

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 28th July, 2005

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PURCHASE COSTLY SECURITY EQUIPMENT

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister confirm the plan by the Government to purchase security equipment at a cost of Kshs10 billion?

(b) What is the justification for such a costly plan under the current economic circumstances where the poverty levels exceed 60 per cent in the country?

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Ministry is not purchasing any security equipment at a cost of Kshs10 billion. However, the Ministry is co-ordinating the implementation of the reform proposals under the Governance, Justice, Law and Order Sector Reform Programme (GJLOS). This programme involves undertaking reforms in over 30 Government departments, institutions and agencies under the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the State Law Office and the Judiciary.

The programme is funded by the Government of Kenya and 17 international development partners who have established a basket fund through which all the reform activities are financed. Procurement under this programme is done through this fund which is co-ordinated by the Ministry.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister has not denied that the Government will spend more than Kshs10 billion to procure security equipment, where is that money reflected in this year's Budget?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the figure of Kshs10 billion is the imagination of the Press. The total cost of this programme is Kshs3.3 billion. Security equipment will take only a very small fraction of the entire amount under the GJLOS Reform Programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, the question was: "Where is the figure of Kshs3.3 billion you have talked about reflected in this year's Budget?"

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount which is being co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is Kshs3.3 billion. That is the entire budget. Security equipment composes only a very small fraction of that amount of money. So, I do not know where the figure of Kshs10 billion came from.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is known the world over that the security industry is

notorious for kick-backs. None other than the Minister for Finance assured this House, during his Budget Speech, that there will be no more off-Budget financing. In December, 2004, His Excellency the President said that security contracts will be open to public scrutiny. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House, specifically, under which Vote this money is provided? The Minister of State, Office of the President, in charge of Internal Security and Provincial Administration, told this House last week that, that amount of money is not provided under the Vote of the Office of the President. So, where exactly is this amount of money reflected under the Development or Recurrent Vote of your Ministry? This House has an obligation to approve every expenditure of the Government. That money has not been approved by this House.

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, GJLOS Reform Programme covers about five Ministries and our Ministry co-ordinates this programme. The donors have put their resources together in a basket form. So, we are only supporting the activities which emanate from the Ministry. We have no control over the activities that the line Ministries are involved in.

An hon. Member: Where is this money reflected in the Budget?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is in the individual budgets of the various Ministries. Check them!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, do not allow yourself to be swayed by hon. Members and exchange words with them. Always address the Chair and you will be safe!

Capt. Nakitare: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the Assistant Minister the other Ministries which contribute towards this basket and how much money is involved. We do not want guesswork.

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the respective departments are Governance and Ethics, the Office of the Solicitor-General, Public Prosecutions, Kenya Police, Administration Police, Kenya Prisons, probation and after care services, children services, Treaties and Agreements, civil registration, the Registrar-General, civil litigation, National Agency for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA), National Youth Service (NYS), legislative drafting, Public Trustee, the Judicial Service Commission, the Kenya National Council for Law Reporting and the Advocates Complaints Commission.

The participating semi-autonomous Government agencies include the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC), the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights, the Kenya Law Reform Commission, the Kenya School of Law and the National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee. The non-state actors are the Kenya Private Sector Alliance and the Child Rights Advisory Documentation and Legal Centre. Under the GJLOS Reform Programme, the budget of the security equipment for the police and the Prisons departments is about Kshs90 million. So, I do not know where the figure of Kshs10 billion came from.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister lay on the Table a list of itemised security equipment and their costs to allay fears of the public and prove that the equipment does not cost Kshs10 billion, but Kshs3.3 billion which he has talked about?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the tender notice which was advertised in all the newspapers had all that information. However, I have not carried a copy here.

Mr. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The dignity of this House is at stake. This House has a constitutional responsibility to approve every expenditure of this Government. Is the Assistant Minister in order to avoid answering our question? Under which Vote is the purchase of security equipment worth Kshs3.3 billion provided for? Could he lay that document on the Table?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, the hon. Member has put words in my mouth. I did not say that the entire budget of Kshs3.3 billion will go towards the purchase of security equipment. Security equipment will take only Kshs90 million. The budget encompasses other

departments which I have named. The budget is reflected in the line Ministries.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Assistant Minister is misleading the House. There are 14 assorted items in the advertisement he has referred to. Those items belong to the Department of Immigration, the police and others. This is not in line with the practice of budgeting in this country. Every Ministry is supposed to budget and explain what the money it is requesting is for. Whether it is Kshs3.3 billion, Kshs10 billion or even Kshs14 billion, it is absolute nonsense!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Kamotho! You are a very experienced Member of this House! You know very well that, that remark is unparliamentary. Could you withdraw it and apologise to the House?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw that remark and apologise to the House. Could the Assistant Minister tell us how much money is being spent on items like handcuffs and bullet-proof jackets? Is he among those who will wear those bullet-proof jackets?

(Laughter)

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member, who is our in-law and a good friend, that I have no intention of wearing a helmet. Those helmets are meant for the police and the prisons departments. The entire budget for the handcuffs, helmets and the fingerprinting machines is Kshs90 million. This equipment is under the Development Vote of the line Ministries. Our Ministry is only co-ordinating those departments to purchase that equipment. Those funds are from donors.

Maj-Gen. Nkaiserry: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Since the Assistant Minister has answered this Question unsatisfactorily, would I be in order to request you to defer it? This Question should be answered satisfactorily because this a source of corruption. There is no Sessional Paper which was brought to this House to allow the Government to purchase security equipment through the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. This Question should be answered properly because it touches on security equipment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! We have given this Question adequate time. If you look at the clock, it has taken over 15 minutes. There is a provision under Standing Order No.18. If you feel that this Question is not satisfactorily answered, you can still bring up the matter under Standing Order No.18.

Maj-Gen. Nkaiserry: *Sawa sawa!*

DISMISSAL OF MAGISTRATES BY
JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that several magistrates who did not participate in the industrial action in March, 2005, were interdicted and finally dismissed from the Judiciary?

(b) Could he inform the House why Mr. Charles Opol and Mrs. Joyce Manyasi were dismissed by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) on 8th June, 2005?

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware.

(b) The Judicial Service Commission, after due process, analyzed each of the cases individually. Consequently, three of the magistrates were retired in public interest, among them was one Mrs. Joyce Manyasi. Mr. Adamson Opol was at the time on probation appointment, which was terminated. One of the magistrates opted to retire on her own volition on receipt of the notice to show cause letter. Mrs. Manyasi has subsequently sued the JSC over the matter, and Mr. Opol has filed an appeal with the JSC.

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I ask the supplementary question, I wish to state that I have no written answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, just go ahead and ask it. However, the problem here appears to be somewhere. Mr. Assistant Minister, did you give the answer to the Office of the Clerk?

Proceed, Mr. Bifwoli!

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some magistrates who went on strike but they were reinstated. However, these three particular cases did not go on strike. I have documentary evidence to prove that they were on duty. They were not retired. They were dismissed. I have letters to show that! The Assistant Minister is not giving us the right answer. Maybe he has the wrong information. Why did they retire magistrates from particular communities and re-instate those who are well-connected despite the fact that they were on strike?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any magistrate who is well-connected. What are they connected to?

An hon. Member: To power!

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the three magistrates were the heads of stations in their respective places. Obviously, the JSC could not have accepted that kind of indiscipline, particularly when it was fighting for the magistrates' salaries to be increased. The magistrates, therefore, should consider themselves lucky that they were retired in public interest instead of being dismissed.

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would appear that the purge in the Judiciary is aimed at members of two communities. I have a list of magistrates and judges who were removed from the Judiciary. They include Justice Aganyanya, Lady Justice Effie Owuor, Lady Justice Nambuye, Justice Kuloba, Justice Juma, Justice Wambilianga and Lady Justice Sarah Ondeyo.

Hon. Members: Luhyas!

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from Nyanza, we had Justice Oguk, Justice Kwach and Justice Hayanga. On that list, we had the Justice C.K. Njai, who was named as among the corrupt judges. However, he was promoted instead of being fired.

(Applause)

Hon. Members: True!

