

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Wednesday, 28th July, 1999**

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]***PRAYERS****PAPERS LAID**

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Oil Corporation of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1996, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations)

(ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Oil Corporation of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations)

*(By the Minister for Transport and Communications
on behalf of the Minister for Energy)*

(iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Coffee Board of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1996, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations)

*(By the Minister for Transport and Communications
on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture)*

(iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1996, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations)

(By the Minister for Transport and Communications)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Keynan's Question!*Question No.348***DISBURSEMENT OF BOMB BLAST FUNDS**

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Keynan is not around. Would I, therefore, plead with the House that we defer the Questions?

Mr. Speaker: Very well, the Question is deferred! Next Question, Mr. Kiunjuri.

(Question deferred)

Question No.282

SETTLEMENT OF SQUATTERS ON MUTARA ADC FARM

Mr. Kiunjuri asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) if he is aware that the ADC Mutara Farm is currently under utilised; and,
- (b) if he could consider settling squatters from Laikipia District in the said farm in order to develop the land.

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

(a) The ADC Mutara Farm is not under utilised. The farm is utilised to full capacity. It is the only natural Boran stud (bull) ranch in the country. At present, there are 6,000 head of Boran cattle and over 400 sheep and goats on the ranch.

(b) Arising from my answer in part "a" of the Question, the Government does not intend to settle the squatters on this farm.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Minister would consider a piece of land of over 50,000 acres as being utilised properly by only having 6,000 head of cattle and 400 sheep and goats. Could he consider curving out at least some of the acreage to be utilised for the animals and the rest be given to squatters?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a marginal area and my information from the experts in livestock raising is that 15 to 20 acres are necessary for one animal to graze on. So, currently, this particular land is over-grazed. If we were to curve out any bit of it, it would worsen the over-grazing situation.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister is aware, most of the ADC farms have been sub-divided and given to the squatters in the areas where they are. Why is this farm being made an exception?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the hon. Member is not saying that there should be no exceptions.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that it seems as if the Minister is not ready to issue this land to the people, could he now consider concentrating all the elephants roaming in Laikipia District on that land, because they are a nuisance to the people?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether that is the same Question because this is an ADC Farm and not a game ranch.

Question No.356

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN MBOONI

Mr. Munyao asked the Minister for Energy, in view of the DDC's recommendation that Kisau, Kalawa and Mbooni divisions be considered for rural electrification, how much money has been allocated for this project during the 1999/2000 Financial Year.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

During the 1999/2000 Financial Year, Makueni District was allocated Kf980,000 for the Rural Electrification Programme in the Printed Estimates. However, it is the local District Development Committee's (DDC's) responsibility to identify the projects to be implemented and to allocate the funds in the order of priority in each division of Makueni District.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer by the Assistant Minister is most inadequate. We have got five different divisions in Makueni District, and a proposal was made to the Minister enumerating all what the five divisions needed. That amount of money will not even be enough for the Central District. What is the Minister committing himself to do for the district?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the development of the Rural Electrification Programme for the district will depend on the funds that the Ministry has. Therefore, we are asking the local DDC to prioritise the area(s) which will use that fund. That is why we are saying that funds are there.

Mr. Munyao: Again, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is totally misleading this House. I was at the DDC meeting where the leaders of Makueni District made recommendations. As at that time, they had shown the Ministry what needed to be done. In fact, last year, a token of money was given out by the Ministry, but which was later returned to it. Could the Assistant Minister commit himself that last year's allocation of money and that of this year will be applied on the priority areas as discussed and recommended by the DDC?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, allocation of money in the last Financial Year was made for the district. Even now, there is some work in progress. Makueni District Headquarters was allocated Kshs18.5 million; Kibwezi Division Headquarters was allocated Kshs6.8 million and Kambu Market got Kshs.7.4 million. A total of Kshs32.7 million has been injected in some work which is in progress. What we have here is over and above what had actually been spent.

Mr. Munyao: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir!

Mr. Speaker: Order! We have had enough on that Question, have we not? Question No.247 will be deferred.

Question No.247

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO RETIRED KENYA RAILWAYS EMPLOYEES

(Question deferred)

Question No.124

TARMACKING OF BUNGOMA-SANGALO-NAMBACHA-KAKAMEGA ROAD

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Wafula not here? We will come back to the Question later.

Question No.241

TARMACKING OF MATI ROAD

Mr. Murungi asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing when the Ministry will tarmac Mate Road which traverses Meru Central, Meru East and Meru South Districts.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Government has no immediate plans to tarmac Mate Road which traverses Meru Central, Meru East and Meru South districts due to non-availability of funds.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this answer given by the Assistant Minister is a cause of great shame and embarrassment to this Government, because we named that road after the late Benard Mate, who was a prominent Member of Parliament from Meru District; he who had asked the Government to remove Mt. Kenya so that it can see Meru. The road is in a terrible state of disrepair. Could the Assistant Minister, instead of using this language that there are no immediate plans to tarmac the road, because of non-availability of funds, use the usual language that "the road will be tarmacked when funds are available?"

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling the truth; we do not have the money. If the hon. Member wants me to use the other language, I can use it, if that will be okay. But the fact is that at the moment we are not able to tarmac that road.

Mr. Kathangu: Bw. Spika, barabara ya Benard Mate, ingawaje mwenye Swali anasema kwamba iko Meru Central, Meru East na Meru South, pia hupitia kwa mpaka wa Wilaya za Embu na Mbeere. Waziri Msaidizi anaposema ya kwamba Wizara hii haina fedha hatuelewi jambo hili kwa sababu tunajua ya kwamba kwa sababu ya kampeni inayoendelea kule Siakago Constituency hivi sasa, fedha nyingi zimetumika sana ili kuziba mashimo ambayo yalikuwa kwa hiyo barabara, upande wa Embu na Mbeere. Ni sababu gani wakati wa kampeni fedha zinapatikana na wakati hakuna kampeni barabara zinawachwa ziharibike?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not believe that the repairs that are going on are linked to the impending election at the Siakago Constituency; they started before the campaigns and the work is going on.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of fact, Mate Road in Siakago is being repaired and graded right now. So, it is incorrect to say that funds are not available. If funds are available to repair Mate Road in Siakago, why are funds unavailable to repair the same Mate Road which passes through Tharaka, Meru Central and Meru North? Pesa zimeenda wapi?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question was about when the Government will tarmac Mati Road; the question about repairs is something else. But we will repair that road when we get funds.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a clarification from the Assistant Minister; could we get a categorical statement from him as to whether due to inability to tarmac the road now, it is actually going to be repaired and graded during this Financial Year in all the three Meru districts?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can confirm that, that road is C92 and a stretch of 74 kilometres is in Meru Park, while the balance of the road passes through Mbeere District. But it will be repaired.

Question No.365

MEASURES TO CURB ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Mrs. Kittony asked the Minister for Environmental Conservation what the Ministry is doing to minimize pollution of the environment caused by uncoordinated disposal of plastic waste.

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

My Ministry is trying to address that issue by promoting the reduction of the carrier bags through public awareness and also through separation of the carrier bags from the other household waste so that it can be easily collected and recycled. We are also trying to encourage avoidance of burning of waste so that those plastic materials do not produce toxic waste. We are also encouraging, through seminars, the setting up of recycling industries. My Ministry, with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), has been trying to send a proposal to encourage the Jua Kali sector and the unemployed youths to do the collection of the plastic waste. But currently, I have to admit that there is no legal framework to address this issue, but as soon as the Environmental Management and Coordination Bill is enacted, we will have some laws that will discourage that kind of pollution by the use of plastic bags.

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I should have even asked for their complete eradication. I think that plastic materials are a menace in our country. They are not only killing children, but they are also killing livestock. Goats eat plastic materials and when they die, you find a heap of plastic materials in their stomachs.

Mr. Speaker: Will you put your question, Mrs. Kittony?

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is: There should be complete eradication of the plastics. The answer the Minister is giving is not enough. I think he should do much more research in this area. This is because the plastics are killers.

Mr. Speaker: That is a statement!

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that should be additional information. I do admit that, there is a problem. It has been a big problem in this country. Whenever you go to our urban centres, there is a lot of plastic materials. The problem is that plastic bags are non-degradable. They cannot decompose easily and they form heaps. But now, trying to say the answer is not sufficient, when we have not enacted the Environmental Management and Coordination Bill, is like trying to kill a rat when the house is burning. First, let us enact this legislation and then, you can challenge me if you see more plastics.

Mr. Muihia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was a very brilliant Question from Mrs. Kittony. Plastic papers are a real menace in this country. The Minister has said that his Ministry is trying. That is not the question! The question is: What positive action is being taken by the Ministry? I understand they are trying to talk and enact legislation.

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have held several barazas to encourage the people to assist us. This is not the Ministry's problem alone. We have encouraged the general public to help us to clean the environment by collecting plastic bags. We are also trying to introduce some legislation governing the manufacture and use of plastic bags. The low density plastic bags are produced very cheaply. They are used for wrapping and so, it is very encouraging to use them. But we are saying that after whatever we are doing, which is educating the public to collect the plastic bags and separate them from the other household waste, they can be recollected and recycled. We are also trying to encourage the industrialists, through seminars, to set up recycling plants. In our Industrial Area, we have recycling plants.

We are also working together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). We have a proposal that we are implementing; the kind of paper that chokes our sewerage system, the waste material that cannot decompose easily, should be collected by the Jua Kali sector. Most of our unemployed youths will get employment. This will also alleviate poverty in our country. The Ministry is doing something to encourage those people to collect

the plastic materials and set them aside so that they can be done away with.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to mislead this House that plastics can be recycled, when we know that scientifically, you cannot recycle plastics?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless my friend was not listening, I said that there are two kinds of plastic materials. There is the low and high density plastic. The high density plastic is like plastic jugs. The low density is the polythene bags that we use to carry goods from the supermarkets. All of these plastics can be recycled. I did say earlier that, we have encouraged people to set up factories to recycle plastic materials. It is already being done.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to say that there is no law the Ministry can use to effect the collection of waste matter, like plastic materials being thrown around, when we know that, in spite of the IPPG reforms, the Chief's Act still gives the chief and urban centres the authority to force people to clear the environment if, in the opinion of the chief, people are spoiling the environment? Why can the Minister not use the Chief's Act to make sure that our environment is clean?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a brilliant question from the Professor. As I said earlier, that is the kind of law that we have been using. But very soon, once we enact the Environmental Management and Coordination Bill, which is coming immediately we finish this debate on the Budget, things will move in the right direction. Let us all support it because all these laws will be put together. We will be using them to enforce environmental safety more effectively than before.

(Question No.124)

TARMACKING OF BUNGOMA-SANGALO-NAMBACHA-KAKAMEGA ROAD

Mr. Speaker: For the second time, Mr. Wafula's Question? Is Mr. Wafula still not here. His Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Let us move on to Questions by Private Notice.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

DEATHS OF HERDSBOYS IN NASHAMUNYE

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

(a) What caused the deaths of three herdsboys killed at Nashamunye area of Waso East Location of Samburu District, on or about 14th July, 1999?

(b) Could the Minister urgently compensate the families of the victims and suspend any military exercises being done in the area until further notice?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague was supposed to answer this Question. He was here, but I do not know where he has gone to. I would request that the Question be deferred until tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: What is your reaction, Mr. Leshore?

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems there is a deliberate attempt by the Front Bench not to answer my questions. This morning, they just said the same thing. Now, the Office of the President is saying the same thing. This is a very serious Question and I need the Minister to be summoned now to come and answer it! He sneaked out of the House!

Mr. Speaker: Who was supposed to answer the Question?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague, hon. Sunkuli. He was here! I do not know where he has gone to!

Mr. Speaker: Order! I find it extremely strange that the Minister, having a Question to his name, and being present in the House, just walks away from the Question! I think I will require a satisfactory explanation from hon. Sunkuli tomorrow afternoon. So, the Question is deferred to tomorrow! Let us move on to the next Question by hon. Kathangu!

(Question deferred)

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON PUBLIC RALLIES

Mr. Kathangu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question No.2 by Private Notice came after your advice. This is because the House felt that we should discuss more.

Mr. Speaker: Will you ask the Question?

(Laughter)

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

Following widespread violence on Members of Parliament and violent dispersal of the public by police officers whilst on meet-the-people tours and public rallies:

(a) Could the Minister clarify the Ministry's legal position on public rallies and meet-the-people tours?

(b) What action, if any, has been taken on those police officers, who have continued to violate rights and freedoms of Members of Parliament and the public with impunity?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Under The Public Order Act, Cap 56 of the Laws of Kenya, which was amended under the recommendations of the IPPG, it was decided that no licence is required for a public meeting. But the convenor is required to notify the police three days before the meeting. The police officer is also to notify the convenor in writing if, for any reason whatsoever, the meeting cannot go on.

