi, na pia huko mashambani. Mara kwa mara, tunalaumu Idara ya Polisi kwa kutofanya kazi vilivyo. Lakini ningeomba Serikali itoe vifaa ambavyo vitawezesha Idara zinazohusika na usalama kufanya kazi kwa njia nzuri. Kwa mfano, huko Rongai, idara zote za usalama zina gari moja tu, ambalo linatumia na OCS wa Rongai! Kwingineko huko Rongai, hakuna gari hata moja! Ningeomba Waziri anayehusika atume gari haraka iwezekanavyo kwa DO wa sehemu ya uwakilishi Bungeni ya Rongai. Kuna maofisa ambao wanakaa pale na hawawezi kutembea kwa sababu hawana magari. Kuna vituo vidogo vya polisi ambavyo havifanyi chochote! Ukipiga ripoti kukiwa na jambo ambalo linawasumbua wananchi, wanasema utoe mafuta na gari! Naona kwamba mambo kama hayo yanafaa kuangaliwa vizuri.

Kwa upande wa idara za usalama, hasa wale wako mashambani kama vile Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU), ningewaomba wahudumie wananchi kwa njia ya kistaarabu. Wamechukulia sheria mikononi mwao na kujifanya mahakimu, viongozi wa mashtaka na kila kitu! Ningemwomba Waziri anayehusika afanye uchunguzi aone kwamba wanafanya kazi vile sheria ya nchi inawahitaji wafanye.

Bw. Naibu Spika, nashukuru benki zetu kwa kurudisha chini kiwango cha riba katika mikopo inayochukuliwa na wananchi wa Kenya. Hata hivyo, hivi majuzi, benki mbili zimeongeza viwango vya akiba kutoka elfu tano hadi elfu kumi. Ningewaomba wafikirie sana wananchi wadogo ambao mishahara yao hupitia kwenye benki hizo, ili wasifungiwe nje na kupata mishahara yao kwa pesa taslimu. Siku hizi, imekuwa ni hatari sana kuwa na pesa taslimu mahali pamoja. Ningewaomba wafikirie vile watawahudumia wananchi wote wa Kenya.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kuhusu marekebisho ya Katiba yetu, sisi waheshimiwa Wabunge tulikubali kugawanya mamlaka yetu na watu wengine ambao hawakuchaguliwa na wananchi. Ningependekeza sheria hiyo ya kuunda Tume ya Katiba iletwe hapa Bungeni ili tuweze kuitupilia mbali. Ni lazima tuanze upya kujadiliana juu ya marekebisho ya Katiba yetu katika Bunge hili. Ningependa tuwe na Kamati Teule ya Bunge itakayoundwa na vyama vyote ili kusaidia katika marekebisho ya Katiba yetu kwa sababu wakati huu hatuwezi kuangalia upya Katiba yetu iwapo tunazozana miongoni mwetu.

Bw. Naibu Spika, katika Hotuba yake, Rais Moi alitaja umaskini kama jambo ambalo linarudisha nyuma maendeleo ya nchi hii. Ningependa Serikali iangalie kwa makini swala la ukosefu wa kazi hapa nchini. Ikiwa vijana wetu wataajiriwa, basi tutapunguza umaskini. Haifai kuzungumza juu ya umaskini kwa maneno matamu tu. Nitaomba Serikali ichukue hatua mwafaka na kutekeleza maoni yanayopendekezwa katika Bunge hili na katika vikao vingine. Ni lazima Serikali hii ionyeshe matendo zaidi katika juhudi za kupigana na umaskini hapa nchini. Inahitajika kuwa na matendo zaidi kuliko maneno matamu ambayo yanafurahisha tu wananchi wetu na baadaye hakuna jambo linalotekelezwa na Serikali yetu.

Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kuzungumza juu ya afya katika Jamhuri yetu na hasa katika sehemu ya Rongai. Mambo ya afya kwa wananchi yamekuwa magumu sana kwa sababu zahanati na vituo vingine vya afya havifanyi kazi kama vinavyohitajika. Ningeomba Waziri wa Afya aitembelee sehemu ya Rongai ili aone na kusikia shida zinazowakabili wananchi wetu.

Ninajua ya kwamba kule Rongai, hasa Solai, kuna mbu wengi sana---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Morogo. Your time is up!

**Mr. Kihara:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to the Presidential Speech. Let me say at the very outset that I find absolutely nothing to support in this speech. The Speech gave no hope to my people of Naivasha Constituency and neither do I think it gave hope to Kenyans. The President talked about unemployment, poverty, corruption, poor infrastructure, insecurity and so on. He was lamenting like anyone of us. That does not give us hope. It is important to note that those problems did not just start over night. They started over a long period due to bad governance. It is bad governance which has brought us to where we are. That is why we are talking about poverty, insecurity and all those ills that afflict this country. And to think that we are going to get solutions to those problems from this Government is to treat the disease rather than the cause. I would rather treat the cause by getting rid of this Government. This

Government has been the single biggest disaster that this country has ever known. I am afraid that unless we get rid of this Government as soon as possible--- The year 2002 is too far - Unless we get rid of this Government now, I am afraid we shall continue to be poor.

**The Minister for Local Government** (Prof. Ongeri): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Kihara in order to say that they will get rid of this Government very soon, before the year 2002 when we know the general election will be held? Can he tell this House how he intends to get rid of this Government? Is it through some unorthodox means?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Prof. Ongeri! Hon. Kihara is perfectly in order to express his opinion.

**Mr. Kihara:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Ongeri knows that there are many other ways rather than just waiting for elections to get rid of this Government. We can move a vote of no-confidence in the Government and get rid of it in this House.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless, we get rid of this Government very soon, we shall continue to languish in poverty, insecurity, unemployment and so on. When this regime took over, we were told that we were on the run. I wonder whether we are still running or not. When did we stop running; and were we running forward or backward? The problems that we have are self-inflicted. Let us take the question of corruption, for example. Somebody has said it here - and I believe he is quite correct - that if the President decides that he does not want corruption in this country we shall end it. We shall end it, if only the President decides to eradicate it from State House. The Office of the President is the home of corruption. Every other function of this Government which has money such as the *El nino* programme, Nyayo Bus Service---

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Dr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Did you hear what hon. Kihara said? He said the Office of the President is the source of corruption. According to our Standing Order 73(1), we cannot discuss matters relating to the President without bringing a substantive Motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Really, Mr. Kihara, you must be responsible for the accuracy of the statements you make. Dr. Anangwe is quite right to take you to task to substantiate the point you have made.

**Mr. Kihara:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a very simple thing to do. A lot of people who have been accused and reported adversely upon by the Controller and Auditor-General are the ones sitting on this Front Bench here. They are reported as having brought down some institutions which were doing very well for many years.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Kihara! The point at issue for you to substantiate is that the Office of the President is the seat of corruption.

**An hon. Member:** Withdraw that remark if you cannot substantiate it!

**Mr. Kihara:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not withdraw because I am prepared to substantiate it.

The facts are these: Almost every department of every Ministry in this country is duplicated in the Office of the President. For example, if you look at Karura Forest, it was allocated from that office. We know it. If you look at all those Government houses which have been given out to individuals in Milimani area in Nakuru Town and in other places in this country, they have all been corruptly allocated by the Office of the President.

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to give him solid information about the Office of the President. I would like to help hon. Kihara on what he is requested to substantiate. Hon. Kihara, the Office of the President is really the seat of corruption because we can say, for example, Mr. Somaia purportedly brought goods into this country that were paid for in millions of shillings, but nothing was brought into this country. That was done by the Office of the President.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! We are debating the Motion on the Presidential Address in this House and not the Office of the President. That is an opinion and you should keep it to yourself. For the time being, we are debating the Motion on the Presidential Address. Therefore, restrict yourself to the Address. If you want to discuss the Office of the President in this House then bring a Motion on it later on.