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Justice Evans Gicheru delayed a judgement for two years, while Lady Justice Nambuye delayed judgement for only six months. She was fired. Could this House be told why only members from Nyanza and Western provinces are being targeted for purging in the Judiciary? Why was Justice C.K. Njai reinstated after being named as a corrupt judge?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is enough, Mr. Osundwa! Please, sit down!

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate for the hon. Member to insinuate that two communities were targeted by the purge in the Judiciary.

An hon. Member: That is the truth!

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not correct! It is a sheer coincidence.

Mr. Bifwoli: Those are all Luhyas!

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly, if we have to be tribal, their numbers were higher. Obviously, on the balance of probabilities, more members would be affected. However, let us not go tribal. The purge in the Judiciary did not target any region.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has confirmed here that he is sacking Luhyas and Luos because they are too many in the Judiciary. They are not corrupt! They are just being retrenched because they are too many.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ask your question, Mr. Bifwoli!

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also participated in making the NARC Government. In 2007, when we go home, our people will ask us where we were when Luhyas were being sacked.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Bifwoli! Sit down and stop being too emotional! I will give you a minute to ask a question. You have made an elaborate statement. That is enough. Just ask a question!

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can the Assistant Minister assure this House that he is going to reinstate those Luhyas and Luos whom they sacked indiscriminately?

(Laughter)

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, it is really very unfortunate when we go to tribal origins of judges and magistrates. Their sacking had nothing to do with that. They only happened to have been mentioned in the Ringera Committee. It had nothing to do with their origins.

With regard to Mr. Njai, every person who was mentioned in the Ringera Committee was given an opportunity to clear his or her names. The ones who were able to do so were reinstated. That is what justice demands; that, if you are able to give a satisfactory defence, you are forgiven. Those three magistrates were unable to defend themselves. Therefore, in view of their long experience and service in the Judiciary, they were retired in public interest instead of being dismissed.

(Messrs. Bifwoli and Midiwo stood up in their places)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, sit down, Mr. Bifwoli! Let me hear from Mr. Midiwo!

Mr. Midiwo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Month after month, this Ministry continues to fire magistrates without prosecuting them. Are they in order to keep firing magistrates and judges like Justice Chunga, Justice Oguk and others without taking them to court?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Midiwo! You know very well that, that is not a point of order.

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have a written answer.

However, I beg to ask the Minister for Energy the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that oil companies are unable to satisfy the new regulations that require oil marketers to pay for the applicable duties and taxes in advance?

(b) Will he withdraw these regulations before the 1st August, 2005, deadline to avert possible fuel shortages?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Kiunjuri, where is the written response?

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Kiunjuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we wrote back to Parliament because this Question relates to policy matters. My Ministry was only used as a conveyor belt. We conveyed it back to the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, Parliament is fully informed about this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Kiunjuri, in fact, I have just been informed that this Question has been referred to the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, this Question is deferred, so that the Ministry of Finance will get enough time look at it.

(Question deferred)

Hon. Members, let us move on to Ordinary Questions!

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.395

ALTERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES IN MUMIAS DIVISION

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

(a) why the administrative boundaries of Eluche and Mung'ang'a sub-locations of East Wanga Location in Mumias Division were altered and annexed to Nabongo Location;

(b) whether he is aware that this action is causing tension between residents of the two locations; and,

(c) what immediate steps he is taking to remedy the situation.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) It is not true that the boundaries of Eluche and Mung'ang'a sub-locations of East Wanga Location were altered and parts of it transferred to Nabongo Location. My officers on the ground know the boundaries and the local residents have no problems with the existing boundaries.

(b) I am not aware of any tension on the ground over the boundaries.

(c) Since there is no problem with the boundaries, my Ministry is not taking any steps to remedy the situation.

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for his answer. However, Mumias Sugar Company (MSC) has always been cited in Eluche sub-location. Could he confirm that MSC is still in that location and not any other location or sub-location?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Butere-Mumias District has not been captured by Act No.5 of 1992 where the district boundaries were set. Consequently, the cartographical report relating to the boundaries in this particular district have not been prepared.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Osundwa, last question!

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well!

Next Question, Mr. Khamisi!

Question No.380

BENEFICIARIES OF SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAMME IN KILIFI DISTRICT

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

(a) whether he could inform the House how many schools in Kilifi District benefit from the school feeding programme; and,

(b) what criteria the Government is using in selecting beneficiaries for this programme.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Machage): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) There are 90 schools under regular school feeding programme in Kilifi District benefiting 53,173 children.

(b) The criteria used to select beneficiaries is based on needs of a particular district. The Government carries out an assessment to determine the level of vulnerability of a given district and how adversely it has been affected by a disaster like drought. Out of the population of people affected, some will obviously be school children. Once a figure of the affected population has been reached, the District Education Board on which hon. Members of Parliament also sit, decides on the number of schools to target in a given district.

Mr. Khamisi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says they carry out an assessment to determine the level of vulnerability of a given district. Could he tell this House when the last assessment was done?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two assessments have been carried out recently during the drought crisis. The last assessment was actually done in the first week of June this year. In Kilifi District, the schools that benefited mainly before then were those in the hinterland areas where drought drastically affected crop production, leading to food shortage.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister assure this House that the food which is given to these schools is of nutritional value to the children? Ordinarily, they just give dry maize and they do not bother with the nutritional content of that food.

Secondly, what is the frequency with which this food is distributed? In my constituency, for example, some schools actually do not get food, although they are registered as beneficiaries.

Dr. Machage: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, indeed, my Ministry looks at the nutritional value of the foods we give, relative to our ability to buy. As you know, we usually give maize, beans and milk. As a matter of fact, maize is a carbohydrate, beans are proteins, and vitamins are derived from milk.

Ms. Mwau: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that they conducted an assessment in June this year. Could he tell us, from the results of that assessment, how many districts are vulnerable to drought? How many of those districts are beneficiaries of this programme? Could he also tell us how many of those districts are in the ASAL areas?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our last assessment shows a drop from 26 districts to about 16 districts that are actually vulnerable to drought. Most of the districts are actually in the ASAL areas. They are in the Northern, North Eastern, Eastern and South Eastern regions of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question, Mr. Khamisi!

Mr. Khamisi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not quite satisfied with the assessments that have been done so far because, in the so-called hinterland, there are so many schools, including some in Bahari Constituency, that do not enjoy this privilege. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that fair distribution of this food will be done in all areas?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I assure the hon. Member that I will attempt to do exactly that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Wamwere!

Question No.599

NON-PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO EVEREADY
BATTERIES PROVIDENT FUND MEMBERS

Mr. Wamwere asked the Minister for Finance:-

- (a) whether he could explain why members of the Eveready Batteries Kenya Limited Provident Fund Scheme have not been paid their Kshs50 million after the scheme was wound up and liquidated on 27th May, 2004, vide Gazette Notice No.5079; and,
- (b) when the money will be paid.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Members of the scheme have not been paid their benefits for the following reasons:-

- (i) All the members are in the service of the sponsor, Eveready Batteries Kenya Limited.
- (ii) The law, Regulation 5(1), as read together with 5(11), of the Retirement Benefits (Minimum Funding and Winding Up) Regulations, 2000, provides that upon winding up of a scheme, members' benefits shall not be paid, but shall be transferred to another scheme for purposes of purchasing retirement benefits.

(iii) The members have been requested to individually choose any registered individual benefits scheme to which their benefits could be transferred to in accordance with the law, but they have failed to do so.

(iv) It would be contrary to the law for the benefits to be paid directly to the members.

(b) If the members completely fail to choose any registered individual retirement benefits scheme to which their benefits may be transferred, the liquidator will retain the benefits and pay the same directly to any member when the member reaches normal retirement age. The members will, therefore, be paid their retirement benefits when they attain the normal retirement age.