There are various reasons under which the police officer may not allow the meeting to continue. For example, if the venue where the convenor wants to hold the meeting has been booked by somebody else earlier; or, for any clear reason, if he feels that there is some security risks present or imminent danger of a breach of the peace by the public order. Those are some of the reasons under which the officer could inform the convenor that the meeting cannot go on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the meet-the-people tours, no licence is required, nor is the person concerned required to notify the police about the meet-the-people tour. That is the position as regards the various public meetings and meet-the-people tours.

(b) As regards the steps taken to discipline any errant officers, the decision on whether the meeting should continue or not is left entirely to the discretion of the police officer, in consultation with the District Security Committee. The decision is based on the facts on the ground. We take steps against these officers by reprimanding or cautioning them if we have felt at any time they exceeded or over-reacted in dealing with such public meetings.

Mr. Kathangu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, following a meet-the-people tour of 11th July, 1999, where Messrs. Murungi, Orengo, Maina Njakwe and I, were in Meru and Embu, the police very violently dispersed the crowd that we had gone to say "hello" to and they beat us very seriously in Chuka. Immediately after that, last Saturday, there was a meeting in Kamae, Kiambu District. The police officers disrupted it, beat up people, shot a young man and arrested a person in that meeting. I would like to know from the Minister whether Kenya has become a police state or there are some areas which have been closed so that either the Opposition leaders or political leaders, for that matter, cannot meet the people or hold public rallies?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tour conducted by the hon. Member and his team on meet-the-people tour was done at a rather difficult time because this was the time we had the matatu strike. As we are all aware, in this particular incidence, we had the touts against the public on one hand, and the touts against the employers on the other hand. According to the officer in the field, at that time, they felt that because of this confrontation between the touts and the public, the touts were being incited to a point where they felt that the public was going to fight against them. That is why the police decided to disrupt the meeting.

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with all due respect, the Minister is treating this Question very casually. But the Question is not casual. There was the Makueni incidence where hon. Ngilu, a presidential candidate, was humiliated by police officers. Messrs. Orengo, Donde and I, were also harassed at Ugunja. These incidents keep repeating themselves. We know how firmly you have stood for the dignity of this House. The Minister is, first and foremost, an hon. Member. A day will come when he will be a Back Bencher just the way hon. Nyachae, our brother, is in the Back Bench.

An hon. Member: Na utatwangwa!

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Today, we are saying to the Minister that you are treating this Question very casually. We are talking about the humiliation, indignity and harassment of hon. Members and we are asking him categorically to say what is the use of---

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Oloo-Aringo, will you put the question?

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very simple. Is the Minister going to allow the continued misbehaviour by the police against hon. Members and the Kenyan people?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to state very categorically that I am not taking this issue casually. I am stating simple facts as I have them and, certainly, we would not like to see hon. Members of this House harassed or embarrassed in any way.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister: Is it only the KANU politicians who are allowed to address public rallies or is it everybody in Kenya?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member listened to me, I said anybody in this country can hold a public rally, and he does not need a licence to do so.

Mr. Kaptan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the harassment of hon. Members and other leaders of this country has gone beyond control. Some time ago, we had a rally in Sabwani and there were threats issued by some KANU councillors that if that meeting was to be held, people would be killed. And indeed, a person was killed. On 17th, July 1999, we had a Harambee and some two

councillors issued threats that if we held that meeting they were going to kill people. The names of these councillors are known because we reported the matter to the police. What will the Minister do to have these councillors who keep on threatening hon. Members put in the right place? Can they not be arrested? They are KANU councillors.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know the issues that the hon. Member is raising and I know we are looking at those particular individuals. We will report to this House appropriately.

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from what the Minister has said and the fact that I am also a victim of police harassment - you saw what happened to us at a public rally in Machakos - could the Minister tell this House whether it is the police who are supposed to issue licences or it is hon. Members who are supposed to notify the police? Are we supposed to notify the police or to go for a permit from the police station?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think I need to repeat. As I said, hon. Members and other Kenyans do not need a licence to hold a public rally. They only need to notify the police. What has happened is that - and the hon. Members will bear me out - if these police officers say that the meeting should not continue for any reason, which you may or may not agree with, they have the right under the Act to stop or prevent the convener from holding the meeting.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was one of the hon. Members who were teargassed and beaten up both at Meru and Chuka on 11th July, 1999. I do remember when we went to Chuka, we had a long discussion with the OCS. We told him that the meet-the-people tours do not require notification to the police and we asked him whether he was aware of the change in the Public Order Act and he told us, as far as he was concerned, there was nothing like a meet-the-people tour. So, it appears that this Minister has not informed the police on the ground about the changes in the law. Could the Minister call a seminar of the senior police officers, especially at the provincial level, which will be addressed by hon. Members and the police so that we can come to a common understanding about this law? Secondly, could the Minister also ensure that the DCs and the DOs do not continue to give instructions to the police to disrupt our tours using the guise of the district security committee. This is because the chairman of this DSC is the DC and, at the divisional level, it is the DO. These officers are using their powers to harass hon. Members and returning us from where we came from. Could the Minister confirm that he will organise seminars for us to meet these officers at the local level?

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Mr. Murungi. I think you have made yourself clear.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform this House that all police officers from the rank of Inspector and above are well aware of these changes. If anyone of them says that he is not aware of them, then he is not being honest. I would also like to inform this House that DCs have no authority to instruct the police on what action to take.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Let us move on to the next Question by Mr. Anyona.

Hon. Members: On points of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I have some matters which I want to deal with. Therefore, I want to get out of Question Time as quickly as possible so that I can deal with those matters.

Mr. Munyao: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I will not go against the ruling of the Chair. I would like to inform this House that I suffered at Machakos Town on that particular day, and yet, the Minister is misleading this House when he says that DCs are not supposed to give orders to the police. I have got evidence and I would like to inform the Minister, through the Chair, that the DC, Machakos District, called the police and ordered them to fire tear-gas canisters which hit my car at the back. The written answer that the Minister has read in this

House was drafted by the same DCs who have been embarrassing hon. Members of Parliament out there! How can one take the Minister seriously? This is because he has not even gone out of Nairobi to see what happened by himself? I would like to challenge the Minister, through the Chair, to go back and come back with an appropriate answer. This is because that written answer which came from all those DCs is not correct!

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Munyao, that is enough.

Hon. Members: On points of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! I should leave that Question now.

Mr. Kathangu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I feel a bit disappointed. We brought this Question to this House because the Chair had advised us to do that so that we could discuss the issue more. There is one thing that hurts me a lot, and I would like to discuss this with the Chair and the Minister. This issue is about militia men! We have seen formations of militia groups in this country. We have some people here who say that they have *Jeshi la Wazee. Kuna Mheshimiwa mwingine anasema kwamba ana Jeshi la Embakasi* and so forth. This is very serious and I want to know from the Minister about these militia men, so that this nation does not drift into anarchy and violence. What will the Minister do so that he nurtures a peaceful psychology in Kenyans against violence? Hon. Members of Parliament will feel secure in this country if the Government can provide security.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kathangu, you see, you are now giving a speech. Mr. Minister, what will you say to that?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that there is nothing like *Jeshi la Mzee*.

Hon. Members: No! No! No!

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to inform this House that there is no *Jeshi* of hon. Mwenje!

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muithia! Order means being orderly. Yes, Mr. Anyona.

DEATH OF INMATE KENNEDY ONDICHO

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that inmate Kennedy Ondicho died at Kibos Annex Prison on 24th April, 1999, but the relatives were not duly informed?

(b) Is he further aware that the body of the deceased is still at the New Nyanza General Hospital in a decomposed state?

(c) Could the Minister tell the House the cause of the death and the circumstances in which he died, and lay the postmortem report on the Table of the House?

(d) Could the Minister also pay due compensation to the family of the deceased, including burial expenses?

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Minister is aware that inmate Kennedy Ondicho died at Kibos Annex Prison on 26th April, 1999 and not on 24th April, 1999 as claimed by the hon. Questioner.

An. hon. Member: Speak up!

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr.

Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I speak loudly, they will tell me to speak in a low tone. The Minister is not aware---

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to give three names to this man? Instead of calling him "inmate Kennedy Ondicho" he is calling him "Inimate Kennedy Ondicho"! That is what he said!

Mr. Speaker: What are you saying, Mr. Ndicho?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of the Minister saying "inmate" the Chair heard him say "Inimate".

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Ndicho, if I were you, I would have been extremely careful today and in future. In fact, I will come to you after this Question. Proceed, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to the Chair, I will not reply to hon. Ndicho, because I am too old to fight.

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Chair to threaten an hon. Member of this House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I am not threatening Mr. Ndicho, but I am just giving an indication of things to come. Proceed, Mr. Minister.

(Laughter)

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, anyway, I had a long chat with the hon. Member of Parliament who was very interested in his constituents. We have also agreed that I will bring the postmortem report to this House. I do not know of anybody who died in prison. His body was handed over to the mortuary by the police. In fact, it is not the duty of the Prison Department to carry out that task. But because of being kind and an oldman, who is very kind to his people, I will look into the matter and see that the postmortem report is laid on the Table of this House next week.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before, I ask my supplementary question, I would like to concur with the Minister that the date the inmate died was 26th April, 1999 and not 24th April, 1999. I think that was a typing error. Secondly, I would also like to record the deep appreciation, especially of the family, for the personal efforts of the Minister in helping them to deal with this very sad situation, and in making some personal contribution, which the family greatly appreciates. I was asked by the family members to inform the Minister that they have bought a cow which will help the orphans.

Having said that, I would like to request the Minister to tell this House about the postmortem report because the family requires it. Secondly, under Section 387 of the Criminal Procedure Code, a matter of this nature where somebody died in prison, requires an inquest to be opened. I would like the Minister to confirm that either an inquest has been opened or that there will be one.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will do everything at my disposal to see that I please the hon. Member, who is very much interested in his people. I will also put him in the picture with regard

to what is going on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

DISORDERLY CONDUCT BY MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will recall that this morning an incident involving two hon. Members occurred within the Chamber, and the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, promised that we would communicate to the House about what happened. For the benefit of those hon. Members who were not present, I am informed that some time this morning, hon. Murathe and hon. Ndicho actually went physical against each other in this very Chamber. It took some hon. Members and some of the orderlies to actually physically separate them.

This august House will recall that last week I made reference to incidents where hon. Members accuse one another or members of the public falsely over grave matters. I did warn that I am getting increasingly worried about the nature of our behaviour in here. I am saddened by this kind of behaviour. I am speechless! I cannot explain. I cannot express myself fully over the disrespect brought to this House and to the Kenyan voters who have voted us here, by hon. Members actually fighting within this Chamber. It is the lowest we can get as a House. I take it very seriously and I hope the Kenyan public will also express its displeasure and disapproval. I also hope that this House will in its own wisdom also express its unanimous displeasure against this conduct. I am completely disheartened and it is a terrible thing to happen. I hope it will not happen again.

There is no greater amount of disorderly conduct that a Member can engage in more than fighting in the House. It is beyond disorder. I think the Deputy Speaker was right by not sending those hon. Members away. That punishment is not adequate. In my view there is no punishment within the Standing Orders or the Powers and Privileges Act adequate enough to deal with that kind of situation. I hope this House in its wisdom, will give the Chair "the teeth to bite" hon. Members who behave that way. It is absolutely sad that this thing should happen.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand on a point of order under Standing Order No.88(3)---

(Mr. Maitha and Mr. Koske walk from the Chamber)

Mr. Speaker: Order! The Chair finds it disrespectful for hon. Members to leave the Chamber when we are discussing a grievous matter of privilege and conduct in this House. I will take the very unusual step of ordering the Members back to the Chamber.

(Mr. Maitha and Mr. Koske returned to the Chamber)

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have clearly stated what happened this morning. I think it was a very shameful behaviour by the two hon. Members and we certainly agree that we need to give you the "teeth to bite". Just a few minutes ago, Members were complaining about the conduct of some of our policemen outside there, but the behaviour of the hon. Members here is even worse because we should behave

with some dignity in this House. This Chamber must be treated with dignity. I will request you to name the two hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker: I am more than satisfied that hon. David Murathe and hon. Stephen Ndicho deserve that and are hereby, named.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose that hon. Stephen Rugendo Ndicho, Member for Juja be suspended from the services of this House!

Hon. Members: And the other one?

Mr. Speaker: We will deal with each one individually. The hon. Members will find the relevant Standing Order No.89 which gives the remedy after one being named. I will straightaway put the question under Standing Order No.89(2) which is that hon. Stephen Ndicho be named?

(Question, that Mr. Ndicho be named, put and agreed to)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndicho stands suspended from the services of the House for three continuous sittings. This, therefore, means that he is suspended now, tomorrow and on such other day when this House will meet. He has three sitting days to miss. In the meantime, between now and the last day of suspension, the hon. Member will not be allowed to step into the precincts of Parliament.