**Mr. Kihara:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Incidentally, Mr. Somaia travels using the Kenyan diplomatic passport. He passes through the VIP lounge at the Jomo Kenya International Airport (JKIA) quite often. This is a well known fact!

I would like to touch on the security of this country. I think our police officers need to be trained again. It is only the other day that they shot dead an innocent Asian young man and injured two members of his family. It is surprising that they pumped 10 bullets into one body! I wonder what the reason behind that was. Nowadays, nobody is safe anywhere. It was safe for one to live in the rural areas, but those areas are now worse compared to urban areas. We spend sleepless nights in rural areas!

We have been told many times that Kenya is an agricultural country. I think it was hon. Ngilu who talked about sub-standard seeds which are supplied to our farmers. The planting seeds that we buy from the Kenya Seed Company (KSC) are not of high quality. These seeds are supplied to the KSC by politically correct people which in turn supplies them to the farmers. In fact, we know all this. The production of wheat and other crops has gone down because the KSC is not supplying Kenyan farmers with high quality seeds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from an agricultural constituency called Naivasha. I would like to appeal to hon. Members from Kajiado and Narok Districts to ask their people to move out their cows from Naivasha Constituency because this is a planting season. The Maasais from the two districts have occupied and built manyattas on all that piece of land stretching from Mai-Mahiu to Gilgil. Although it is the planting season we cannot cultivate that piece of land because they have occupied it. It has rained both in Narok and Kajiado Districts and, therefore, they should go back to their respective districts. We wonder what happened to the law of trespass. This is so because this kind of activity can promote lawlessness. It is surprising that people can occupy your land and nothing happens to them when you report them to the Provincial Administration! We have always complained to the Provincial Administration but nothing has happened to those Maasais. Those of us who have travelled to Western Province must have seen those Maasais in red shukas with herds of goats and sheep, while we are unable to cultivate our farms.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. W. Ruto):** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member for Naivasha Constituency to ask the Maasai community, which is grazing their cattle on their ancestral land, to move them out of the area? Is it in order for him to do that?

**Mr. Kihara:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is the exact attitude that brought tribal clashes in Sipili, which is in Laikipia District.

**Dr. Kituyi:** On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to inform hon. Kihara that the land which is currently being occupied by hon. William Ruto belongs to the Uasin Gishu Maasais but he claims to own it.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Kihara:** Thank you, hon. Kituyi for that information. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can see that my time is running out, but I would like to say that Naivasha is also a home to a lot of people who were expelled from the western parts of the Rift Valley, Enoosupukia and so on. These people are camped at Naivasha.

There are some Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) farms which are being allocated to politically correct people in Oljurai and Ndabibi. We would like the Government to settle those people there. These people have been victims of ethnic cleansing. I would like to thank Nato countries that are suppressing ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. We hope that African nations will one day set up an organisation which will deal with ethnic cleansing which we have seen taking place in our country. We have people who are refugees in their own country. They are also poor and are suffering. These people do not have any place to go, while the farms which are available are being allocated to "politically correct" individuals. I can even mention names of people who have been allocated 700 acres of land in Ndabibi ADC farm.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our district of Nakuru was not allocated a penny from the *El-Nino* Emergency Fund, although it has some roads that are impassable during the rainy and even in the dry seasons. For example, one cannot travel from Naivasha to Maela using a four-wheel-drive vehicle, whether it is a dry or a rainy season. The same case applies to driving to Ndabibi and Kiambogo. We would like to be allocated some money from this Fund so that it can be used to repair our roads. We feel that the money should be handled by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, which is responsible for the repair of our roads and not the Office of the President.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion on the Presidential Address.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Presidential Address. There were some important issues which were not addressed by the President. The President talked about alleviation of poverty, but there is a lot more to it because he did not address issues which will eradicate poverty. I feel that the issuance of title deeds to some people in some areas where land has been demarcated was not contained in the Presidential Address. I would like to give an example of Tausa Division in my constituency, where sub-division of land was completed about a year ago, but up-to-date letters of allotment or title deeds have not been issued, and we do not know when that will be done. I would like to ask the hon. Minister for Lands and Settlement, who is in this House, to make sure that, that is done immediately so that people in my constituency can have title deeds and thus alleviate their poverty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we understand that the Government will not recruit trainees to teacher training colleges. But before the Government took that decision, it never carried out any research on the imbalance of teachers in high and low potential areas. This is so because Taita District is affected by this imbalance in schools staffing and yet, some areas are overstaffed with teachers. My constituency alone has a shortage of 60 teachers. I am happy that action is being taken to alleviate the problem after I made some "noise" to the Provincial Director of Education. We hope that the problem will be eradicated once and for all. So, I cannot see why the Government should stop the intake of trainees to teacher training colleges.