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the said workers have indicated that they would like to be paid their money directly and that they do not wish to have it transferred to another scheme. The liquidator has also written a letter indicating that he is willing to hand over the cheques that belong to these workers. So, if the liquidator is forced by the Government to keep this money for the workers, who will take responsibility if, by any chance, this money is lost in the custody of the liquidator?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue here is very straight. There is no way we can break the law. It has to be followed to the letter. The law states that, unless one attains the retirement age, he cannot access that money. The best advice I can give to the workers is to identify any of the existing schemes and we will transfer their money there for safe-keeping.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an outcry, both in the public and private sectors with regard to the amendments that the Government made to the Retirements Benefits Act, that required workers to access their money after 55 years. It is clear that there was inadequate consultations between the Minister for Finance and the workers in this country. Therefore, there is a

lot of concern on this matter. Could the Assistant Minister undertake that he is going to consult widely, because that regulation was just made by the Minister? Could he undertake to consult the representatives of workers and other stakeholders in the industry to review those provisions because of the concerns raised by Kenyans?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the intention of those regulations is to safeguard the interests of retirees who attain the age of 55 years. But, in view of what he has said, I will consider engaging the stakeholders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last Question, Mr. Wamwere!

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell the House whether he thinks it is safe for workers' benefits to be left in the hands of a private company until they attain the age of 55 years?

Mr. Katuku: Yes, it is safe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Question No.450

PLANS TO RELOCATE KETEPA
HEADQUARTERS FROM KERICHO

Mr. Bett asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that there are plans to move Kenya Tea Packers Limited (KETEPA) Headquarters and its operations from its current location in Kericho to Nairobi; and,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, whether he could disclose the reasons behind the move, economic or otherwise.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) There are no plans to relocate KETEPA Headquarters from Kericho to Nairobi.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), part (b) does not arise.

Mr. Bett: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Minister for such a brief answer. But where there is smoke, there is fire!

Hon. Members: Rumours!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Bett, address the Chair!

Mr. Bett: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, where there is fire, there is smoke!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Both ways, you are right!

Mr. Bett: Or vice-versa! At the moment, there are arrangements going on. An amount of Kshs40 million has been set aside by KETEPA to convert a warehouse in Industrial Area into an office block. Members of staff, mainly from Kericho, are being sacked at the moment. What is the justification of using Kshs40 million to convert a warehouse to an office block?

Mr. Kirwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not in the picture about the amount of money that has been set aside to renovate a godown in Kampala Road. They want to do it for their marketing department which is located in Kampala Road. But the headquarters will still remain at Kericho.

Mr. Salat: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to tell us the following: The 19 factories that we have in the Western region contribute Kshs2.45 billion as agency fees to Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) for management. Out of 100 employees at the headquarters, 61 are from the western region. Even out of the 61 employees from western region, 11 are from the greater Kericho. What is the Minister doing to address that employment discrepancy? We produce

the largest amount of tea but, when it comes to employment, we were given only 11 chances. We put in Kshs2.45 billion as management fees to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Salat! This is Question Time!

Mr. Kirwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of the employees of the said company do not fall under the purview of the Ministry. They usually advertise and source from the market. If it is an issue that is causing concern to hon. Members, I will investigate and find out why there is that discrepancy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do we have a Shadow Minister for Agriculture? Who is he? It is Mr. Sambu?

Mr. Sambu: *Patia yeye!*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Sambu! If you do not have a question, I stop!

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, KTDA was changed from an authority to an agency. Why does it still require tea factories to subscribe to them, when they are no longer an authority? That is why they collected Kshs2.45 billion which Mr. Salat referred to. People can opt out KTDA if they want.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sambu, you have gone off the Question. We are dealing with KETEPA, but you have gone to KTDA. The Minister may answer if he wishes.

Mr. Kirwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, KTDA is the biggest shareholder in KETEPA. It holds 67 per cent shares. What the hon. Member has just said is true. It is an agency and not an authority. Each of the 54 factories have the right to enlist the services of KTDA or look for similar services elsewhere. They are not, in any way, compelled to work with KTDA.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question!

Mr. Keter: That is my constituency! Give me a chance!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Keter, we have an order to follow! Could you apologise to the Chair? You do not have to tell me that is your constituency! You should have brought the Question!

Mr. Bett: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister assure us, with all the powers that are vested on him, that KETEPA will not be relocated from Kericho to Nairobi? Could he confirm or deny that?

Mr. Kirwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just stated that. But let me state again that KETEPA has no intention of shifting. They have never held any meeting to discuss any relocation to Nairobi.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Keter, I have already refused. You are forgiven, but there is no chance.

Next Question, Mr. Boit!

Question No.477

DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF TO
LORUK HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. Boit asked the Minister for Health:-

- (a) whether she is aware that Loruk Health Centre has no qualified health workers; and,
- (b) when the Ministry will deploy staff to that health centre and other health facilities in Baringo North.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Kuti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) Loruk Health Centre was gazetted as a health centre, but it has an infrastructure of a

dispensary and, therefore, offers services at that level. It is currently manned by one qualified nurse who was posted to that facility in February, 2005.

(b) Baringo District has more clinical officers than any other district in the country, but, recently, the Ministry posted additional two clinical officers and three nurses to health facilities in Baringo.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Assistant Minister for attempting to answer the Question since he has not answered it properly. He has said that Loruk was gazetted as a health centre. As I speak to you right now, there is no qualified staff at Loruk Health Centre, which serves Baringo Central, Baringo North and Baringo East constituencies. Hon. Kamama is here and he can testify to this fact. People are dying.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your question?

Mr. Boit: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when will the Assistant Minister post staff to Loruk Health Centre? I think the Assistant Minister has been misled by his officers on the ground when he says that there is staff there. Further to that, the Assistant Minister has said that Loruk Health Centre has adequate and qualified staff. If this health centre has adequate and qualified staff, why did he post one nurse there?

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, Loruk Health Centre operates as a dispensary and because of shortage of staff, an enroled community health nurse was posted there in February, 2005. In terms of availability of staff, I would like to say that in the hon. Member's constituency, he has about 30 clinical officers. In total, Baringo District has a total of 30 clinical officers. I did not say that they are enough. I said that Baringo District has the highest number of clinical officers in Kenya. However, we are still trying to fill the deficiencies as much as we can, even if it still has more.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, for the record, the Departmental Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare has been travelling around the country and I want to inform the Assistant Minister that Baringo District does not have the highest number of nurses. There are districts with more than 60 nurses and others with 70 nurses. He needs to take stock of what we have. When we visited Baringo District one month ago, we found there were around 25 new health facilities which have been put up through donor support and community initiatives that have not been able to open because of lack of staff. This story is repeated all over the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Ministry take stock of all the facilities that communities have put up at great cost and ensure that all of them are provided with staff, so that communities benefit?

(Applause)

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have most of the time heard here, of shortages of staff all over the country and, of course, the problem is due to lack of funds to employ them. Therefore, as much as we are trying, the shortage is always there and we will keep on trying to fill the deficiencies.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister furnish me with the name of the nurse he has posted there because, at the moment, we do not have any staff working at Loruk Health Centre?

Dr. Kuti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I do not have the particular name, but I have the cadre which is an enroled community health nurse posted in February, 2005. I will liaise with the hon. Member in order to give the name of the nurse.

Mr. Boit: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Can one enroled nurse manage a whole health centre?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Boit, I think we have dealt with that Question sufficiently. Next Question by Archbishop Ondiek!

Question No.569

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO
UGENYA CONSTITUENCY

Archbishop Ondiek asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) whether he is aware that transformers have been installed at Bar Ober, Mauna Dam and Ndenga centres in Ugenya Constituency, but electricity has not been connected to the sites; and,

(b) when the power project will be commissioned in the area.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that transformers have been installed at Bar Ober, Mauna Dam and Ndenga centres in Ugenya Constituency, but electricity has not been connected to the sites.

(b) The project has already been commissioned. However, under the current rural electrification policy, the beneficiaries of the project are required to make token contributions towards the cost of service lines. This is because the Government cannot afford to subsidise all the consumers due to the serious financial resources constraints and heavy demand for rural electrification, and considering that currently, it costs the Government an average of Kshs200,000 to connect one consumer. Given this situation, it is noted that Mauna Dam and Ndenga Secondary School have already paid and will be able to have electricity by 15th August this year; reinforcement work is currently being undertaken on this line. With regard to Bar Ober Centre, the would-be beneficiaries have been issued with quotation letters for token contributions and meter deposits, and they will be metered once they make payments.

Archbishop Ondiek: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while thanking the Assistant Minister for saying that electricity will be connected by 15th August, for Ndenga Centre and Mauna Dam, the first contributions were paid last year to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) for the installation of electricity. However, since that time, when the transformer was installed, there is no work going on in that particular place. I have tried to ask the Managing Director of KPLC and he keeps on telling me that electricity will be connected. Could the Assistant Minister assure the House that electricity will be installed by 15th August?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is only rephrasing the Question once again. I have answered him. We shall have installed electricity by 15th August.