For as long as the Member remains suspended, before he finishes suspension, I do now order that his salary and allowances for the period under which the hon. Member remains suspended, shall not be paid to him. If hon. Ndicho is unfortunate that this House adjourns tomorrow for our normal two months period, it will mean that he will never step in the Parliament precincts until the House resumes and sits for one day, then he will come on the second day. He may not be paid until he finishes that suspension.

You are now a stranger and you should leave the Chamber. The Sergeant-at-Arms is further directed by me to escort that hon. Member from that door, the gate to Harambee Avenue and leave him there. Mr. Ndicho, you are now a stranger. Will you now leave?

(Mr. Ndicho withdrew from the Chamber)

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to safeguard the safety of hon. Members in the Chamber and in order to protect the integrity of this Parliament, I would, in pursuance to the provisions of Standing Order No.89(a) beg to move that the Member for Gatanga, hon. David wa Kairu Murathe be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I will now put the question which is that hon. David Murathe be suspended from the services of the House.

(Question, that Mr. Murathe be named, put and agreed to)

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Murathe here? If he is not here he should be told that exactly the same fate that has befallen hon. Ndicho faces him with equal measure. I further direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to go round the Parliament buildings and ensure that hon. Murathe is nowhere within site. Should you find him use "all reasonable force" to ensure that he leaves the precincts

(Applause)

Next order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for the Committee read
being the 13th Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT, MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 20 - Ministry of Water Resources

The Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair to enable me to initiate debate on Vote 20 - Ministry of Water Resources.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Can we hear the Minister for Water Resources in silence?

The Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Ng'eny): From the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to emphasise and stress that the Ministry, including myself, will take very seriously all the comments, suggestions and any advice which might be given by this House and other Kenyans with regard to the affairs of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that we all appreciate the importance of water to a country. On top of that, I would like to add a few things which we have not been emphasising in the past. I do insist that water is the lifeline for all living creatures. We cannot talk about food without water or food security without water, or any other form of security as such. In fact, in those areas which we call semi-arid and arid areas like North-Eastern Province, Eastern Province and parts of Rift Valley, where there is scarcity of water and hence semi-desert conditions, we have a lot of insecurity. If there was water provided in those areas, then some of those problems could be reduced by 75 per cent. This is because the question of wananchi moving for long distances in search of water will not arise and, therefore, there will be settlement and where there is settlement, there is security. When we have water, it means there is food and when there is food, it means that there is security in every aspect. So, I think we should put a lot of effort in providing water because we know that we cannot live without water. Water has got a lot of security implications, not only within the nation but also within our international borders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this country, we have a number of water supply points, some of which were constructed before Independence, while others were constructed after Independence.

All those points have undergone various modifications. We call them rehabilitation, reconstruction or redesigning in order to accommodate the level of demand of water as the population increases year by year. As of now, this country has more than 330 water schemes of various sizes, right from an individual's water supply scheme to a very large one like Mzima Pipeline and the Masinga-Kitui Water Project. Technologies and level of investment differ from project to project but the most important and crucial thing is that over the years, there has been a decline in the programme of funding water supply in this country. During the same period, the population of this country has increased and the demand and awareness for the use of water has increased. During the same period, the need to rehabilitate those water schemes has been felt and all the time, the funding and the requirement has not matched the demand for water. So, there has been a mis-match between the demand and the funding of water, hence the problem which is being felt throughout the country. This is not only a problem which is being felt in the Ministry but it is a phenomenon which is being felt throughout the country because of the global economic situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the fact that we are having difficulties because of financial constraints, the Ministry is doing its best to rationalise its operations. Therefore, we are trying to ensure that with the very meagre financial resources the schemes which are not operational, should operate at optimal level, with the minimal amount of money given by the Government. Recently, this House debated a Sessional Paper on water policy and I am happy it was a very lively debate. It was passed and it is now being implemented by the Ministry. The main objective was to emphasise the policy issues. This is because, if we do not have policy issues sorted out, it will be very difficult to project and implement some of the things which the Government would like to do. One of the most crucial issues which that Policy Paper dwelt on, was the conservation of water. The other issues were to ensure that once a supply scheme has been designed, constructed and implemented, and once it comes into operation, it should be operated efficiently to ensure that good quality water is given to wananchi.

In addition, the Ministry is looking into the policy framework under which various players in the water sector should be placed. This is because without deciding where those various players precisely fall into, it is difficult to know who is doing what, at what time and where. So, these policies are now being implemented and are being refined. More so, in all these issues, what is crucial is that whatever is being planned or implemented, all those schemes should always be self-sustaining, both in terms of policy framework, institutional framework and financial capability. So, all those aspects will be taken care of. To finalise the policy issue, you will recall I did mention in the Policy Paper that there are so many Acts of Parliament in the Water Sector. In fact, I did mention that there are 26 of them. It is the wish of the Ministry that these should be consolidated into one Act. I am happy to say that we are now in liaison with the Attorney-General and we are in the process of drafting amendments on the Water Act to bring them to this House for debate and final approval.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have talked in and outside this House, about the damage which the *El Nino* phenomenon has done to a number of structures. The Ministry of Water Resources did not escape the damage of the *El Nino* rains. The *El Nino* rains visited the Ministry of Water Resources in a very big way. The only difference is that most people do not notice that the Ministry of Water was actually damaged. There was a devastating damage on our installations, because they are normally underground and it is not easy to notice them. But otherwise, the

damage was enormous. At the end of the *El Nino* rains, when we assessed the damage, it was nearly Kshs3 billion worth of water schemes damaged. If you go to the forests where we normally get water, you will see that all our pipes have been removed. The tanks have been washed away from one place to another and many other damages. So, we were very badly affected by the *El Nino* rains. I hope the Government and our friendly countries will sympathise with the Ministry. Because of the combined effect of lack of implementation over the years and the *El Nino* rains, if we have to build all the water schemes in this country to the desired water production to reasonable levels, we need about Kshs7 billion. Although we need that amount of money, this is not to say we are not going to do anything, because that money is not available. We shall do the best we can through our own initiatives and our enthusiasm to provide services to wananchi.

I am happy to say that so far, my Ministry, through the very hard-working staff, has done the best it can to implement the projects. I am also happy to say hon. Members have very much understood our problem and I think with the meagre resources, we have done the best we could.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will without doubt notice that what is in the 1999/2000 Printed Estimates on the Development Expenditure ranges between K£508 million to K£577 million. My Ministry's gross expenditure during the financial year will be K£81,825,830-00-00. The amount of Appropriation-in-Aid will be K£58,680,000-00-00, leaving a net expenditure of K£23,145,830-00-00.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Printed Estimates of the Recurrent Expenditure ranges between K£11,017,000-00-00 to K£11,041,000-00-00, reflecting a gross Recurrent Expenditure of K£63,694,290-00-00. The Appropriation-in-Aid amounts to K£8,152,110-00-00, leaving a net expenditure of K£55,542,180-00-00. The combined expenditure that I am seeking this House to approve is, therefore, K£145,520,120-00-00.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, water development activities in the recent past have covered the whole country. As I said earlier, we have had a number of projects from small scale to large scale. As of now, we have a number of projects in Western Kenya which are being undertaken by friendly countries under SIDA to assist various recipients, particularly, the community based projects. I would like to appeal to those communities who have community-based projects to manage them well. This is because, in future, the Government intends to give water projects, big or small, to various communities. We shall start with small projects in the rural areas to ensure that they are managed by wananchi. We shall then gradually move to bigger projects and eventually come to municipalities where we shall commercialise and privatise them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look at the demand for projects throughout the country, we see enormous work in front of us. If we consider the current demand for water now, we require something like three billion cubic litres of water per day. We are hardly getting 50 per cent of that. So, we have enormous work ahead of us. In the next ten years, we will require a minimum of 12 billion cubic litres of water per day. This is equal to 140 times

the water volume of Tana River water. I asked my engineer to calculate and he told me that, to satisfy the requirement of water in Kenya for the next 15 years, we need Tana River's volume 140 times. That is when I scratched my head and wondered where we are going to get that amount of water. So, I am challenging that we will get that amount of water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the most important things is the quality of the water. Quality is what we are going to emphasise on. We are really going through various channels to ensure that water in this country is good and wholesome enough to be used by human beings and animals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank hon. Members once more for their good understanding. However, I would request Members to take water, not just as a commodity that is really essential but as a commodity which has got a lot of security implications, particularly in those drier areas. I would also like to assure this august House that my officers have been sensitised to serve wananchi with impartiality, diligence and dedication. I am sure, given your support, we shall do our best to deliver the required services.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely and honestly thank His Excellency the President, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi for his able leadership. Without his leadership, we cannot do a thing; not even designing a water scheme in a rural village.

With those remarks, I beg to move.

The Assistant Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to second this Motion. I wish to request hon. Members of Parliament to consider passing this Vote. This is a very critical Ministry in this country, because of the provision of a very important commodity called water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Minister and his team at Maji House for the manner in which they have maintained our water systems, and for the manner in which, under very difficult circumstances and given the limited resources, they have tried to make sure that each and every household in this country has access to a certain amount of water for survival.

Having said that, I would like to request the Minister to consider a few proposals on behalf of the people of Wajir South Constituency, that I represent in Parliament. I come from a constituency that really requires actual full-time involvement of this Ministry. We depend on livestock, but the rainfall seasons are not predictable. So, in most cases, we depend on underground water from boreholes. If proper programmes in the Ministry are put in place, in an attempt to provide dams, then we can be able to reduce the problems that we have faced for a long period of time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have boreholes that were drilled in 1974 through the USAID in my constituency, along Lorian Swamp, all the way from Habaswein to a place called Sarif. I have made several visits to the Minister and his Permanent Secretary in an attempt to request them to establish the possibility of getting donor funds or even Government funds to replace these boreholes. A borehole has got a specific lifespan and the ones in place are on the verge of collapse. This is going to be a disaster. I had requested the Ministry to replace them, but to date, I am still disappointed that nothing tangible has happened. Habaswein is the central administrative centre of my constituency. This constituency is so large that I have to travel for eight to ten days in order to effectively cover it. The only major borehole we had in that town collapsed, probably, ten months ago. People in that town trek three to four kilometres in order to get the normal house water supply from projects under the ASAL Programme. They even trek five kilometres from the town. This has led to serious destruction in the social order of

that town. Mothers and young girls have to walk long distances to fetch water. This problem would have been alleviated if this Ministry was serious about making arrangements for the replacement of these boreholes. I know that a site was identified, but they have taken a longer period than expected to dig a borehole in that town. Once more, I wish to request the Minister to dig up that borehole. Last year when we passed the Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources, I requested the Minister and his team at Maji House to do so. This year, I am on the same topic; please hasten the replacement of that borehole. It is a serious disruption of activities, we have had many problems and there is an outcry in my constituency. That is the major commercial centre in my constituency. I would like to request the Minister and his team to visit Wajir Town or North Eastern Province as a whole. I am glad the Minister was in the Presidential entourage, and I am sure he saw the problems the people face. I would like him to make an arrangement with the team from Maji House and make a visit with the intention of getting first-hand information on the ground. If we do not do that, we risk losing public support.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue I would like to raise here, concerns the Egypt Borehole Programme being funded by the Egyptian Government. They are supposed to dig up 100 boreholes every year. I think we have a problem on priorities. Here we have a province that depends entirely on boreholes, and yet we have not been prioritised. Sometimes we get one or three new boreholes. The last time I attended the DDC meeting, I was told that we have three boreholes under this programme for Wajir District. It is not sufficient to dig up three boreholes only, out of 100 that are supposed to be dug up, because our livelihood depends entirely on boreholes. In the entire district, there is no single river or stream. We depend on underground water. Support from donor agencies and other friendly governments should go to the areas that require this assistance. There is no need digging up these boreholes in regions where people will probably consider them a luxury. We do not require three boreholes for Wajir. We require a minimum of 10 boreholes every year to satisfy our needs. We are disappointed and we are not sure whether we shall ever have the three boreholes that we have been promised. I would like the Minister to make visits to this region. We are doubtful because of what has happened in the past.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other very important aspect is training. This Ministry has got a training institute where every year, we have quite a number of students graduating. I really appreciate the fact that the Ministry has tried to enrol quite a number of students, especially from the marginal areas. The Ministry should spread this training to the locational level, so that we can train people in those areas. For example, we have a programme in our region where we have handed over the boreholes and other water facilities to the communities. But those people have no basic accounting knowledge. We would like members of the Water-User-Association to be trained in handling the water facilities. At the moment, there is very little Government involvement and more community involvement. If you hand over a borehole to a pastoralist community who do not understand the meaning of basic book keeping, it is no good. We need to train them. Ministry officials should also supervise the accounts of these water user associations. I am sure, the backbone of our economy, especially in North Eastern is livestock. There is no proper accounting for money collected on a daily basis by the people who manage the boreholes. If there was proper accounting, we would be able to replace these bore-holes on our own. I am sure if there is effective management, after every seven or eight months, one borehole can be able to replace another. Since this training is lacking, I would like to request the Minister and his team to ensure that training is conducted at the locational level; the very basic level. They should be trained in basic accounting and usage skills