I am surprised by the Minister for Public Works and Housing who said that China Road and Bridge Construction Company is doing a good job along Mtito-Andei/Bachuma Road. I would like to inform him that this company is doing a shoddy job between Mtito-Andei and Bachuma areas. I would like to urge the Minister to visit the place again in order to get proper information. This is because without proper supervision, there is nothing this construction company can do. In the first place, it should not have been contracted to repair the Bachuma-Mtito-Andei Road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as much as the Government is trying to find means and ways of alleviating poverty and promoting tourism--- Since the railway line was built in 1900, the Government has never expanded it, even an inch up-to-now. We are just using the railway lines which were put up by the British Government. In October last year, I said that the Nairobi/Mombasa Railway line was unsafe but because action was not taken on time, we had a train accident at Tsavo a few weeks ago.

What is surprising is that the Kenya Railways Corporation has now removed the break vans which are normally used to control the movement of locomotive engines. That is why these derailments are happening. It is very surprising and yet, we have qualified engineers. But there are managers who are not qualified--- We are only employing people who are politically correct. This is what is happening. It is going to cause a lot of problems if it is not checked properly. I would urge the Corporation and especially the Ministry of Transport and Communications to see to it that the break vans are introduced on the railway lines to avoid calamities in future.

The Presidents Speech touched on a lot of issues which, as I said, have not been addressed. We passed a lot of Motions last year but, surprisingly, only a few which are beneficial to a few people were the ones which were signed by the President, but those which affected the public, like the one on Parliamentary Service Commission, the land issues and the like, were not signed and therefore, here he is telling us again to be more---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** He did not sign Motions. He signed Bills and we have not passed a Bill on the Parliamentary Service Commission.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Thank you very much, for the correction. I am new. If the Government wants to come out clean on corruption, let those who were mentioned in the PIC and PAC Reports be prosecuted. If they are still under political patronage, there is no way we can say that we are going to have collective responsibility towards eradication of poverty. We have quite a number of them and instead of them being sent to court to be prosecuted, they are even being promoted. Here again, we are being told it is a collective responsibility. There is no collective responsibility when a mwananchi gives the information to the police or the correct person who can deal with it but action is never taken. Then, we have this office which has a bottomless ending - the Office of the President. Up to now where money is coming through any department or parastatal, it wants to contain that parastatal. Surprisingly, a month ago how can KWS which belongs to the Ministry of Tourism be moved to the Office of the President? It is because there is money and that is why they took Dr. Leakey from this Parliament because he knows how to solicit funds and they sure that he is going to get it and then, they can misappropriate those funds. KWS of all the departments to go to the Office of the President? What a shame! Ministers should stand up and say "No" when they sit in their Cabinet. But unfortunately, you are just flying flags for leisure to be seen with big cars in the constituencies and yet, you have no powers. It is high time you stood and said "No." That will be a sign of patriotism.