Mr. Karaba: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the story of transformers and connection of power to various shopping centres is not only confined to Ugenya Constituency. There are very many places in Kenya where people are suffering, particularly when they have paid the 10 per cent deposit. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the requirement for rural electrification?

Secondly, could he further tell us what is exactly happening in this sector because it is like there is nothing happening, since people pay the deposit but it takes up to 15 years before they are connected? Could he give us permission to buy transformers cheaply so that we can get other people to connect power?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have admitted many times that we have a problem with KPLC. They already have their Kshs5 billion and we have given them over Kshs3 billion but no work is going on effectively. We are still pushing them and one of the major problems is the procurement procedures. However, on the question of whether the hon. Members can buy transformers, we are discussing it with my Minister and we shall be calling hon. Members for a

Kamukunji so that we can chart the way forward on whether they can be able to also chip in and buy the transformers, and then we connect them easily.

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of shortage of transformers is not only confined to Archbishop Ondiek's constituency, but it is all over the country. There is also shortage of three-phase meters as well as the cables. What is the Assistant Minister doing to address this problem?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, one of the ways of solving this problem is, first of all, by calling upon hon. Members to also contribute and give us ideas on the way forward. Secondly, we have already trained engineers. This month, we shall have 30 of them graduating. We shall be contracting them out and they will be able to team up with other contractors to tender and do what the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) is doing today.

Archbishop Ondiek: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister confirm that the reason why these connections are not being done is because the person who is chairing the tender board is asking for commission?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, which tender board is the hon. Member talking about? We do not have to call a tender board meeting to connect the customers with electricity. It is for them to apply, and those who have paid will be connected. Unless I did not understand the question, we do not require a tender board to do this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Hon. Members, today being a Supply Day---

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Archbishop Ondiek! The matter is finished. Will you sit down? In this Chamber, it is the Chair which gives direction and not the Archbishop!

(Laughter)

Hon. Members, today being a Supply Day, we cannot take more questions because we have to start the Vote on the Ministry of Agriculture by 3.30 p.m. I want to seek the indulgence of the two hon. Members listed on the Order Paper, namely, Mr. M. Mutiso and Mr. S.C. Koech, and the respective Ministers, that we defer these Questions to Tuesday. I promise that they will be on top of the list when we resume on Tuesday, next week.

Question No.552

HARMONIZATION OF AIR TRAVEL
WITHIN EAST AFRICA REGION

(Question deferred)

Question No.495

COMPLETION OF SIMOTI WATER PROJECT

(Question deferred)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Keter, you have a matter to raise. Please, do so in one minute.

POINT OF ORDER

REASONS FOR REVOCATION OF
DR. MURUNGARU'S UK VISA

Mr. Keter: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I would like to know why the Minister for Transport, Dr. Chris Murungaru's United Kingdom (UK) Visa was revoked.

(Applause)

I would also like to know what the implications are for Government business in the UK and European Union (EU). I would also like to know the action which the Government will take. Lastly, we are told that there are other five Ministers who are likely to face the same wrath. So, could we also be told who they are?

Thank you.

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! There is no point of order there!

Mr. Wanjala: I want to add something else!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You have nothing to add.

Now, the Minister for Foreign Affairs!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I promise to give the Statement on Tuesday next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Hon. Members, I want to draw your attention to the Supplementary Order Paper circulated earlier on, indicating the Orders of today. As all hon. Members are aware, the House sits until 7.30 p.m. tonight, as per your own resolution. Therefore, we will start with the Vote on the Ministry of Agriculture and then move on to the Forests Bill, and then the Motion by Mr. Oloo-Aringo, in that order.

Now, next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read
being Fourth Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

(The Minister for Agriculture on 26.7.2005)

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 27.7.2005)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Floor is open. I believe we ended on the Government side. Proceed, Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry!

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity

to contribute on the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. From the outset, I rise to support the Vote. But before I comment on the Ministry, I want to state that the people of Mau, because the question of agriculture has a bearing on land, have the right to go back to their legal land. The Government has a responsibility to ensure that those people with legal land are settled. I come from the Rift Valley Province. However, I do not support the threats to the Government by leaders. This is because nobody has the capacity to overcome the Government's decision. But the Government also has a responsibility to ensure that citizens are given the rightful support and protection.

Secondly, I would like to suggest that the oversight Parliamentary Committees should actually verify Ministries' budgets before they are presented to the House, so that we eliminate any problem which would actually cause threats to national interests.

Now, let me turn to Vote R10. When you look at this Vote, the Ministry of Agriculture has been allocated, Kshs4,466,543,850. There is an amount of Kshs966,303,350 which the Ministry has reserved purposely for research by the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). What kind of research will cost Kshs0.9 billion? We would like to see the results of this research. The Ministry has not brought out the results of the research by the departments or research institutes under them. Out of the Kshs0.9 billion, we would like to know the best quality of maize, tea and cotton seeds that are recommended for planting. This is the kind of research we would like carried out.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can I seek your guidance? Yesterday, when the sitting collapsed, the Minister had been called upon to reply. I do know that an Allotted Day must take three hours. Now, that we appear to be beginning afresh for another three hours, are those of us who spoke available to speak again?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry! That question was directed to me and the answer is, that yesterday was wasted, in parliamentary terms. Therefore, we are going full blast with this debate. So long as there is someone who wants to speak, we will go to Committee Stage at 5.30 p.m. Therefore, those who spoke cannot speak again. It is the same debate.

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the Assistant Minister has now remembered a very important point he would have wanted to say, but unfortunately he missed that chance.

I would like the Minister to listen to what I want to say because it is very important. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), is occupying Kapiti Estate with an estimated area of 40,000 acres. Since there are people who have been evicted from the Mau Forest, the Ministry could set aside 10,000 acres of Kapiti Estate for research and 30,000 acres for their resettlement alongside other landless people of this country. This Government needs to co-ordinate its policies with regard to land and agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Head 102 in the Printed Estimates has been allocated Kshs537.1 million for monitoring and management of food security. I have never seen any food policy for this country. How does the Government intend to spend Kshs500 million which has been set aside to monitor and manage the food security policy? The Ministry should give these details to Kenyans because this is the only time it can prove that it is giving service to *wananchi*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Head 103 has been allocated Kshs3.1 billion for supply of agricultural extension services and research. The Ministry needs to explain how it will spend this money. What research is it carrying out? In the Development Vote, the Ministry has again been allocated Kshs2.281 billion for the same services. I do not know what the Ministry will do with Kshs6 billion. The Minister should tell Kenyans what research his Ministry intends to carry out. He should tell Kenyans what his Ministry is doing in terms of improving the quality of crops in Kenya and the marketing strategies that have been put in place so that we know where we shall sell our products. We have a big problem because the Ministry has just lumped this money, but it has not

indicated how it will be used.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the land that the Ministry of Agriculture is occupying for research is very large. We would like the Ministry of Agriculture to liaise with the Ministry of Lands and Housing so that land that is not needed for research can be given back to landless Kenyans. At the moment, the Ministry of Agriculture is occupying so much land for research and at the end of the day we do not see the results of this research. I have not seen any results for the last few years since I became an hon. Member of this august House.

With those remarks, I support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for recognising me. This is a very important Vote which we must all support. I will support this Vote because it acts as the granary of Kenya. If we do not support this Vote, a number of Kenyans will turn to thuggery.