of generators and other equipment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must also be able to develop a master-plan for irrigation, especially in the semi-arid areas. Sometimes there are huge downpours like the *El Nino* rains. We made a very big mistake in the North Eastern Province, because we could have harvested the rainfall we had at that time, for irrigation and purposes of livestock development. But because there was no such plan, or the general laxity, we could not be able to effectively tap that particular resource. In future, if we get that kind of downpour, like the *El Nino* rains, we should be prepared to effectively manage the resources that we have.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am the "Shadow Minister" for Water Resources. I stand to support the Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources so that the Minister can get the amount of money he is asking for to render services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I begin to make my contribution about the Ministry of Water Resources, other than being the "Shadow Minister", I am also in the Committee of Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. The Minister knows very well that we have worked together over the last one and half years about issues of this kind. I know the Minister very well. He was once the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Water. We know what he did and even now, we saw his enthusiasm when he came to Mwingi. He is light and he can travel. He toured all the areas there to locate swamps of water. I am sure given the way we know him, he is likely to do a good job, particularly when he is supported by very efficient officers from his Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am only worried of one thing, that today, as we discuss about such an important Ministry with very efficient personnel, the Ministry has been allocated only K£25 million (Kshs1 billion). This Ministry should be given much more money. This is very serious! If today we are talking about eradication of poverty by the year 2016; we have no time to wait with the burden of poverty over us for another 16 or 20 years to come. If this Ministry is given enough money, then it can help this country to eradicate poverty within a very short period. If this Ministry can be given adequate funds, about 75 per cent of the 30 million Kenyans can employ themselves in the farms countrywide.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me comment on one or two issues before I come into the general statement. I have gone through the Economic Survey of this year, and as I have said, I have seen so many documents about water. As we talk, development expenditure for water supplies and related services has dropped by 58 per cent at a time when we need clean water. The Government must show that it is committed to saving water catchment areas and conserving forests. As we speak, all the water catchment areas and forests in the country are being cleared and yet, we are talking about increasing water. The Minister is so determined to catch every tributary in this country. How are we going to do that when we are depleting water catchments and forests in the whole country which should be holding water? These are areas which we must take care of, instead of depleting them.

The Government has seriously abdicated its duty for positive purification of water points. We have actually handed over this responsibility to the NGOs. We want the Minister to get back that responsibility because today, water purification centres have all gone to the NGOs. I think we are not going to get a fair deal. At the same time, those water purification centres have dropped and the Minister is aware of that. In 1996/97, water purification points came down from 358 to 354. In 1997/98, they dropped by another 20 per cent to about 283. It is high time that we

matched what we are saying here and what is happening outside. That way, we would now provide services to our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we speak, the budgetary allocations even for water have actually dropped in areas where the inhabitants need support. We know that about one-third of Rift Valley Province, the entire North-Eastern Province, about 75 per cent Eastern Province and 80 per cent of Coast Province are dry areas. How are we going to tackle this? We still want the Minister to tell us, but we do not want him to get to a point of putting a square peg in a round hole because the amount of money we are giving him is too little to match his intentions. When we look at the Development Estimates of the Ministry, the areas the Ministry would like to touch on is about 10 pages. The money we have given to the Minister is not even enough to pay salaries for the personnel running the Ministry. He needs some engineers and to get good engineers, he ought to pay them very well because we are competing with other countries. We have been talking about losing our experts to other countries because the job market is liberalised. If the Minister who is an engineer himself has got to retain the engineers in his Ministry, he has to pay them well. In fact, to retain this Minister, we also need to pay him fairly well, because he can get a job elsewhere. We do not want to hear that the Minister for Water Resources is in Tanzania or elsewhere. We, as a country, must think seriously and, if we want good results, we must be able to pay well. There are two things which do not go very well; a good person and a bad person. To get a good person like Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, it is very expensive. We ought to march what we are saying with what is on the ground.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the Development Estimates for 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97 and all the other financial years, they have all come down. The Development Estimates for 1994/95 financial year was K£212 million; 1995/96 - K£214 million; 1996/97 - K£195 million and last year, it was K£153 million and now it is about K£64.5 million. Where are we going? This is the time we need money and our allocations are dropping. I know that we cannot have enough funds, but it is high time that this country borrowed enough funds to do a good and sensible job. I remember that about 10 years ago, this country had gone out to lobby for money. There was a time when Machakos District borrowed K£200 million from the MIDB. The only scenario is that when the money came from Italy or from the European Union, they brought experts to spend their money and take it back there because the contract was not what we would want. I would like the Minister as he shops for money, to ask those donors to give us the money and we shall offer labour. At that time, we had people who were seconded there and their salaries were not affordable. They were also given driers in Machakos. You cannot imagine having a drier in such a hot weather to dry clothes, and the heavy vehicles we are talking about. I am sure the policy now is totally different and the Minister would want to take care of that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I talk now, we do not have clean water. This is because in rural areas, we do not have clean water. Even in urban areas like Nairobi City and other towns, we are all using water that has mixed with sewerage deposits. This is why our children are developing all sorts of diseases. Some of them have got kwashiokor, others have khal-azaar which is completely untreatable and there is also typhoid, a more recent one and it is not getting eradicated. All these diseases are brought about by drinking dirty water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Minister to put a lot of effort in research. We need a lot of research to know the areas where water is available. Let us put a lot of research in this field. As I talk, there are areas like Ukambani in Eastern Province, Rift Valley Province, North Eastern Province and several other areas which have got rivers. When it rains

like it did last year, you find that if the Indian Ocean were a company, some of us would be the chairmen of that company because we would be holding the biggest shares there. The water that flows into the Indian Ocean where it is not needed comes from the hills of Ukambani, North Eastern Province and all the other areas. We have got enough rivers. What we need to do with these rivers and particularly those in Ukambani, that is the River Tana, Athi River and also Thwake River is to dam them. I would like the Minister to tell us when he is replying, is what he wants to do about them. This is because we need to block these rivers. Ideas have been floated on blocking the Athi River at least three or four times before it flows into the Indian Ocean. What we need is to block certain levels. For example, from Thika you block it maybe, for about three feet. Then block it for another 50 kilometres and so on, so that the excess water will still be flowing and eventually, very little water flows to the Indian Ocean. By so doing, the water will flow back to the land and raise water tables. That way, even those people who want to dig up wells in their areas like we do in Ukambani to get water for animals and human beings will get the water in an easier manner.

Apart from blocking the Athi River and River Tana, all the tributaries which feed these rivers should also be blocked. We can do it through community encouragement which the public is ready to do, provided that there is enough education on this practice. Wananchi in those areas ought to be told how they can organise themselves as a community to block these rivers because later, there will be an advantage. If we block these small rivers which flow into Athi River and Tana River, this country will achieve a lot and that will be easier than borrowing money as we borrowed from Italy, to divert the water from Mount Kilimanjaro all the way to Kajiado and Machakos.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if that money which we spent at that time piping water from Mount Kilimanjaro was used in the rural areas to block these tributaries that I am talking about, then we would have done a lot. At the moment, I know that we need piped water but if a pipe bursts here in Nairobi and it takes three months to repair and the City Hall is here--- Everybody including the Mayor and the councillors pass through that place then what about if that pipe bursts somewhere like 100 kilometres from Emali in the bush? That pipe will take three years to repair. We will be saying that there is no water in the areas that this water is flowing through. There will be no water and we will be complaining all the time. Questions will be asked here but at times, there are not enough funds for the Minister to send somebody along the waterline. Let us change our policies. Let us bring water nearer to people, instead of practising the policy that we had about ten years ago. This is because when Dr. Kiano was the Minister for Water Development, I took him to Mbooni Constituency. I took him there as the guest of honour to a water project and that is when he said that by the year 2000, "*maji itakuwa maguru mbili*." I did not know the meaning of "*maguru mbili*" at that time. Do not even ask me to tell you what it means because I knew "*maguru mbili*" meant a kilometre away. I went around telling people that by the year 2000, we shall have water about a kilometre away. Today, that water is about 15 kilometres away and here again, we now get bogged down by the social aspect. This is because some *Akamba men* like you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, and me have got to have four to five women. This is because, you need one of them to sleep near the water catchment. Then, there are two women who will carry the pails and at your age, you need one to stay with you when the others are away. This is a difficult social aspect because Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation will start fighting us and yet, we have no other solution because we feel this is the only solution. This is because in our area, it takes time for an individual to clean himself decently.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, I am requesting the Minister that along with whatever ideas he has, let us try and allocate money into water resources and block these other tributaries. I would be happy if to start with, this year, we had about Kshs1 billion allocated to every province. That is Kshs1 billion for each of the eight provinces for water projects. Then, these areas like North Eastern Province, Eastern Province, Rift Valley Province and all the others would get an extra Kshs2 billion. This is because in that way, we will be getting near water. However, this money which we are about to vote here, I think is a public relations exercise. I do not know where we will get to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I talk about the water projects, I will tell the Minister a little thing about myself. This is because I am the shadow Minister for Water Resources. Every political party went around with their own manifestos in 1997 and talked about what they would be ready to do for the public. The DP manifesto promised the country that if we were in the Government--- First, we opened our promise on water by saying that water is life. After saying that, we said we had the ability to convert the arid and semi-arid areas into green acres of land. I am telling you how we said it and I would like you to listen. We were ready and we knew what we were going to do. DP promised the country that if we take over power, we will go out and borrow enough money to make sure that every year we have ten small and medium dams in every constituency.

(Applause)

That is, out of the 210 constituencies, every year, we were ready to provide them with the dams and even now, we are committed to do it. If you want to test DP, then come on this side and we come to yours and you will see a total change.

(Laughter)

We had committed ourselves as DP, to provide water by supplying ten small and medium dams in every constituency in the country. That commitment is still there and we would like to carry it out. We were ready to avail water for domestic use, fish and irrigation purposes and more so, clean water. Clean water is very important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak now, in this country, we have the commitment, but you find that, clean water is depleted. We do not know where it is and we are now talking about budgets. We are talking about budgets which this country has to operate within. When we talk about finances of the country, here we are and I am going to be very careful--- I am saying that in this country now, we are talking about finances and at the same time when we are talking about such serious matters, we go on appointing civil servants who have got a decent package in their old appointments to an extent that, I do not know where we are going to get money to pay these extra civil servants. This is because from the way I understand it and I stand to be corrected, the few civil servants that we have appointed this week, are not even appointed to the Civil Service but are seconded to the Civil Service with their old salary rates. For example, Dr. Leakey is coming with his pay package from the KWS which is already voted for in this Vote. The PS (Treasury) is coming with his own budget from Barclays Bank. The other Permanent Secretaries are coming with their own salaries from other countries. So, five Permanent Secretaires are going to clear the total Budget of Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this trend will interfere with the behaviour of civil

servants. Some civil servants are paid a lot of money while others are paid very little. How can we control this situation? It is very bad to talk about lack of money and spend about Kshs20 million on four or five Permanent Secretaries for the services they render to the public, plus other privileges. As I conclude my contribute, I will remind the House, through the Chair, that employment contracts for public servants be laid here in future, so that when we discuss the Budget, we will know what the country will be committing itself to. We may end up committing ourselves to something we may not be able to pay.

The salary paid to one of these public servants is enough to supply water to the entire Machakos Town, and that of another one can supply water to the whole of Kitui Town. As we talk here, the Minister can only afford to fuel his official vehicle to tour Ukambani and tell the people: "Serikali ina mipango ya kuwaletea maji", as if we eat mipango. We would like to know the exact plans the Government has to provide water to the people. We know that the Minister's hands may be tied; if the Minister was the only one to make decisions on such matters, he would give us whatever we need.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have looked at the Economic Survey and the Budget proposals. Before I conclude my contribution to the Motion, I would like to ask the Minister to initiate borehole projects based on research on water availability in a particular area. He should see what we can do with boreholes whose water is becoming saline. There are individuals who have invested a lot of money in borehole drilling. However, within a short time, some of the boreholes have dried up while others have turned saline. I am saying this from experience. A neighbour in my area sunk a 200 meter-deep borehole; if we put you to the bottom of that borehole, we will not have a chain with which to pull you out. However, within a year, the borehole dried up completely. Those boreholes which have not dried up, operated for only a year and their water became salty the following year.