I normally take liberalisation as somebody takes an issue in his house with his own wife. Despite the fact that your wife or your children might be mature, you must have some strings at one time or another to pull them. Here, the Government just left everything free. Even in other developed countries, they still maintain the quota system of what is to be exported or imported. It is a shame to see the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy pleading with oil companies to reduce their prices. Why can the Ministry not control the prices of oil? That is what is happening. The Permanent Secretary is always complaining about that.

**The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo):** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the hon. Member's information, we have a liberalised oil market and so, the Permanent Secretary cannot force the oil companies to adjust prices either up or down.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** That is where the Minister now comes with a clear policy on a quota system. You can implement that one. This is the House to approve that one, if you

cannot make it on your own. There is nothing wrong in bringing such policies to this House. This is the same issue which is affecting the tea, sugar and maize industries; yet we have a lot of agricultural potential in our own country but are leaving it free. I think we should have the quota system implemented. On corruption, it is my view that we should not station any civil servant in one particular station for more than two years because they get used to the community there and the system in that area and, therefore, corruption breeds from there. It is my hope and opinion that, we will table a Motion in Parliament; that for any appointment of a senior Kenya civil servant, he must be vetted by this august House.

On constitutional review, I am pleading with the Attorney-General's office to translate the current Kenya Constitution into Kiswahili so that it can be sent to the people in the rural areas to understand just like Tanzania did. Before the constitutional review process starts, he should send out copies in Kiswahili, so that our mothers and grandmothers can understand what it means. As of now, we have only left it to the people who have learnt law and all those who are professionals on that line. It is high time now the Government put the current Constitution into Kiswahili so that people can participate effectively after reading it. I am not seeing it compulsory to have police commissioner in the head office here. The police should be a localised institution because they are the ones who know the people on the ground.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First I would like to thank the Chair for the excellent speech that Mr. Speaker gave. Actually, this House needs power to control the Executive. Right now, even the public outside sees this House like a toothless bulldog for it does not do anything. Even Members of Parliament have to go to somebody else to consult and then, you fail to understand how this can be called the highest office on the land. On the Presidential Speech, the President emphasised very much on the problems facing Kenyans but to me, I wonder. He is the father of this nation the way I am the father of my own family. But I cannot tell my children: "We have no food" I have to pave the way and tell them what to do. But the President failed to do that and for that reason I cannot support his Speech. I expected the President to come up and elaborate to the Kenyans how did Karura Forest go. That is what we needed. For one, he contradicted himself by not protecting our environment while we know him as environmentalist number one.

For that reason, we would like the President to come out clearly for we respect him, and tell us how Karura Forest went because I do not believe that it belongs to the people of Central Province but to all Kenyans. I expected the President to talk about the grabbing of land. Right now I would like to thank the *Daily Nation* newspaper investigative team for having revealed the corruption which was taking place in Murang'a Lands office. We, the people of Murang'a are wondering even after that revelation, why this Government has not acted upon those corrupt officials. There is a chief who is still working after grabbing land which belongs to the people of Kamahuha. The DC said the other day that, he has no information. The newspaper which is read by the whole nation has revealed that. The newspaper has already revealed how vehicles are being sold in Kenya without tax being paid duty. That is a shame to this Government. It should first get rid of these corrupt officials so that we can see the Government acting. Now we are seeing it in tatters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is very wrong because once I look at the other side, I see very bright faces. And if you people on the Government side work, you can change the state of this country. But now, you are only following. Teach him a lesson!