First and foremost, I would like the Minister to explain in detail what is happening to money set aside for AFC; the disbursement which was done on 27th November, 2004. It is a critical issue because you will find that some districts got more money than provinces. What criteria was used? The AFC disbursed a total of Kshs1.1 billion last year. Out of this amount, Nyanza Province which includes Kisii, Kuria and the Luo Nyanza was only given Kshs34 million. Kisii District got Kshs10,408,000, Kisumu District got Kshs12,612,000 while Migori District got Kshs12,439,000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you continue scrutinising the figures, you will find that Kakamega and Kimilili in Western Province only got Kshs50 million, Meru District alone received Kshs62 million, Kerugoya District received Kshs54 million, Kajiado District received Kshs52 million and the North Rift which includes Kitale, Eldoret, Kapsabet and Turbo received a total of Kshs144 million, which translates into 18 per cent. Central Rift which includes Kericho, Molo, Nakuru, Naivasha, Eldama Ravine, Narok, Kabarnet and Bomet received a total of Kshs219 million, which translates into 21 per cent.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

[The Temporary Deputy Speaker

(Mr. Kagwima) took the Chair]

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, western region, which includes Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori and Kimilili, received Kshs90 million, which translates to 8 per cent. Eastern region which includes Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado, Ngong, Ukunda, Kilifi and Oloitokitok received a total Kshs267 million, which translates into 25 per cent. Mt. Kenya region which includes Nyahururu, Nyeri, Kerugoya, Murang'a, Embu, Meru and Thika got a total of Kshs336 million, which translates into 32 per cent. So, when you go by these figures, does it mean that Nyanza people are not supposed to get loans in order to develop their farms? Does it mean that they cannot get this money for doing business?

When the Minister stands up to reply, he should clarify the criteria which was used to give other districts more money than others. We have been talking about economic empowerment, but there is no way we can empower our people without disbursing some money to our people in form of loans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we are to improve on agriculture, it is prudent for us to lower, or zero-rate taxation on farm implements. If we do not do that, we will not produce sufficient food for our people.

The Government has already factored into the Budget about Kshs250 million for cotton growing. However, extension agricultural officers are not in the field. So, even if that money is there but nobody goes round to tell the people to work on their cotton fields, it might be an exercise in futility. In fact, it is important for the Ministry to send extension officers to the field, if it still has

any remaining in its establishment. He should look for more money to employ extension officers, so that they can visit farmers and advise them on how to improve on agricultural production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we speak, Ahero Irrigation Scheme has only two pumps. There is some money which has been allocated for the purchase of two pumps for Ahero Irrigation Scheme. If the Minister could increase the number of pumps, we will not have a problem in the growth of rice. As we speak, there is no rice there. There is simply nothing. The Ministry should do something, so that we can improve on the supplies to Ahero. In fact, even Mwea Irrigation Scheme is not doing well these days. Why are the Mwea and Ahero irrigation schemes not doing well? That is what the Ministry should find out because they have research stations occupying vast chunks of land. Even up to now, the striga weed is still posing a problem. Forty-three years after Independence, we still have the problem of the striga weed. He should improve on those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have large chunks of land which are not being developed for any economic gain. In fact, the Minister should come up with what should be done so that this idle land can be put into productive use. Productive use means that we should, at least, make sure that there is no land which is left fallow. In the event that we do not have to use this land, it is better for the Minister to come up with a form of tax. Those who will not put their land into good use should be taxed to enable the Government and individual Kenyans to benefit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is a very big Ministry. Yesterday I was, in fact, so disappointed because I have never seen a Government Whip whipping his own people to withdraw from the Chamber in order for this Vote to be---

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

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is so suicidal! I mean---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Order! Order, Mr. Ojode! What is your point of order, Mr. Keter?

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard what Mr. Ojode has said. He has made a very serious allegation, that yesterday instead of the Government Chief Whip whipping hon. Members from outside the Chamber to come back, he was whipping hon. Members to withdraw from the Chamber. Is he in order to say so?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is common knowledge. This Vote was supposed to have been disposed of yesterday. What happened? It could not be disposed of because we did not have quorum. What is the work of a Whip? He is supposed to whip hon. Members to come back to the Chamber to support Government Motions.

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. Ojode, I am not sure that, that was caused by the Government Chief Whip. In any case, your time is up.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Keter: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to contribute to this important Vote.

First, I want to take this opportunity to clarify an issue that was raised here when the Minister was answering a Question. I was not given a chance to do so at that time. The issue concerns the Kenya Tea Packers (KETEPA) Limited. I would like to thank the Minister for saying that there are no plans of relocating the KETEPA Limited head office from Kericho to Nairobi's

Industrial Area. However, there is reliable information to the effect that a Mr. Tim Chege has been appointed the Managing Director of KETEPA Limited, effective from 1st August, 2005, with express instructions to relocate the KETEPA Limited headquarters to Nairobi.

There is already an indication that the relocation process has started. The tea packaging plant has already been moved from Kericho to Nairobi's Industrial Area, the place where the Minister said is meant for marketing. This is really shameful because most of the factories that are managed by the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) are situated in the Rift Valley area. Most of them are found in my constituency. It is really painful for the KETEPA Limited headquarters to be relocated from Kericho to Nairobi. What is in Nairobi? Why are we moving the headquarters to Nairobi when we do not produce tea in Nairobi?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Raila): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In answering an earlier Question this afternoon, the Minister for Agriculture assured the House that the headquarters of KETEPA Limited will not be moved from Kericho to Nairobi. Is the hon. Member in order to again make an allegation to the contrary?

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate for Mr. Raila to say that I am making allegations. What I am stating are real facts. The newly appointed Managing Director of KETEPA Limited is Mr. Tim Chege. So, he cannot say that---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. Keter, since the Minister is here, maybe, he could confirm whether the position he gave while answering the Question still stands.

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was giving this House some information.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Order, Mr. Keter! The issue you have raised is important. I would like to hear from the Minister, since he is here, whether he gave the House the assurance that the headquarters of KETEPA Limited will not be relocated to Nairobi.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the position of a Managing Director has nothing to do with the headquarters of any institution. There is no Managing Director [**The Minister for Agriculture**]

who has express authority to move any headquarters from one town to another. It resides with the authority of the Board of Directors. There is no single Board meeting, which has been held that has determined that particular issue. Nothing has been done to that effect and there is no intention whatsoever to do so. I got a letter from KETEPA Limited, giving me that particular assurance.

(Applause)

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak, some of my constituents have lost jobs because the tea packaging plant has already been moved to Nairobi. So, I am speaking from a point of knowledge. I am not merely making allegations. These are real facts. I have informed the Minister, if he was not aware, that the headquarters of KETEPA Limited is being relocated to Nairobi. He should, therefore, do something to stop it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will now turn to the substantive issues I want to address. The first one concerns fertilizers. When the Minister took over the docket of agriculture, the price of a bag of fertilizer was much lower than it is now. I used to sell two or three cockerels to buy a bag of fertilizer, but this year, I had to sell my only Auckland bull in order to buy a bag of fertilizer. So, fertilizers have become very expensive. I want the Minister to intervene because the existing cartels in this area have become a problem. For example, the KTDA managers import a lot of tonnage of fertilizer on behalf of over 54 tea factories. Surprisingly enough, in a factory in my constituency called Chemomulo-Tegat, a poor peasant farmer buys a bag of fertiliser more expensively than the multinationals that we have like AHT, James Finlay and Unilever, which are situated in Kericho. They import their fertilisers cheaply. I urge the Government to intervene, so that

small-scale farmers can benefit. The Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) is exploiting small-scale farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the same issue of KTDA, it is disturbing to note that every three months, respective boards of directors travel to Nairobi to submit their quarterly accounts. Each factory is represented by six members. They are paid allowances. That is very expensive. Why can we not decentralise those services and have people from KTDA going to those factories? That will cut down costs. The burden of those trips is passed on to the farmers.

In the Budget, Kshs80 million was allocated for a compulsory acquisition of a farmers training centre. That is unfortunate because in my constituency, we have Kabianga Farmers Training Centre. It has over 100 acres of land and 20 acres of tea bushes. But the Minister did not give any money to that training centre. I raised that issue in 2003 and the Minister promised to look into it. It is now two years since then and nothing has been provided in the Budget. I do not know why this is the case! Maybe, it is provided elsewhere. I hope the Minister will tackle that during his response.

With regard to Kabianga Farmers Training Centre, I would like to urge the following: They earn a lot of money from their 20 acres of tea bushes and rearing of cattle. Why can they not run their account? Why is it run by the District Agricultural Officer who, instead remits peanuts to that training centre? He causes employees to sell tea and milk to middle-men, instead of selling them to companies which can give them money that will assist them.