Now, what can we do to assist individuals who have sunk boreholes, so that they can have water for their use? It is important to help such committed individuals. Doing so is the only way in which we can quickly and easily eradicate poverty. If the Kshs1.2 billion that has been given to the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC) to buy vehicles, unnecessary stationery and other equipment was invested in such projects, it would do a lot for Kenyans. The Commission has been allocated Kshs1.2 billion while the entire Ministry has been allocated Kshs1.1 billion. If we continue doing such things, our planning system can be doubted. One may wonder whether we are beginning from the known to the unknown or the *vice versa*. What are our priorities in such matters?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion on the Ministry's Vote, I would like to end my contribution by wishing the Ministry a happy and safe journey. I know that the task ahead is difficult. The Ministry will try to put a square peg in a round hole, and it will not enter. However, we will listen to the Minister for the whole year because Questions will be brought to this House. I wish to advise the Minister to refer to previous Questions where the Ministry committed itself to complete various projects in the field. We would like him to take it upon himself to clear all those queries, particularly, to try and complete those projects which were started before starting new ones.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Nyachae: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to the Motion on the Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources.

I would like to support the Minister's request. However, I would like to say that it is high time that, the country gave more emphasis to matters concerning water. I think the Ministry has

been treated as one which deserves general treatment. It has been given limited amounts of money. The amount of money being requested by the Minister will not make any impact in this Financial Year. I think the treatment that is given to some of these very important Ministries is based on lack of understanding of our priorities. If we are to grow more food in this country, we must develop our water resources. We are leaving nature to support us on food production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Egypt now exports food; it produces more food crops than it needs. It exports food, despite the fact that its population is greater than that of our country. This is because its Government has invested heavily in water management, water development and irrigation programmes. That country has attained such an enormous achievement in agriculture and yet, its land is much drier than some of our areas in the northern frontier districts. Its land is a desert, but because its Government has invested a lot of money in water, the country produces more food than it needs. Now, that country exports food to the rest of Africa and horticultural crops to Europe.

In this country, we think that the problems we are experiencing in the health sector are there because there are diseases, and because we do not have medicines. Many of the problems we are experiencing in health arise from our failure to manage our water resources properly. This is because we are not putting enough money in water supply and treatment. Even taps in some hospitals are dry and yet, we expect those hospitals to be clean. Even urban centres such as Nairobi do not have adequate water resources. If you ask how many people in this House, including those in the galleries, had a bath this morning, you will realise that a good number of them had wished to take a bath but they did not do so because there was no water. This is the case for most of this country's urban centres. We just wear suits in order to be smart. Some people wash their faces, wear suits, and feel as if they have taken a bath.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now want to be very specific. There are areas in this country which are very fertile, but there are no irrigation programmes or dams there. This is not because we do not have engineers. We have many engineers in this country! I am talking about this because I have been in charge of the Ministry of Water Resources before, and I know that we have enough engineers who can carry out the required work. There are enough details about the water existence in this country, but to get those reports implemented, we need to put enough resources in this Ministry. We are spending much more money in "political games" than in considering the lives of people. We need to improve the living conditions of our people in the rural areas. A Turkana will be very happy if we gave him water. Majority of the people in Ukambani would be quite happy, and they would improve their living conditions, if we constructed dams for them and gave them water. If we go to East Pokot and provide them with water, we will improve their living conditions. If we go to North Eastern Province, we will improve the living conditions of those people because people and their livestock will have access to water. If we go to the lower areas of the West Pokot and Western Province, parts of Busia District, they need water, particularly for irrigation. If we go to Coast Province, they also need water for irrigation.

Over and above that, the reasons for lack of tourists coming to Kenya are insecurity, instability, water, food and economic mismanagement. In the Coast Province, majority of the hotels do not get adequate water. The tourists want to swim and after swimming, they want a nice shower. If they come and find that there is no water, they will go to countries where there is water and where they can enjoy comfortably. Are we saying that we do not have rivers or that Mzima Springs does not have enough water? I have visited the off-take point and there is plenty of water there, but we have not put enough resources in there.

A few years ago, we as a country had to beg Egypt to assist us with borehole drilling machines to dig 100 boreholes in Kenya. Is this country incapable of buying the same rigs? Can we not buy enough rigs to drill our own boreholes here? Egypt is gaining out of our water here, yet, we have the water here and we are taking things for granted. Anywhere we fly low whether by helicopter or any aircraft, we see rivers but they are not being utilised properly because of lack of resources. I want to request the Minister to come up, not only with a Sessional Paper telling us what could be done, but with some additional information which could elevate the importance of this Ministry; additional information to make this Ministry to be considered as the life-line of Kenyans. We will improve the living conditions of the people, their health and have enough food in this country. If we can do this by putting more resources in that Ministry, we will have improved the living conditions of Kenyans. That is one of the economic actions that is needed.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me tell the same story as hon. Nyachae, but using different words.

(Laughter)

Let us be serious when a Motion requires seriousness. This Ministry of Water Resources is a very important one and, I suggest that the Minister and the top officials should search and find a balanced policy for water development in this country. The Ministry should find time to discuss closely with the Treasury and the Ministry of Agriculture, the importance of water and water supply. In the Minister's hands is water and "the flow of water is the flow of life", right from the beginning.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about food security and we use the word "food", the Ministry should know that food security is all but water. Scientists tell us, and I agree with them, that about 90 per cent of the food we eat is all about water. Like my own body, it is all about water. If I want to reduce, I will just tell the doctor to help me reduce the water. I would like to suggest to the Minister that while planning for the water development in the country, we should put on the face of a human being. Let us plan with a human face. When we are planning for the supply of water, let our hearts go to the dry parts of our country like the North Eastern Province; let us go to the drier parts of the north. If we are talking about the drilling of boreholes, it is a shame for a whole district to have only three boreholes planned for it, and that district depends on boreholes for its water supply and it does not have even a single river. The flow of water is not through river; there is no river there. The flow of water is underground, and we must plan to bring it up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we plan for water development, we should not only look at human consumption, but also on livestock. Let us look for water for the Taita-Taveta people. In what form do they want water so as to boost their livestock production? What about in Kajiado and Narok? We want the supply of water to boost livestock production in those areas. This is where I would like to tell the Minister that he needs to have closer consultation with the Ministries concerned so that he gets more money. We need more money to finance credible projects, which the Minister must come up with.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when one is planning for food security in the Lake Shore area, one's heart should go to Busia District; go to parts of Siaya and see how dry they are. Go further down to Suba and across to Nyatike.

(Laughter)

What is required there is water, not necessarily from the rivers, but from the lake. The lake was created by the Almighty God. Why should we not tap water from there? How many times in this House, and in other rallies, shall I persuade this Ministry to think of the hillocks along the Lake Victoria hinterland, Odiado and of Ramogi? Why not use these hillocks to pump water from the lake and let the water be used for irrigation so that each farmer gets a small-scale irrigation project?

We do not want to hear that there is no technology; it is available. What we need is proper planning, and I am pleased that the Minister himself, as a person, is a very decent and level-headed person. He is an engineer; he does not go round issues. This is the Ministry that should really make him shine! We want water to save Kenya from poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are saying that by the year 2016, poverty will be eradicated in Kenya. That is too far! We would like to get rid of poverty while we are still alive. The year 2016 may find me dead, but I will watch it from a respectable distance.

(Laughter)

I want to suggest and persuade the Minister that this is the time for that.

At the constituency level, I only want the establishment of small schemes to help Muhoroni, which was promoted by the Government to a town council level, to have water. I want Chemelil to have water. That will not cost too much money, if it is properly planned. I would like to suggest to the Minister that his idea about community-based water projects is an excellent idea. But let it be put into practice, not only in Muhoroni and Chemelil and other areas near Miwani, but also elsewhere, particularly, in the drier parts of our good country; North Eastern and Eastern Provinces.

With these few remarks, I would like to support the Motion.

Mr. Poghiso: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to also contribute to this very important Motion on the Ministry of Water Resources.

If the people of Pokot were asked to name any three things that this Ministry should offer, it would simply be more water; water in Kacheliba, Alale and Kasein divisions, and water everywhere. West Pokot is endowed with a lot of water resources, some of which we do not see. But we have rivers. There is River Murunyu which runs perennially and needs to be tapped. We have the River Suam, which goes down to the Turkwell Gorge. That river also runs throughout the year. Those are two sources which will never run out of water. The Ministry just needs to take up the challenge and pump that water, like my colleague from the other side said, to the hills and let that water run down by gravity and we will be very much alive and not starving.

It needs to be said that water sometimes actually acts in the place of food. When people are starving and there is no food, like the situation in our place right now, if water is available, it can sustain people longer until food is found. That is how important water is, apart from the other significant we know. So, this Ministry does supplement the need for food. I hope that this money, although I am also at the forefront of saying that this Ministry is not getting enough money to supply water, will help to make water available everywhere.

Government Ministries need to work together. This Ministry needs to work very closely

with the Ministry of Health. We have a big problem; that is of cases of typhoid, embryocella, and others, because there is no availability of clean water. So, you can go to the hospital hundred times, and if you get home, and no clean water is available, you are not doing anything to solve the problem. So, we need the Ministry of Health to work in concert with the Ministry of Water Resources to make sure that water resources in those areas, where the problem of water is greatest, is provided. One such place is Kacheliba Town. It is the only urban area in my constituency, yet it has no water. It has a water project which has stalled for many years. Every year, some money is budgeted for it. This year there is K£25,000. That cannot buy the pipes needed and so, that project is going to wait for another year. So, we will come back here and pass another K£20,000, or something less. I want to request that the Ministry does a good job, and does it to completion, because if you put K£25,000 it cannot finish that project. That project has been in the books for the last many years. I would request for that, because it is the only urban centre - that is the Divisional Headquarters - and it needs to have clean water. Water is not a problem; the problem is the pipes and the engineering works, because water can be gotten from the River Suam. Water is not going to run out; this project needs to be funded so that clean water can reach the households. All we are asking is water to be processed and supplied to the people of Kacheliba.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other reason why I said the Minister should work in conjunction with the other Ministries is because the donors pulled out without much warning. This was a project that was responsible for repairing boreholes and sinking new ones. Now that they are going, we will face a very bleak future in terms of water. I do ask the Ministry to step in and take over the works of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) projects where donors pulled out. The Ministry of Rural Development that is responsible for the ASAL projects, should have liaised with the Ministry of Water Resources and ensure that, when the others pull out, somebody else could step in. This is because in a place that is semi-arid and arid, the most important commodity is water. I would request the Ministry of Water Resources to look for funding to drill new boreholes, and repair the existing ones.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an element of maintenance of those boreholes. There are so many of them that have broken down. The maintenance of such boreholes has been neglected. I do want to propose that local people who have gone to school and live in the area, need to be trained in dam drilling and maintenance. They should be deployed back in the villages to repair those boreholes. They have a stake in the boreholes and they will keep an eye on them, so that when small things go wrong, they can fix them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also want to propose that the Ministry should enhance our traditional water wells and service dams. That does not need much technology. It needs enough technology to get it started. This will help the people in areas where we cannot afford to sink boreholes. To maintain such wells, it will only take the village committees to do that. Those are the kind of things that we need to maintain water.

I have already spoken on the Kacheliba Water Project. But I do urge the Minister to urgently help on this project. I do invite the Minister to visit the area and see for himself. Sometimes, when we paint a picture of a place, it looks far-fetched until the Minister, Permanent Secretary or somebody from Nairobi comes to visit it. It is very simple. The Minister should even threaten to visit the area, even if he does not intend to visit. Let word go round that the Minister will go there. I am telling you things will happen. There will be people who will run around. Vehicles will be seen that day and where there was no water, water will be found. So, sometimes, the Minister can just threaten to go. But in this case, I am actually inviting the

Minister to visit Kacheliba Constituency.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we sometimes complain of very small things. In the cities, we say that the water does not get to the showers or to the spare storage tanks. But there are people who go for days without a drink of water. We do not even complain of washing clothes. We are talking about people who go on for days without a drink of water. This is an actual situation where I come from. Could the Ministry begin to look into situations like that, and give them priority? Sometimes, when we ask for affirmative action, it is not that we need to be treated any special. It is just that if you go to those places, you will realise that those are the places we should have started in the first place. You will realise that all the other complaints becomes petty. This is because you will reach a place where you cannot see a sign of water. I have a trading centre called Orurwo. There are about 500 families who live there. There is not a single borehole! People there pay Kshs20 to buy a 20-litre jerrican of water. They buy water every day. When you go there, you will find people who are happy, bouncing and actually going on with their lives. They are missing a very important resource and human right called water. I hope the same can be said of Kodich, Kamketo or Kang'oletiang. Those are places where schools exist, but there is no water. I would like the Ministry to come up with a master-plan. We have a master-plan for West Pokot District. Let us see what can be done with that. Can we have a plan of what kind of water resources are available, and tap them for our people?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to join others who have congratulated the Minister and his team, for working very hard. I just pray that ASAL will be considered. As I said before, those are areas where you do not even need to ask what you will do for them. They are arid and semi-arid and need water. They need to be friends with this Ministry. This Ministry also needs to be a friend to those particular areas. Give us water, water and more water in that order!