On the State Opening of Parliament the other day, the President spoke on poverty. It is quite a shame that after 35 years of Independence we have already launched another 15-year plan to eradicate poverty. Poverty in this country has been supported by the Government in one way or the other. Our people are underpaid, they are not getting anything because they are living from hand-to-mouth. We should give them proper salaries so that they can afford to pay school fees for their children. Even the working class people have to conduct harambees in order to educate their children. They do this because their salaries are quite low. The teachers are the most underpaid and they are the people who are in the rural areas who can help in developing those areas. It is high time the Government implemented its promises to the teachers. Otherwise, you are disrupting the education system of this country for you are demoralising our teachers' spirit. Do something!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to fight poverty, we have to give our people hope of food. The area where I come from is a semi-arid area but my people can work if at all this Government can accept to give them water for irrigation. We do not have to be begging each and every time for relief supplies. Let us be dependent on ourselves; give us water. Give the people of Makuyu water and they will be able to work. They will produce their own food through irrigation because we have a lot of land but we do not have any other form of using it. If the government gave us water, I think it would have played a part in eradicating poverty in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue is about fertilizers. Let fertilizers be affordable by the poor people in the rural areas. Right now, a bag of CAN is costing Kshs900 and a bag of DAP is costing about

Kshs1,280 at Thika. These farmers cannot afford it with their wages of Kshs100 per day and they have to eat. That is why I request the Minister for Agriculture to do something on the side of fertilizers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our roads have contributed to poverty promotion. This is because people who have invested in transport are losing a lot of money. Even if they buy a lorry on loan, they cannot service the loan by putting the lorry on use on our roads. It will be taken back and the owner will be left poorer than he was. After it has been used on the roads which are full of potholes, it will break down. Once it breaks down, this person though trying to invest in such business will fail and the vehicle will be taken by the Asian who loaned it to him. So, concerning roads, I think the Government should be very generous to Kenyans by providing us with good roads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, concerning my constituency, right now my people are very poor because we do not have one complete road since all of them have broken bridges. We have said this now and then in this House and we have been promised that something will be done through this year's Budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have said this once and again, and nothing on the ground is happening. Once we go to inquire from the Government offices in the district, we are told that it has been passed, the AIE is there, but there is no money. Why should the Government send papers if it cannot give money? These people need to see something being done, and when we are saying this, we on the other side, we are the people to clap for you - the Government for we cannot chase our own Government. Still on the roads, the motor-spares sales should be re-checked. I think a lot of our Income Tax and VAT is being lost through more scandalous deals with the Asians and they are here being protected by our Government. Let these people pay taxes, so that teachers and the others' wages can be increased. In motor-spares, that is where corruption lies for this business is not with the Africans. It is with the Asians and Asians are going. Stop this business!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing which has made this country poorer is education. Education has made this country poorer because for one, it is quite expensive. We understand that there are policies that guide the school fees. But today we hear of schools charging even more than Kshs20,000. We have seen in our own province, the teachers are now at Dubai when we know very well that we have children who have not paid their school fees. They have collected this money from the parents' kitty. We know all of us that Dubai is a business joint. What good will our teachers get from there to teach our children? We were against that move and we want them to refund the money used to the parents' kitty and they pay from their own pockets.

The other thing, people of Maragwa have never been satisfied. We want to fight this poverty. But the Government should let us have our district headquarters where the people of Maragwa want it. For one to develop this country by the year 2020 and to be industrialised, we have to get urban corridors in this country. For one to convert an agricultural farm to a district headquarters offices, we are making our people poorer.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to join my colleagues in congratulating His Excellency the President for his Speech to this august House. I know that some Members, especially my colleagues on the other side, have tended to dismiss the Speech as if it contains nothing new, but I would like to appeal to the hon. Members that the issues that the President touched on are very important which I hope that this Session of Parliament will actually deal with without contradicting the statements which the President made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of unemployment, the question of famine, the issues about cost-sharing of education and health, matters of inadequate water supply, the issues of energy and communication, these are not issues that any responsible leader can dismiss because our people are really suffering for lack of these. Unemployment today is aggravated by a lot of some of our policies that this House has been advocating, especially my colleagues from the opposite direction.