A lot of money was allocated for research. We have a Tea Research Foundation (TRF), which is well established with many professionals. I wonder whether part of that research money will be channelled to that institution. That institution plays a very vital role in the establishment of tea seedlings. It has worked because if you buy seedlings from TRF, plucking rounds are improved to even four times a month. That translates to more tea leaves and more money to the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of money was also allocated to professional services. We have professionals at the TRF. We have PhD fellows there, but they are underpaid. Why can we not improve their terms of service, so that they can improve their research services? We can even use their research services to do other research elsewhere. As we are talking now, TRF is built on many acres---

(Mr. N. Nyagah entered the Chamber and walked to the Dispatch Box)

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, can you protect me from Mr. N. Nyagah?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. N. Nyagah, sit down first, so that we can know where you are!

Mr. Keter: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that TRF has a very big field which can be improved by---

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Ojode to claim that the Government Chief Whip has de-whipped hon. Members from the Chamber? Could he substantiate that allegation because it is very serious?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. N. Nyagah, where did you hear that? I thought you were not in the Chamber!

(Laughter)

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been out here with Members

of Parliament. Mr. Gitau has told me of an allegation that was made by Mr. Ojode and, hence, I have come to the Chamber to check.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that I alleged that the Chief Whip has de-whipped hon. Members from the Chamber. But, ordinarily, what the Chief Whip would have done was to go to the HANSARD and come up with a report. That is the procedure!

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): We would rather deal with that later.

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is serious! Mr. Ojode has just confirmed what he said. Is he in order? Why would the Chair not let him substantiate that allegation? It is serious.

Mr. Keter: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is a point of argument and they are wasting my time!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. Keter, you are also out of order! Hon. Members do not waste time. Let us do this: I would rather have Mr. Keter continue as we look for--- Mr. N. Nyagah, why do you not raise this matter tomorrow when you have looked at the HANSARD?

Mr. N. Nyagah: But he has just accepted!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): I think we will continue with the debate as we wait---

Mr. Keter: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to continue with my contribution.

The last point that I would like to make concerns the sugar industry reforms.

*(Mr. Ojode and Mr. N. Nyagah
consulted loudly)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you protect me?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Order, Mr. Ojode and Mr. N. Nyagah! Let us continue with the debate in the right atmosphere! We will deal with the matter on Tuesday, when the HANSARD report will be ready!

Mr. Keter, please, continue!

Mr. Keter: I was talking about the reforms in the sugar industry, which the Minister has really been talking about. Apparently, there are sugar-cane growers in some parts of my constituency. I know the problems that are facing sugar-cane farmers. It was just the other day that a sugar importation quota was given to six factories. Apparently, five factories gave their quotas to one factory, which is Chemelil Sugar Company. It is now importing over 50,000 metric tonnes of sugar.

But it is common knowledge that Chemelil Sugar Factory has no capacity of importing sugar. I say so because the Managing Director and Marketing Manager of the company have been in Mombasa for a long time---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. Keter, your time is up!

Mr. Raila, please, proceed!

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

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I would like to

support this Motion by the Minister for Agriculture. I want to congratulate my colleague for handling the matters of agriculture very ably, since he took over the docket. The reforms that have been carried out in the Ministry of Agriculture since the Minister took over, speak for themselves. The revival of agriculture sector is beginning and farmers are laughing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of reforms have been carried out in coffee, tea, sugar and many other sectors, including the cotton sector. The Ministry has been very inclusive in conducting those reforms. I know that the National Food Policy Paper will shortly come before this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about the cost of agricultural inputs. I want to join hon. Members who have said that it is necessary to reduce the cost of agricultural inputs, if we want to revamp agriculture in this country. I want to address myself to a particular kind of input; farm implements. Farm implements, including tractors and so on, are duty free. There is a big difference between the FOB price of a tractor and the retail price in our country. You find that a 50 Horse Power tractor from Europe costs nearly Kshs3 million here. Why are we allowing the middlemen to make hyper profits on what is basically an essential item? I want to urge my colleague to find a way of intervening to ensure that traders do not take advantage of duty-free facilities in order to make hyper profits at the expense of our farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that the Ministry is concerned about reviving extension services in the country. I also know from the Minister's own presentation that this year, they are going to employ about 350 more staff in this field. Extension services are very essential to agriculture. In the colonial days, extension services were very very efficient, and farmers were getting adequate support and advice from those Government officers. So, I would urge that they even double the number of intake so that these services can be extended country-wide to ensure that our farmers are properly and adequately instructed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, credit is essential and crucial to farmers. We need to extend it country-wide and be as fair as possible. Hon. Ojode has given some figures here, I do not know the source of those figures. But if that is the case, I know that my colleague will---

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister is saying that I have given some figures whose source he is not aware of. This information is from the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). If you want me to table it, I will do it.

*(Mr. Ojode laid the document
on the Table)*

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Raila): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that if the document is authentic, I am sure that my colleague will take action to ensure that it is corrected. We require affirmative action in this field.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Order! Order, Minister! Unfortunately, this paper is neither signed nor headed, and I do not know where it has come from.

(Mr. Ojode withdrew the document)

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Raila): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that my colleague will take action to ensure that there is fairness in terms of distribution of our resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to talk about the old AFC loans which were extended in the past, particularly those that affect the sugar industry. It is a known fact that at one

time when we had serious crises in the country; we had clashes, there were some loans which were taken by sugar farmers which could not be serviced because of this. So, we asked that the interests to these loans be written off. This matter has already been discussed and passed by Cabinet. The AFC has found it necessary to defy the Government's directive by not writing off the interest on loans extended to sugar-cane farmers. This is causing a lot of anxiety in the sugar industry, because the farmers are not able to repay those excessive interests. Therefore, the farmers are not willing to invest for fear that their farms will be taken over and sold. I urge the Minister to take action to ensure that the interest is waived.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like the Minister to ensure that both hands of the Government know what each other is doing. For example, there are certain equipment which investors in agricultural industry are allowed to bring in duty-free. We have a number of investors who bring equipment here, but have problems clearing the goods at the port of Mombasa. One such company is the Dominion Group of companies which is investing in Yala Swamp. It is a very heavy investment of over US\$10 million, which will transform the economy of that region. The company has imported equipment which has been lying at the port of Mombasa for nearly two years because of some problem in the Treasury. But they are some kind of vehicles which are exempted under the scheme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about Miwani, Muhoroni and SONY Sugar Companies. First, SONY Sugar Company has done an exemplary job. Farmers have been paid. They have turned round the factory. When we used to rely on expatriate managers, the company was making losses. In 2002, the company made losses to the tune of Kshs500 million. Last year, after the new management took over, the same company made a profit of Kshs300 million. This is something that needs to be commended. Now that we have Kenyan managers, the companies are making profits. The same can be said of Chemelil, Mumias and Nzoia Sugar Companies. This is something that is positive and needs to be commended. Miwani Sugar Company, as you know, has not been operating for a very long time. Farmers are suffering. There are huge accumulated debts because of the cavalier management that was running the factory for a long time. We would like to see the debts that were accumulated written off, so that this factory can be sold and revived for the benefit of the farmers.

Lastly, let me say something about Genetically Modified (GM) organisms. I know that the human being is a very conservative animal. The human being is, therefore, used to the beaten path. Anything that is new and innovative is met with resistance most of the times. That is why there is a lot of resistance to GM organisms. But this is a product of scientific research which is now being accepted almost worldwide. We, as Kenyans, must move with the trends of the time. Our people are poor, and if we want to increase our food production and be self-sufficient, we must accept this new technology. I am a full supporter of GM organisms.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity.

I would like to start my contribution on this Vote from the point of view of the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA). The tea industry was liberalised. But from this liberalisation, this industry is going to collapse. The tea industry is going to collapse if the Minister does not come up with new regulations about total and partial liberalisation. We cannot take some of these policies wholesale.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, tea that is supposed to be taken to factories is being bought by middlemen. In my district, we have six tea factories, namely, Nyansiongo, Nyankoba, Kebirigo, Sang'anyi, Tombe and the newly built Gianchore. This is where tea is being processed. These factories have been operating at a capacity of 15 million kilogrammes, but some of them are now operating at a capacity below 10 million kilogrammes. We should look afresh at the

issue of total liberalisation of some of our industries, particularly the tea industry. We should protect our factories.