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kaindi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity, to echo sentiments that have been reiterated in this House.

I would like to start my contribution by posing a question to the Minister. Who really is in-charge of water resources in this country? Is it the Ministry of Water Resources or the National Water Corporation? I have pertinent issues to pick up with the Minister. Today, if you go to the districts, you cannot understand who is in-charge of managing our water resources. You cannot understand whether the person in-charge is from the Ministry or the corporation. This conflict has led to mismanagement of the very limited water resources in this country. The management of our water resources must be streamlined such that, we know where the Ministry of Water Resources reaches, and where the corporation takes over. We want to know what are the assignments for the Minister of Water Resources officers, and what are the assignments for the officers from the corporation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, be that as it may, I would like to make my contribution on a number of points. First of all, I would like to talk on the national front. We are talking about lack of adequate water resources in this country. On the national front, it is ridiculous that we keep on singing the same song about water. It was water by the year 2000 for every homestead! Now, the Minister and his Ministry finds out that they cannot be able to achieve that goal. Now, they are talking about water by the year 2015. For how long are we, as a country, going to be taken for public relations exercises? The concern of every Kenyan is to have adequate water. Like Dr. Omamo said, without water, there is no life.

When we come to the management of our water resources, we start by looking at the

available resources of water. We look at the monies that the Ministry is asking for here. I want to take the Minister to task by asking him: What research did they conduct to find it sufficient to put so much money in a place like Kirandich Dam, which has absolutely no water? About Kshs5 billion has been pumped in Kirandich Dam and there is no water! When people from Eastern Province are crying for basic dams and yet, we have huge water resources. A case in point is my own constituency where we have the Athi River. With proper harnessing and management, that river alone can give enough water to the people of Machakos District. But what do we see? Sporadic efforts by officers not being able to manage those resources effectively. The Athi River, which starts from Ngong Hills, traverses through an important industrial town called Athi River. Until the Ministry starts a section to monitor the pollution of Athi River, that river is going to be the source of very many diseases.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of industrial effluent being discharged into River Athi. Downstream that river, people of Athi River Town use that water for their daily domestic chores, irrigation of farms and for livestock. Last year, many livestock died because of that water. We have complained to the Ministry of Water Resources about this problem, but very little has been done. We need a monitoring unit to be able to monitor the effluent discharged into that river. The quality of water is very important. It is so important that if we ignore it, we cannot talk about water quantity without talking about its quality. Therefore, the Ministry of water Resources should be serious and monitor water resources in this country.

There is the Dam Rehabilitation Unit (DRU) in Machakos District. This unit is every expensive for our people. That unit is supposed to assist people in Machakos District and the entire Eastern Province, but the amount of money we pay to that unit is colossal. Can the Minister look into that unit and devise the best method through which that money can be apportioned to the community. The charges to that unit should be less, so that the local community can afford them.

I also want to ask the Minister this: Who is in charge of water in Athi River Town, because a litre of water costs Kshs50? We have water from Kilimanjaro Water Supply and from Ndakaini Water Supply. However, we do not know who is in charge of that water. It is not the Local Authority or Mavoko County Council because they buy their water from EPZ. Can this Minister streamline the officers who are in charge of managing water resources in Athi River Town, because it is very expensive to our people. We cannot continue to buy a litre of water at Kshs50. This Minister must be more serious and advise his officers. He must come up with appropriate policies, so that we know who is in charge of water and what is supposed to be charged for it. The Minister should not let us be taken for a ride by the EPZ, some other water suppliers from Ndakaini and Kilimanjaro Water Supplies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, water must be properly managed, so that we do not have a situation like the one which exists in Yatta where individuals irrigate their farms when poor people downstream cannot even get enough water for domestic use. There must be a unit within the Ministry that looks into the problem of water in Machakos. Right now, we are moving towards the dry part of this year. We have complained about---

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order, hon. Members! Those of you who are consulting, please do so in low tones. Proceed, Mr. Kaindi.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Members sitting on

the Front Bench, probably have water in their constituencies. We do not have enough water in Machakos District!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry must come up with macro strategies which will accommodate the water needs of our people? We need simple water dams, but not huge water projects. The Ministry should not just plan for huge dam projects, it should scale down to macro-projects. We need dams and boreholes which will provide water to our people. In addition, we need a co-ordination unit that will co-ordinate all water resources in this country. I also want to challenge the Minister to enhance research in the Ministry. Do they conduct any research before sinking boreholes and building dams? In my constituency, there are about 20 boreholes. Two of them were sunk two years ago, but they do not have water. Why do we have to spent Kshs1 million or Kshs500,000 to sink a borehole that will, in the long run, not provide water to our people? There is a borehole at Mitaboni near the market, which was sank at a cost of Kshs600,000 but it has no water. There is also another borehole at Kenol which cost the Government Kshs500,000 but it has no water. Why can we not do research before we sink these boreholes? Why do you spend so much money on boreholes and dams that will never provide water to our people? Why can that money not be used to enhance water supply from rivers because we have rivers which traverse that region? This Ministry needs proper co-ordination. Once again, without a co-ordination unit, the Ministry will not provide enough water to Kenyans.

Machakos Town gets its water from Kilimanjaro Water Supply. Within this town, there is a huge water dam that has plenty of water. However, many times, Machakos Town suffers from shortage of water. Why? We are told that when the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NWCPC) took over the management of water supply in Machakos Town, it disconnected water from that dam. We know the problems associated with Kilimanjaro Water Supply. The pressure is not enough, at times, to pump enough water to Machakos Town. We have a huge reservoir of water in that town, but it cannot be utilised. If you ask the Ministry what happened, they say that water from that dam was disconnected by the corporation which took away all the meters, boosters and engines. That project collapsed. We cannot do anything. I know the Minister is a serious man. There must be proper co-ordination between the Ministry and the corporation. The Ministry should not leave the management of water to the corporation because that will create conflict in the management of water. We plead with the Minister to provide Machakos and North-Eastern Province with enough water.

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

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources. In supporting this Motion, let me say that the talk internationally now is about the scarcity of the water. It is about the fear that very soon, there will not be enough water for the global population. That is very scaring, particularly to me, because I use a lot of water. I can imagine it must be even more serious for hon. Odongo Omamo. If that is the case, then what should we be doing, as a nation, to address the issue of water? I think we should be talking about conservation of water. We should conserve what we have now while we look for other resources which have not been discovered. We should use water carefully, so that when that time comes we can, as a nation, be prepared to meet the challenge of the day.

The Ministry of Water Resources is one of the key Ministries in this country. I think it should be rated equally with the Ministry of Health. It is a very important Ministry. I cannot imagine the Ministry of Health functioning fully without the support of the Ministry of Water

Resources. How can our health sector function without sufficient water? The Ministry of Water Resources should come up with a very deliberate policy to educate the population on the use of water. It should also find more sources of water which will be used in future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I notice that consideration for supply of water today only goes to urban areas such as cities and towns. We know that water is supplied to our towns from long distances. It is very frustrating and annoying to see that water pipes which supply water to our towns pass through the farms of wananchi, who also need that water. However, they only see the water pipes pass through their farms to supply water to our towns. I think the Ministry should now make it a policy that where water is drawn from long distances, that supply should first meet the need of the people, who live along the line which supplies water to our towns. Otherwise, it is like saying that the people who live in our towns are more important than those who live in the rural areas. Therefore, I would like to urge the Ministry to consider that factor so that anytime there is a plan for water supply to the city or any town it should be done in such a way that those people who live along the line will also benefit from that water.

The other thing I have observed of late is that management of water bodies, for example, streams and rivers has been neglected. If you visit some of these water bodies you will find that people are licensed to use the water upstream, maybe, for irrigation or some other purpose. Therefore, the water that flows downstream is not enough for other people. This is so although in most cases one will find that this water is the source of the livelihood of the people who live downstream. This is because in most cases such rivers will always flow to the dry areas. So, when licensing people to use water upstream, that fact should be taken into account.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to touch on pollution of water bodies such as rivers. There is a tendency by those people who are licensed to use water upstream to pollute it, such that by the time it gets downstream, the people who live there consume very dirty water, which is unfit for human consumption.

I think the officials of the Ministry of Water Resources should not be members of committees of water projects, particularly in the rural areas. This is because many a time there is conflict of interest. This is because either such officers will favour the project where they are members and hence forget the others, or, perhaps, if such officers are relieved of the membership of those water projects, they tend to frustrate those who take over from them. I do not know whether that is the case now, but whether it is so or not, I think that if one is working for the Ministry of Water Resources he should not be an official of any water project. In fact, that responsibility should be left to the community.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also notice that the NGOs that support water projects in this country are concentrated in those areas which do not really need water badly. I think the Ministry should encourage the NGOs which assist in the development or supply of water to direct it to those areas which need the commodity more. I am talking about areas of this Republic which are very dry. In that way the communities living in such areas can also benefit from these NGOs. This is because the people who live in those areas are usually poor and do not have enough money to develop their water resources in order to support themselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to inform the Ministry of Water Resources that a lot of water is wasted by being allowed to run into streams during the rainy season. I think we should now look for a way of tapping this water so that it can be used during the dry season. In fact, I have in mind of dry areas, especially my constituency. I am grateful that the Ministry has been able to drill a few boreholes, and we certainly need more. If such rain

water was tapped it could have been useful during the dry season.

I would like to inform this House that some of the boreholes in my constituency are very old even though they are the only source of water. In fact, some of these boreholes are as old as 30 years and these days their water pumps break down more often. I would like to request the Ministry to supply electricity to those boreholes which are close to powerlines so that we can have electric water pumps which do not break down often. In fact, these pumps will assist the people. Furthermore, some of those boreholes have very small water pumps and they cannot provide enough water for the growing population. In fact, the population of human beings and that of livestock must have definitely gone up considerably from 1930. So, if a water pump was meant to satisfy a certain number of people, you will realise that pump is now being overworked, and hence the breakdowns that we see now and then. So, I would like to urge the Ministry to consider replacing those small water pumps with bigger ones. I would also like to urge the Ministry to supply us with modern electric water pumps where there is electricity so that my people can benefit from them.

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

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote on the Ministry of Water Resources. It is sad that close to 40 years after Independence, we do not have a proper law in place that can direct us on how we can manage our water resources. Since Independence, we have said a lot of things that have got to happen, and I am wondering whether we got our priorities right. If I were in the Government at that time, I would not have sanctioned the putting in place of the Kenya Oil Pipeline Company (KPC), but I would have decided otherwise. The pipeline that I would probably have thought of would have been the one to distribute water to Kenyans.

I would like to inform this House that we have got very rich soils in this country, especially in North Eastern Province, Ukambani and other areas. Any little rain that falls in these areas results in abundant harvests in crops. All we need is proper management of our water resources to get to these areas and then we can talk of plenty of food in this country.

In the Budget Speech by the Minister for Finance, one of the areas he addressed was poverty eradication. It is almost next to impossible to eradicate poverty when we do not have enough water accessible to our people! We need water to be accessible to our people for small-scale irrigation; we need water for our people to do zero-grazing, horticulture farming and so on. We shall eradicate poverty, if we do that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, water undertakers in this country leave a lot to be desired. We have got the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NCWPC), which manages water in rural areas.

It is a shame because that particular corporation is riddled with inefficiency and corruption. I am talking from very practical experience. There is one big water project in my area called Shitoni Water Project. The Government pumped in millions of shillings, but nothing happened about it and no water comes out of it. The only time when I have seen water dripping out of the pipelines from that water project is when a few individuals have defected to KANU and the Head of State moves around. For two or three weeks you will see water dripping. After these guys have joined KANU that is the end of it. I do not think that, that was the intention of that project. It was intended to help Kenyans. Even as I am talking now this particular project is managed from a different province. People have to move from Kakamega to Kisumu to get service. Is this the intention of having the project? Why should we have a project in Western

Province whose implementors have got to report to a headquarter in Nyanza Province? We have said time and again that if it is possible, the Ministry should put some mechanism in place so that this particular project can be passed on to the community for them to be able to look after it.

I hope that since now there is a renewed effort in the Civil Service to get things going, the Minister will look at it and make sure that we are really going to get services from that particular project. That project was supposed to support Ikolomani, Shinyalu, Butere and so on. As we are talking, there is nothing at all from that particular project. We have a lot of rivers in Western Province that flow into Lake Victoria. I am talking particularly about River Nzoia and River Yala which end up flowing into Lake Victoria. These rivers which have plenty of water have been a menace to the people of Busia in particular Budalangi where there are floods year in year out. I am sure that with proper management of all this water from these rivers being done and the residents of those particular areas through which it passes get the water for irrigation, we would be doing this country a lot of good. Instead of these rivers being useful to these people in fact, they are causing a lot of disaster.