The issues of liberalisation which everybody was talking about; liberalisation has brought about untold problems to our people. We now have cheap imports from all over the world that our people are now depending on, and yet this is an agricultural country with people who are prepared to produce sufficient food for themselves. But because we have allowed cheap imports to flood our market, our farmers are now suffering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether we talk of maize, rice or whatever crop, this has now completely vanished from our markets. We are now importing even second-hand clothes, because the factories that used to produce clothes have been completely ruined by these imports. For example, the second-hand clothes have affected our farmers who used to produce cotton and for textile industries. There are a lot of bad things that liberalization has brought about. I am hoping that this Third Session of Parliament will address the issue of liberalization; whether indeed, we want to continue allowing farmers from other countries to benefit by flooding our market with cheap imports.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a constituency which used to survive on cotton; cotton used to be



the cash crop of my constituency and the neighbouring constituencies. Because of these cheap imports of second-hand clothes, the cotton industry has completely collapsed. Today, our farmers have been left in a hopeless situation. They cannot pay school fees for their children because they have no cash crop from which they used to receive cash.

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to rise in this House and talk of a saga of mischief by his Government? Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to protest to the Opposition about the KANU Government in which he is an integral part of? Should he not resign and cross to this side of the House?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! Hon. Gatabaki, an hon. Member in this House is at liberty to speak on anything under the sun provided he is within our Standing Orders. As far as I am concerned, hon. Ekirapa has not breached any of our Standing Orders. Proceed, hon. Ekirapa!

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If hon. Gatabaki was awake, instead of dozing behind there, he would have understood what I said; that the Opposition used to grumble for liberalization. Liberalization has now come and it has negatively affected the lives of our people. I hope that this time round, you will change your approach and, perhaps, discuss this issue in a more reasonable manner.

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Does the hon. Ekirapa get away with misleading this House, that the KANU Government adopted the Structural Adjustment Programmes from the Opposition, when we know it is the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that have forced this policy on that Government?

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Ekirapa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will ignore those comments because it is common knowledge that every Member of the Opposition without exception used to sing about liberalisation. If anything, you influenced those decisions by the foreigners to talk about liberalisation and people have suffered as a result.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other crops---

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order, hon. Munyasia. I earlier requested you to allow Members to contribute, because they have only ten minutes. Hon. Ekirapa, continue.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir--- I hope you are not standing up again, Mr. Munyasia.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, hon. Achola?

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not wish to interrupt the hon. Member. But is it in order for any Member to rise and just talk about anything even though he is irrelevant? I think the ruling you have just made in answer to hon. Munyasia's request is not quite right.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! Hon. Ekirapa, as far as we are concerned, the Government took certain policy decisions. It is the Government policies that we know of. Whether they were influenced by the Opposition, the World Bank or IMF, is not at issue. They are Government policies.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Ekirapa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, your interpretation is absolutely correct. In fact, that is what I was saying. I was simply making a passing comment that the Opposition cannot now turn round and say that liberalisation is a bad thing when they used to sing about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was making a point about cotton production and the fact that farmers in our areas have suffered as a result of the importation of cheap second-hand clothing. Our people have now reverted to tobacco which is actually ruining the lives of our people. They are being exploited by these multi-nationals who do not pay them the correct prices for their crop. I think during this Session, we would like to discuss this matter, so that the issue of tobacco growing, the negative effects it has got on the farmers, the spread of cancer which has killed many farmers, the degradation of the soil and the question of these companies not really being responsive to their corporate responsibility to the community; they never contribute to development projects, they do not make the roads, they do not do anything. These are issues that we need to discuss, because these particular companies

are exploiting the local population and I think this is something that we need to look into and deal with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while on liberalisation, there is another issue, which is privatisation. I am hoping that during this Session, we will also deal with this issue. The point I want to make is that we hold the parastatals as assets of the people of this country. Therefore, for us to want to privatise them without making sure that the owners, for which we hold these assets in trust, are being fairly compensated, I think this is an issue that this Parliament should look at. While we liberalise, we must encourage people to come and invest their money there, and we must be very careful on assets which took us a long time to create as a country and we do not just want to sell them overnight.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of water has been mentioned. Many people in the country-side are suffering from water-borne diseases.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of our business. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 14th April at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.