There is a curtail of magistrates, police and lawyers in Sotik, Keroka, Kisii and Nyamira, where factory employees are filing accident cases against tea factories that are non-existent. Right now, Nyasiongo Tea factory has claims worth Kshs40 million. Where will this factory get this Kshs40 million to pay fictitious claims? The Minister should take up this matter. We have already reported this to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The magistrates, the lawyers and the policemen must be netted, so that we can know who is involved. There is one lawyer in Kisii called Mr. Katiku Khan, who is defrauding the tea factories.

Mr. Kipchumba: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to mention a name of a person who cannot defend himself in the House?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member wants me to provide evidence, I can do that. In fact, if that man is his brother, he should be in jail.

Mr. Keter: On a point or order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Obwocha to say that factories employees are framing cases against the factories, and yet Kisiis are known for even slashing themselves and applying fertilizers, so that their legs swell?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is being petty. I am talking about factory employees and not Kisiis. Some of these employees are from the hon. Member's tribe. I am talking about employees, whether they are Kalenjins or Kisiis. Fake employees are just fake! I have already alerted the Minister about the problem which is facing these factories and action should be taken immediately to save the factories.

The Minister for Agriculture has so far done very well. Kshs2 billion has already been pumped into the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA). We have written off debts worth Kshs8.5 billion for the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). Over Kshs2 billion has been given to the sugar industry to revive it. The Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) has already been given over Kshs400 million. We have already written off debts of about Kshs6 billion for the coffee farmers. The Minister has already received over Kshs20 billion to revive the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of this country. We want to see the results. Money has been pumped into this sector and Kenyans have a right to seek for fruits from it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me say something about the pyrethrum sector. It is a very sad thing that pyrethrum farmers have not been paid for a long time. Some of the reasons why they have not been paid are beyond the jurisdiction of the Ministry. However, the Minister should do everything within his powers to help this industry. This is one of the most important industries in this country. All over the world, natural pyrethrum is obtained from Kenya. Kenya is the highest pyrethrum producing country in the world and every effort should be made to make sure that the farmers are paid their dues. I have personally requested the Minister to try and see if the Africa Export and Import Ban, which is based in Cairo, can assist the pyrethrum farmers, using the stocks that they have as collateral security. We cannot allow this industry to collapse. We know that Kenya is the leading pyrethrum producing country in the world. I want to request my colleague to do everything within his powers to try and save this industry. Very many people are employed in this sector and they should be assisted to continue with their employment.

Lastly, I want to join by colleagues by saying that we should empower our farmers. We, in the Ministry of Finance, are willing to give a hand to the Ministry of Agriculture to make sure that farmers have access to finances in order for them to finance their inputs and the agricultural activities. This sector must be supported at all costs. The Minister should be assured that when we are making these comments, we are making them to assist him to run this sector well and improve

the livelihood of our people.

With those remarks, I beg to support the Vote.

Mr. Omingo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture.

First, I want to commend the Minister for having tried so hard, despite the odds. However, he could do better with the support of his colleagues because the Ministry of Agriculture is central to the economy of this country. When we talk about negotiations with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) about giving subsidies to farmers, the other Ministers should support this Minister, so that we can have a fair package internationally. We cannot get into the market pretending that we can sell our products out there on a level playing ground, when the competing teams are quite uneven. It is just like putting Manchester United on the pitch with Mathare United. You know the results!

In the West, farmers are given a subsidy of US\$3 per cow per day and this makes it impossible for our farmers to compete with them. The Minister should also look into the issue of the prices of farm inputs. Farmers should produce at a competitive price for us to be able to export.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I talk so passionately about the sugar sector. During his maiden days of his tenure in office, the Minister was quite emphatic on what he was doing. However, I am not too sure whether he still has the same vigour because the odds against him are so high. I remember a statement he made at the SONY Sugar Company that he was ready to sacrifice 10 racketeers of sugar than put millions of Kenyans into poverty. That has not come to pass. The sugar barons and the cartels are still existing today and they dictate terms of what is happening. I know that the Minister has been fighting a losing war, but Kenyans must rally behind him for him to succeed. Otherwise, we will be having a wild goose chase.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I took the Minister for Agriculture to South Mugirango today, whom I believe is a sympathiser, he would not believe what he would see. He would shed tears because sugar-cane farmers there have developed white hair like myself. Whenever sugar-cane flowers and matures, its quality goes down because the SONY Sugar Company cannot meet the capacity of the hard-working farmers of South Mugirango and Kisii. For that reason, I petition the Minister to reconsider, seriously, expanding SONY Sugar Company and even constructing a new sugar factory to cater for Kisii and Trans Mara region farmers, so as to motivate them. We cannot pretend to be enabling people economically, unless we push the mainstay of our economy; agriculture, into prosperity and profitability. It is a shame and embarrassing when a farmer ploughs, sows and harvests, only to be disappointed that the crop cannot be sold due to lack of motivation. People run into losses. That is why we are living in abject poverty. We cannot talk about economic recovery if we do not touch the right button in terms of agricultural quality improvement, particularly the sugar and tea sub-sectors.

When I was growing up, there used to be extension officers helping farmers. People used to call upon them for help. I do not know whether these officers have been phased out or are still earning from the Ministry, without delivering services. If the officers were dropped, then the Minister should tell us.

With regard to marketing of our agricultural products, it is a shame that this country, which has never been at war with anybody, can import sugar from its neighbours at a cheaper price than what it would use to produce it locally. We require proper strategic management of our products, so that our farmers can get value for their input. How on earth can a simple accountant, or a person who can add one plus one, invest Kshs1,200 per acre to grow maize and earn Kshs800 per bag? This is not economically viable. You cannot do that, unless you want to farm for charity purposes. If we are farming to earn a living and pay school fees, you need to sell the maize at least at cost price. Our farmers are compelled to sell their produce below cost price, which is pathetic and disheartening. As a result of that, people are leaving the agricultural sector for white-collar jobs, which are not available. Our boys are moving to live in slums of Nairobi to beg for their livelihood.

I quite agree with my colleagues in most of the issues they have raised. However, I disagree with them on the issue of Genetically Modified (GM) foods. Cancer and other chemically-related diseases were not common in this country, simply because we used to eat indigenous self-grown natural foods. I would hate someone to give *Cerelac* to my children because it is made out of chemicals, which balloon children's heads and does not give them energy which should provide them with strength. We should go back to our traditional ways of eating because our climate favours the growth of natural foods. With regard to shortage of rainfall, we can irrigate our farms because we have plenty of water resources. I think if we intensified our irrigation systems, our farmers would produce natural foods. There are some Americans who come here to buy our beef, but we import genetically modified beef. I invite you to look into the export and import of beef in this country. You will be surprised to know that our animals from North Eastern Province, growing through natural ways, are exported, yet we import genetically modified beef through archaic supermarkets in developed countries. We must go back and retrace our roots. If we did that, our medical bills from cancer would reduce. It is simple arithmetic for us to understand this fact. I will oppose hon. Members who are advocating for genetically modified foods to the letter. I impress upon all hon. Members to compare children who are fed on potatoes and sweet potatoes with those fed on *Cerelac*. These children appear totally different. Those fed on *Cerelac* look like dolls while those who are fed on natural foods have natural growth. Our children must grow as Africans. We have enough resource and we must grow natural foods. We need to move in that direction.

On the issue of credit to farmers, the Assistant Minister for Finance talked eloquently in supporting it. We will not support Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) as a conduit to misappropriate money. A proper credit system should be established to give our farmers credit facilities. We must have systems in place to cater for this. Our Kenyan culture is that we borrow with an intention not to pay. Even if we introduced a wonderful credit system for farmers, if our intention is to write off debts of politically-correct people, AFC will soon die again. It is beautiful to write off debts. However, are we really genuine and sincere about what we want to do or we want to open seasonal credit facilities by opening taps downstream for water to run?

Finally, let me talk about the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA). My farmers grow tea, but Ogembo Tea Factory is about to collapse simply because of litigations all over. I have impressed upon my good brother, Mr. Kirwa, and I agree with him, that farmers are using law courts to misdirect the operations of factories by employing people who are incompetent to be in office. I wish to inform the Minister that since the Government ably took over the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) from KANU, it can also withdraw all the cases from courts, and save 30,000 farmers in one factory, who cannot deliver their produce because of incompetent directors. The directors are in office illegally and want to remain there for the purpose of looting. Ogembo Tea Factory requires a sympathetic action from the Minister. I am sure he is ready to intervene.