Every time my colleague hon. Wanjala has stood in this House, he has cried about floods in Budalangi. We have got to get Government officers

to go there every time to distribute food for the affected people. Why can we not convert that money that we are using to buy food from elsewhere to feed the people who are affected to conserve that water and put it to good use? In Kakamega town there is hardly any water to talk about. If there is any water that comes into the pipes of that town, it is contaminated. There was a time when I heard from the experts from the Ministry saying that they would make sure that no water that comes from their treatment work is contaminated. I want to assure them here and now that, in fact, the water that is consumed in Kakamega municipal council is contaminated. We have had a lot of cases of cholera when people drink that water and it is a high time that the Ministry took this issue seriously. We want to see more action from the Ministry.

We are now being told that community based projects are the best. As my colleague said here, we want to see a demonstration of this. You are not going to get poor people and tell them: "Join hands in developing this particular water project" when they have got nothing to give. It is necessary that the Government comes up with a clear policy on how they can get us water. They promised that by the year 2000 every Kenyan will have access to clean water. The policy has changed and let us hope this time around that whatever year they are saying, although hon. Dr. Omamo said if that year will come he will have died, and indeed I want to join him and say that some of us may never live to see it. We want to make sure that whatever---

Dr. Omamo: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I did not say that I will be dead, but I said that I will be observing the year 2016 from a respectable distance.

Mr. Khamasi: And, of course, we will avoid that respectable distance. We do not want to observe it from that respectable distance. We want to see it now and we are urging the Ministry to make sure that we see it before we go into that respectable distance.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mkallah: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources. The problem we have had in this country is lack of proper planning. We seem to be talking too much and acting on very little situations. There are many parts of this country which have no water today such as Coast Province, Eastern Province and North Eastern Province. The problem is that the planners have not thought of food production in the whole country so that we can become self-sufficient.

For us to be able to have food in this country, we must enable certain areas within this country, which do not have water, to have a deliberate plan to dig dams, wells and boreholes. Even the few boreholes and dams that have been dug through some donor agencies have not been maintained by the personnel in the Ministry of Water Resources. The staff in the Ministry of Water Resources have been wasting a lot of time just driving vehicles from point A to B doing nothing. Even when it comes to meter reading, the staff within the Ministry of Water Resources do not actually read the meters where they are supposed to find out how many cubic metres have been utilised by a certain consumer. They just go to their offices and write down whatever they think of and then the consumers end up complaining.

These are problems of attitude. Kenyans must change their attitudes if we have to perform. The staff within the Ministry of Water Resources must change their attitude from top to bottom. If water was provided to places like Kwale District in Coast Province we could be as good as Kitale in terms of food production.

In this particular year, there has been no rain in the whole country except a little rain in the Coast Province. We have had a little bit of food production in the Coast Province and, therefore, we cannot feed the country. Why does the Ministry of Water Resources make deliberate attempts to construct dams after every one kilometre? There is a lot of water that go to waste from the Taita Hills and Lake Chala. If water is pumped from there by the force of gravity to Mombasa, certainly, we could provide enough food for this country. We approve a lot of money for relief food in this country. That money which is used for buying food from outside this country could have been used to construct dams, wells and boreholes. Why should we, year in, year out buy relief food and yet we are not able to plan for these dams? It is time we changed out attitude and planned properly instead of coming to talk about this every year. We should not only plan about the provision of water, but we should also implement what is being said.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we want to eradicate poverty in this country, we should make sure that we provide water so that industries in this country can be able to function properly. In the Coast Province, a factory like the milk processing plant at Mariakani was closed down because livestock in Kwale District did not have enough water and as a result of that, those animals have continued to die. The factory was closed down and the people have become poorer. How can we talk about eradication of poverty if we cannot provide the basic needs to eradicate that poverty?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we have cholera, typhoid and many other diseases which are waterborne. Why do we not make clean water available to every Kenyan? During the colonial days, water was provided to those Kenyans who were around that time. What has gone wrong now so that we cannot provide that water to the Kenyans who are existing today? We have already been told by the Minister that our water requirement is 3 billion cubic metres and we are only able to provide a half of that. What plans do we have during this particular year to provide water in this country. If we have got to sustain good living standards in this country, by creating employment for those who are not working in offices - so that they can utilise the very rich land which is there - we have to make water available. I would like to support the Minister for Water Resources in saying that the amount of money which has been provided for this particular Vote is inadequate for our purposes. In the subsequent Budget, we would wish to have more money put into that Ministry, along with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industrial Development so that we can create employment in this country and reduce the poverty which is there at the moment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of contractors, I would like to say that

there are contractors who are sometimes given jobs to construct dams in this country and after three months, all such dams will have broken down. What is the quality of the workmanship of the contractors who construct these dams? Why do we not re-examine these people and yet we have got engineers in the Ministry of Water Resources? We do not look at these contractors and make sure that the quality of work which is done is good so that whatever we spend is made use of properly? I would like to request the personnel in the Ministry of Water Resources to make sure that in future, if there is any work on dam construction, such dams should be constructed to specification so that they do not break down within a very short time. The Mzima Pipeline was constructed many years but there has never been any proper maintenance of this pipeline. In some of the pipes, there is a lot of leakage and so, a lot of water is going into the drain and bills are sent to water consumers. Why can we not replace these pipes which are obsolete? Why is it that we can plan and yet we cannot conserve the existing assets? I would like to request the Ministry to make sure that whatever we have put in place is maintained before we even think of starting new projects.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are projects in my constituency like the water pipeline from Marere up to Kinango. That pipe is not functioning everyday. Students in Kinango Secondary School have got to travel all the way to Marere to fetch water which is more than 15 kilometres away and we expect these young girls and boys to perform well in their Form Four examinations? We are expecting too much from them! There is also a Sub-District hospital at Kinango which has got no water. How do you expect doctors to attend to the needs of the sick people without water? We would like to see a situation where the Ministry of Water Resources utilises all the money which this House approved. I also know of situations where people have volunteered to dig trenches and put their own pipes from Mazaras to Miyenzi up to Miyani and to Bofu. The personnel from the Ministry of Water Resources from Mombasa cannot go and see how that job has been done so that water can be re-connected. Unless you give some kick-backs, these people cannot come and see to it that this job is properly done. There is something wrong with the staff of the Ministry of Water Resources and they must change their attitude if we have to make things move.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency is a ranching area and in the absence of water for cattle dips animals cannot continue to survive. This is because the cattle dips that have been there cannot be used now because of lack of water. This water does not have to be expensive, if we provide those dams and wells. We can have water flowing all the way from Taita Hills to Mombasa. There must be water to make sure that the existing cattle dips are maintained properly. In the absence of water, it means we will continue being poor.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude my contribution by saying that even hospitals in my constituency have been affected by lack of water. In Kinango Sub-District Hospital, patients have got to walk to the bush in order to relief themselves.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Ministry of Water Resources is one of the most important Ministries in the Government, but it has not been given the priority that it deserves. It is also unfortunate that the resources and the funds that are set aside for this Ministry are not adequate. Having said that, there are certain observations which I would like to make about the Ministry. One of them is the element of mismanagement of funds and income that is accruing from the sale of water. At the district level, we are getting problems because

there is excess misappropriation of funds by officers who collect those funds. There is no proper audit of those funds and there is no proper follow-up to ensure that all the funds collected are remitted to the Consolidated Fund and sometimes we get into situations where water supply leading to urban areas like Murang'a end up being disconnected because of lack of chlorine to clean the water. Such things should not happen when we particularly know that water intakes are built on time; not to mention the issue of connections and re-connections where officers from the Ministry have got to be bribed in order for them to offer services to the public.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Poghio) left the Chair]*

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

The Ministry should beef up its performance, so that Kenyans can appreciate their output on water. The other shortcoming within the Ministry of Water Resources also is lack of proper planning. I think we must have a master-plan throughout the Republic, going down to the district, divisional and locational levels, to enable us to know what water resources we have and what plans we have in every part of the country. There is no point at all, having cliches like: "We will supply water to every homestead by the year 2000." This is not true and Kenyans have become brilliant and know that the Government is simply putting up plans for cosmetic purposes and to hoodwink donors.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, will you please protect me from hon. Members who are consulting in loud tones.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mkalla): Order! Hon. Members, if you are consulting, please do it very quietly. Proceed.

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. As I was saying, there is no master-plan to cover all the various parts of the Republic, from the national to the locational level and this should be done as a matter of urgency. I would also like to say that licensing of water users should be made in a very discrete manner, because some of them are not only polluting water, but also misusing it, so that the people downstream do not end up accessing adequate supply of water. It is also unfortunate that the areas from which water comes from are not given priority. In an area like Thika or Murang'a districts, which supply water to Nairobi, what do they get in return? Maybe, time has come that wherever natural resources are tapped, people from that area get part of the bills charged it by the county council or the municipal council. Otherwise, they could cause havoc, if they poisoned that water or cut pipes. We should realise that there is a social cost on these things that should be paid handsomely.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many companies that have come up to bottle mineral water. A few examples are Kilimanjaro, Serengeti and others. Water has now become more expensive than beer or soda. Why? What is the Government doing to ensure that mineral water does not become more expensive than products that are made from water? This is very ironical. I do not see why the Government should just watch and let go, whereas prices of products like petroleum are controlled. What guidelines is the Ministry giving on mineral water? How can half a litre of mineral water cost Kshs150, while a litre of petrol costs Kshs40? This is total contradiction and I think the Ministry is just sitting and watching while Kenyans are being

exploited. This is not correct.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when water is put in pipes, it is meant for human consumption. Why should that water be used for commercial purposes? We understand that water that is supposed to be supplied to Nairobi is used to grow flowers. I also have information that water from Kilimanjaro to Machakos is also being used for the same purpose. This is not proper. Our priority should be to feed people and not to enrich one or two people.

(Applause)

This should be looked into by the Ministry as a matter of urgency. It does not matter who is tapping that water. That water belongs to the people. We hope when we have another Government, the first thing would be to disconnect those pipes that are supplying water to individual farms.

(Applause)

Hon. Members: A Saitoti Government.

Mr. Kariuki: I do not know whether it will be an NDP, DP or a SAFINA Government. But there is a likelihood that it will be a SAFINA Government.

(Laughter)

An hon. Member: It is already a SAFINA Government.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to say that it will be a SAFINA Government when SAFINA is already in Government, because the Head of the Civil Service and Secretary to the Cabinet is a SAFINA member?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mkalla): Mr. Mwenje, that is a frivolous point of order and I would like you to be more serious. Continue.

(Laughter)

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the hon. Mwenje for having confirmed the obvious.

I was saying that there is need for us to address certain issues, particularly in planning. We have, for instance, Nairobi Chania Three Project, which is supplying Nairobi with water today. But unfortunately, the Government manages this country by crisis. If we can feel there is no water for us to start planning, what are we doing about planning for Chania Four? Nairobi is shortly going to run out of water. It is important for the Ministry to come up and advise the Nairobi City Council accordingly, otherwise there will be a major crisis in the future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also important for the Government to know that it has no business managing water. Water should be managed by the private sector. It is high time the Government passed on projects that are always on-going to the private sector. It has been done by the Nyeri Municipal Council. The same should be done in Kisumu, Eldoret, Nairobi and elsewhere. This is because there are private operators who are serious. The Government is not serious in seeing that the already on-going projects are well managed. That is why the previous speaker was talking about Mombasa pipes not being maintained and, therefore, the town going without water for a long time when there are breakages. This should not be the case. Therefore, privatisation is a very important thing and it should have taken place yesterday, other than waiting until we are pushed by the World Bank and IMF.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to address the issue of harnessing of water that is flowing from the mountains to the oceans. Our first priority should be to have as many dams as possible in areas like North Eastern and Eastern Provinces, where they need water badly. I think we should not use Government funds on any other purpose, but to provide our people with water. Since there is that water and we are letting it just flow to the ocean unutilised, that should be a priority. There should be more dams and boreholes in North Eastern Province. I am not talking about Central Province, because I am a nationalist and I believe that every Kenyan should be treated equally. Therefore, it is important for North Eastern Province to have more boreholes. We should also buy trucks and lorries to supply them with water, instead of hearing that there are women who travel 20 miles to fetch water.

An hon. Member: They travel 40 miles.

Mr. Kariuki: I am told they even travel 40 miles. Why should that happen when there are so many lorries at General Motors? They should be bought and used to transport water to those people. We should have 100 lorries supplying water in North Eastern Province. We should not just wait for boreholes to be sunk. We should have short term and long term strategies in ensuring our people have water. The Minister for Finance should consider, as a matter of urgency, giving the Ministry an extra Kshs2 billion to buy trucks, so that every homestead can be supplied with water within reach.

On the same token, areas that are hard-hit, for example, North Eastern Province, should also be consulted. The Government has this habit of doing things without consulting the local people about their needs and priorities. Then, you find that in dispensing with the various resources it has, the Government tends to favour KANU zones and leave alone Opposition zones. I think this is very serious. If you want us to also hit back when we take over, we shall also ensure that we do that. I think it will be very serious, to find that you cannot get water in Kericho and maybe, we will cut all the pipes when we take over.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Lomada): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues in discussing this particular Motion.

The Ministry of Water Resources is very important in this country just like the other Ministries. This is an important Ministry because we are voting some money to enable it--

(Loud Consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mkalla): Order! Hon. Members at the far corner on the left, if you want to consult, please, do it very quietly. Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Lomada): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker,

Sir, I am asking this Parliament to allow this Ministry to have more money than what we are voting for. This is a very important Ministry. Without water, we cannot have life. Water is very important for drinking. Without water we cannot cook, carry out any irrigation activity or do any washing.

If you go to the countryside, you will hear a lot of complaints from mothers who have no water in their houses. For example, mothers from Matol and Lelan Locations in my constituency, travel for long distances to fetch water. This has brought a lot of problems to women, including threatened abortion. They have had a lot of miscarriages because of carrying so many litres of water on their backs for long distances. We must have mercy on women who have suffered a lot. If I invite the Minister for a rally in my constituency, many complaints will be brought forward by women concerning this particular issue. I want to ask this Ministry to bear with women and make very good plans for our people to have water closer to their houses or even in their houses.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Mkalla) left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am speaking now, we have a plant in Turkwell that generates electricity. This electricity is generated by water from Swam River. After the water has generated electricity, it goes back to the river, unused, down to Lake Turkana. I am suggesting to the Minister to make use of this water, especially for irrigation purposes and for livestock in the villages. This will enable people in those villages to make use of it instead of leaving it to drain into rivers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got a lot of rivers in my constituency. We have river Murui which is quite big and its water goes into Lake Turkana. It is hardly used well. I would suggest that the water from this river be tapped for use to help people living within that area. Quite a number of hon. Members have actually talked about the problems facing our people because of lack of water. It is high time the Ministry of Water Resources took keen interest in finding a solution to the problems that our people are facing by providing boreholes. We have got places in my constituency which have hardly seen any borehole. I would ask the Minister to think about this area so that he can drill some boreholes there. Quite a number of people drill deep holes and fail to find water and this has sometimes occasioned deaths when people fall into these holes. People drop in such holes and drown. I would suggest that this Ministry thinks of what to do with such areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are quite a number of projects in my constituency but they have stalled. One important project that has stalled is the project Yaulateke(?) Water Project which was initiated by the EEC with the help of the Government of Kenya. The objectives of this project have not been realised. I would suggest that the Minister thinks about this particular project and ensures that it has been completed. Otherwise, there are many people who would have depended on the water from this project, but now they cannot. These are the people I am talking about and whose women travel long distances to fetch water.

Another project which has also stalled is the Lomut-Tulung'o (?) Water Project. The

pipes are not of the right quality, they have burst and the water is just gushing out and it is not helping anybody. It is not reaching the intended destination. So, I would like to suggest that the Government looks into this issue in order to ensure that the intended beneficiaries of this project get water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have another project in Chesegon Division in my constituency known as Chesegon Water Project. Sometime in 1991/92, the Ministry started work on this project but it also stalled. Unfortunately, the pipes and cement which had been taken to the site were returned to Kapenguria Headquarters. So, I would urge the Minister to look into this issue and make a follow up and make sure that this project is worked on again. So, I would suggest that the treatment of water in Ortum and Sigor be looked into. Our people are contracting a lot of diseases because of untreated water. This is a very important issue and we should make sure that the people we are looking after do not suffer from such diseases when we can have the water treated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer again to the Turkwel Projects. The Minister should look into these projects so that when the water has produced electricity which is being used in Nairobi and other very important towns, it is used for drinking in various places including the Chair's constituency which is actually adjacent to that particular project. The constituency would benefit from that water. So, I urge the Minister to look into this and make sure that people of West Pokot enjoy the supply of drinking water.

I would also like to ask this Ministry to allocate money for a number of water projects in West Pokot because it is an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL). We need quite a number of projects. We are behind schedule because the Government policy on water states that, by the year 2000, every household in this country should have water. So, I would urge this Ministry to adhere to this particular plan to be able to meet the needs of our people.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

QUORUM

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): We do not have quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

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

Mr. Nyauchi: Thank you, very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. First and foremost, I recall that the last time---

Mr. Choge: Sit down, Mr. Mwenje!

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Choge to order me to sit down?

Hon. Members: Yes!

Mr. Nyauchi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that the last time I contributed to this Ministry's debate, I indicated that this is a Ministry which should be abolished altogether. But on further thought, particularly today, I think I have changed my mind a little bit,

for a few reasons which I will state hereafter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, the importance of water cannot be underestimated. Water runs in life itself. In fact, one of our mottos ten years ago was that water is life. That is the truth. Be it the Ministry of Health, Industry or whichever Ministry, water is first and foremost. This is because water is used for domestic and industrial uses.

One of the biggest problems which we are facing now, particularly in the Ministry of Health is as a result of waterborne diseases. All these problems fall in the Ministry of Water Resources. There are several other Ministries which should co-ordinate with the Ministry of Water Resources for purposes of their well being. The most unfortunate thing is, the Ministry of Water Resources is very conspicuous for its absence at the grassroots level. If you went to my constituency, Gwasi Constituency and several other constituencies, you will find that there is no representative of the Ministry of Water Resources. Why is this happening several years after Independence? The best that there is, is normally a District Water Officer. That is the only Ministry's officer at the grassroots level. I would like the Minister to try and go to the grassroots. Let us have divisional water officers and even locational water officers. Water is basic, and when we have grassroots officers, then we have people overseeing ponds and dams. This is what we really need, particularly for domestic consumption, people need clean and safe water. So, when we start at the district level, then we are not doing much.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to briefly touch on the problem of water *hyacinth*. It is massive on Lake Victoria, and it has also come to Lake Naivasha. Now, my own thinking is that, when you have such a mass of water like Lake Victoria which is a fresh water lake, all you need to do is to ensure that you sustain its freshness. But then, what we are seeing is complete lack of interest by the Ministry of Water Resources. Apparently, they have left the task to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation. It is very important that all the Ministries concerned should work together to ensure that the water *hyacinth* menace is removed. That fresh water lake is now rotting and no action is being taken. That is shameful.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other problem which I would like the Minister to look into, is that of affluent discharge. There is a lot of discharge from factories and towns which contaminate natural fresh water. Why can we not enforce the by-laws which are there, so that this menace is eradicated once and for all?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a treaty which I would like the Ministry of Water Resources to revisit. This is the treaty which prohibits people inhabiting the Lake Victoria area from using the water resources for purposes of irrigation. This is a treaty which was signed long time ago during Colonial days. I think it is high time we revisited this treaty alongside Sudan and Egypt. I do not see any sense in our waters being used by Egypt and Sudan, whereas if we have to use it for irrigation, we have to get their consent. That does not make any sense to me. This is a colonial treaty, and we need to sit down and renegotiate so that we can see whether they will compensate us or if they do not, what action to take in lieu of that treaty, which in my view is onerous.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to suggest one or two solutions to the problems at the Ministry. I can see the Minister is seeking K£145 million which is very little money in view of the importance of water. We all know the constraints of money, so I will support the amount of money the Minister is seeking, but we need to inject new technology in the Ministry. So, the Minister should see to it that new technology is put in place. We also need to invest in human resource. Last time I said that we need a department of water in Nairobi University and I wish to repeat it. We do not want to leave it to colleges, as it is. We need degree

courses in water. I believe it is not in Kenya as yet. At least the Department of Defence has beaten you on that line, since we are going to have a degree course in armed forces. That is really not a priority, we need it in water.

Finally, we need to liberalise water supply because the world all over everything is being liberalised. So, when the Government has its shortcoming because of lack of money, we really need to liberalise water supply like the airwaves. Let the people supply water because what we need is clean and safe drinking water. The Government should not block the people when it is not achieving the target. Let it be liberalised. Why should Nairobi not be supplied with water by other people who can do it? The world all over is about efficiency, meeting set targets and liberalisation. It is high time we liberalised water supply.

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

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote of the Ministry of Water Resources.

As Englishmen put it: "Water is life". We cannot over-emphasise that, but it is a fact that water is very important in our daily lives. It is my wish that in the next budgetary allocation, we will allocate even more than double the amount that has been allocated to this Ministry. Coming from a semi-arid region of this country, I know that water is needed not only for drinking and for domestic use, but also in the production of food for the population. Within the 40 years of our Independence, there have been several programmes which have been successful and others have failed. But the Government, by any standards, has done very well through the Ministry to provide water to Kenyans. On behalf of the people I represent, I would like to inform the Minister that my constituents prefer service dams to piped water from long distances which is very expensive. Through experience, we have seen that dams are more reliable although they are affected by siltation, but they have ready water. Also, when those dams are constructed upstream, sometimes either through seepage from the dam wall, the people downstream also benefit. Because we grow crops and keep animals, dams have ready water, they are preferred to boreholes and these other big projects. So, whenever there are rivers, the people have seen the reliability of depending on service dams. That is what might be the solution to make marginal lands productive.

A lot has been said about water for irrigation and, as one hon. Member said earlier, it is very good to strengthen the Ministry of Water Resources by equipping it with modern equipment like rigs because different stakeholders have been doing the job like The Armed Forces and the Egyptians have been sinking boreholes, but I think it would be more relevant for the Ministry of Water Resources to acquire modern machines to drill boreholes in areas where water is need.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about water-borne diseases. This can be avoided by the provision of clean and reliable drinking water. But if we do not boil and filter that water, we may not run away from water-borne diseases. So, as Kenyans struggle to protect themselves from these water-borne diseases, provision of sufficient clean water will solve most of these problems. Therefore, once, we solve the water problem, we will have solved health problems, especially those related to water-borne diseases. We will also solve the food problem. I thank the Minister with his staff very much because they have made several trips to Kitui, Mwingi or Ukambani region. We have seen several projects taking place. We cannot fail to thank the Ministry and the Government for initiating those projects there. We still need more so that Ukambani can be turned into the granary of Kenya.

As we are aware, the most productive land in Western, Rift Valley and Central Provinces is all crowded up. There is no more land there. Land is in Eastern Province, North-Eastern and some parts of Coast Province. That is where the Ministry should concentrate in the provision of water to make this country become self-reliant in food production, both for domestic use and for export. Through the Ministry of Water Resources, several boreholes have been sunk in my constituency. We have also sunk seven boreholes through the Egyptian grant in Yatta, Kanyangi and Kwavonza Locations. The people have not been able to distribute that water to shopping centres and homes because they are generally poor and there is famine. So, the boreholes were sunk and the generator was installed, but the people could not raise money because of poverty to distribute the water. I am appealing to the Minister to assist those people, because those boreholes and generators are there, but that water is only used in the area around the boreholes. People still walk long distances looking for water. We need plastic pipes to take that water to the people and we will dig the trenches. So, those three locations; Yatta, Kanyangi and Kwavonza, I have explained the situation to the Minister and I am convinced he will do something. If he did that, those people will save a lot of time searching for water. They walk for about 14 to 20 kilometres in search of water. Although I have not witnessed any woman who has miscarried because of carrying water, as my colleague was saying, maybe, they could borrow our techniques and they may help them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the two rivers that pass through Eastern Province. Time and again, it has been said that, that water could be harnessed to irrigate the fertile lands in Eastern Province which are very sparsely inhabited and which could produce enough food to feed this country. The money we use to import food could be used to harness that water for irrigation purposes. I am appealing to the Minister, in their planning, to start with small projects and then expand in the future. Today, I was reading about a project on millet and some other crops which are grown through irrigation in Turkana District where hon. Lomada comes from. When we imagine that, that is happening in Turkana District, what about the whole of Ukambani which is endowed with those two rivers? God has created them in a very good way such that they gradually move from the highlands in Central Province, then they pass through the dry lands of Ukambani and empty into the Indian Ocean.

All we are saying is that, God gave us good land. We want to be assisted to divert that water to the region. We have seen the Yatta furrow which was built during the colonial times. It is very small. If you see the produce by the farmers, they fetch millions of shillings. I remember last year, they got around Kshs500 million from horticultural production through a canal which is less than 20 kilometres. What a potential lies there? I think we should take this issue very seriously and because the Minister has toured Ukambani, and I know that he is serious with his work, I pray that he will do it. If that is done, Kambas and Mbeeres and the other people who live downstream of Athi River and Tana River will be very happy. Even the Somalis will benefit because Tana River passes through their land. We have seen what has happened through in the Bura Irrigation Scheme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support and appeal to my colleagues that next time, if a Vote like this is brought here, we should support it. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Hon. Members, it is now time for us to interrupt the business of the House. Therefore, the House stands adjourned until

tomorrow, Thursday, 29th July, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.