If the Minister cannot manage the KTDA, let him bring an amendment here and we will support it. We are running a risk of moving an amendment of the Co-operatives Act, which will make the Minister irrelevant. If this Act will make our Minister and our Government irrelevant, we shall change it and support the interests of our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, liberalisation without oversight functions is useless. People are telling us to open up while they are closing their "legs". We must insist, that as we liberalise our Government policies, we also consider oversight functions. Bring an amendment here and we shall support it.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Karume): Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa nafasi hii ili niseme mambo machache kuhusu ukulima wa Kenya, na kuunga mkono Hoja hii. Nchi ya Kenya haina bahati ya kuwa na rasilimali kama vile mafuta, dhahabu na madini mengine. Hata hivyo, ukulima wetu ndiyo jambo la muhimu sana katika nchi

hii. Kama kuna mambo ambayo Serikali inatakiwa kuingilia, ni yale ya ukulima. Serikali inafaa kuingilia mambo haya kwa kusaidia wakulima wa Kenya, kwa sababu watu wa Kenya wana bidii na hupenda kufanya kazi. Lakini, wakati mwingine wao hukosa nguvu za kuwawezesha kufanya kazi. Hii ndiyo sababu nashukuru Wizara ya Serikali za Wilaya. Shirika la Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), hapo mbeleni lilikuwa limefifia bila pesa na halikuwa likiwasaidia wananchi. Wakati huu, Serikali imeipatia AFC pesa. Hata hivyo, ningependa kuihimiza Serikali iliongezee pesa shirika hilo. Pesa hizo hukopeshwa wakulima na malipo yake huwa na riba ya chini. Wakulima wadogo wa nguruwe, kuku, ngo'mbe na vitu vingine wanaweza kukopeshwa pesa hizi. Ningetaka Serikali ifikirie vile itakavyoipatia AFC pesa za kutosha kwa sababu inapopewa pesa kidogo, ni wakulima wachache tu wanaofaidika. Wengine huambiwa kwamba pesa zimekwisha na lazima wasubiri hadi mwaka mwingine. Tunajua kwamba mkulima hawezi kungoja kwa sababu yeye hulima shamba lake kunapokua na mvua tu. Anapoambiwa angoje hadi mwezi mwingine, hawezi kufaidika. Mimi nilifurahi Serikali yetu ilipofikiria kufufua AFC kwa sababu shirika hili litawasaidia wananchi.

Serikali haijakuwa na nguvu ya kuwasaidia wakulima wakati wanapoteza mazao yao shambani. Wakati mwingine, wakulima wa ngano, ambao wamelima hadi hekari 15, huwa wanapoteza mazao yao mvua inapokosekana. Ngano inaweza kuwa nzuri inapolimiwa, lakini inapofikia wakati wa kuvuna na mvua iwe nyingi sana, ngano hiyo inaweza kupotea yote. Pia, wakati mwingine ngano inapopandwa na mvua ikosekane, yote yaweza kupotea. Wakati mwingine, utapata kuwa wakulima wanaokosa mavuno ya ngano au mimea mingine huwa wameomba pesa kutoka mabenki au kutoka AFC. Mavuno yao yanapopotea, wakulima huwa hawana njia nyingine ya kupata pesa, uwezo wa kulima tena na pia, namna ya kulipa hayo madeni. Wakulima hawa huwa wanaweza kupoteza mashamba yao na mwishowe kuwa maskini sana.

Ningependa kumuuliza Waziri aulize Serikali irudishe mfumo wa Guaranteed Minimum Return (GMR). Zamani, tulikuwa na mfumo huo. Kama mkulima alikuwa amepanda ngano na akose mavuno kwa sababu ya kukosa mvua au kwa sababu ya kuwa na mvua nyingi, wataalamu walikuwa wakichunguza mambo hayo na kama mkulima alikuwa na deni, deni hilo lilikuwa likitupiliwa mbali. Mkulima ambaye alikuwa ametumia pesa zake kupanda ngano alikuwa akilipwa pesa zake na Serikali. Ningependa Serikali ifikirie vile itakavyowasaidia wakulima wa Kenya. Mkulima anapoteza mazao yake shambani huwa hana la kufanya na hawezi kulima mwaka mwingine kwa sababu ya kukosa pesa. Lakini kama tungekuwa na mfumo wa GMR, wakulima wangekuwa wakilipwa na Serikali kiasi fulani cha pesa walizotumia kwa kulima, na kuendelea na kazi yao. Ningependa Waziri pia afikirie vile tunaweza kuwa na kiwanda cha kutengeneza mbolea. Wakulima wanapopata mavuno, pesa nyingi hutumika kulipia mbolea tunayonunua kutoka nchi za nje. Tunafaa kufikiria vile tunavyoweza kuwasaidia wakulima wetu ili waweze kupata mbolea kwa bei ya chini, ili wanapolima waweze kubaki na kiasi kizuri cha pesa.

Katika miaka 40 ambayo tumejitawala, tumekuwa na njaa. Katika kila miaka mitano, sisi huwa na kipindi cha njaa. Kila wakati njaa inapotukumba, sisi huanza kulia na kukimbia kila mahali. Njaa itaendelea kutukumba, si kwa sababu Wakenya hawalimi, lakini kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa mvua. Kwa hivyo, ningetaka kuwajulisha kwamba, kwa mara ya kwanza, Serikali imeanza kufikiria vile inavyoweza kufanya, ili tuwe na mpango wa kupata maji ya kudumu. Mpango huu unaweza kutusaidia kuendelea kulima hata wakati mvua inapokosekana. Katika mwaka huu na ule iliopita, Serikali ilitumia karibu Kshs9 billion kwa kununua chakula kutoka kwa watu hapa nchini, na pia kutoka nchi za nje. Pesa hizo zingetumika kufanya kazi nyingine ya maana sana. Kuna Kamati ya Serikali ambayo imeanza kuangalia vile tunavyoweza kuwa na suluhisho la kudumu ili tunapokosa mvua, tuendeleo kupata chakula. Serikali inataka kuchimba mabwawa katika sehemu kavu na kuanza mipango ya kunyunyizia maji, ili tuweze kunyunyizia maji mashamba yetu. Tuna mito mingi ambayo hupeleka maji katika Bahari la Hindi. Maji hayo huharibika yanapofika katika bahari hiyo inapochafuliwa na watalii wanaoogelea. Badala ya kuwachilia maji ya mito

kuteremka katika bahari hilo, tunafaa kuyazuia ili yatusaidie kwa njia nzuri.

Kiwanda cha maziwa cha Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) kimefufuliwa na wakulima wa mifugo wamefurahi sana kwa sababu watakuwa na mahali pa kuuza maziwa yao. Shirika la KCC lilikuwa limenunuliwa na watu binafsi, lakini sasa limerudi katika mikono ya Serikali na ile ya wakulima. Hii inaonyesha kwamba Serikali ya NARC inafanya kazi sana na kufikiria mambo ya wakulima.

Ninamuunga mkono Mbunge aliyezungumzia mambo ya pareto. Nchi yetu hupanda pareto nyingi ya hali ya juu sana. Lakini unapoenda sehemu kama vile Nakuru, Molo, Kisii na sehemu zingine, utapata kwamba ni miaka miwili sasa tangu wakulima wa mmea huu kulipwa. Ni vizuri kama Serikali inaweza kutafuta pesa na kuwalipa wakulima wa pareto na kisha kupanga vile itakavyorudishiwa pesa hizo. Ni lazima tuwaangalie wakulima wote kwa sababu Mungu ametupatia nchi nzuri ambayo tunaweza kuitumia kwa kupanda mchele, miwa na kadhalika. Tunaweza kupanda mimea ya aina nyingi, bora tuwe na mipango mizuri. Hapo mbeleni, hatukuwa na mipango mizuri. Tunapokuwa na mipango, nchi hii itakuwa na chakula cha kutosha cha kula na pia cha kuuza. Serikali ina mipango hiyo. Mimi kama Waziri ambaye anahusika na mambo ya njaa, ningetaka kuwaambia Wakenya kwamba njaa imekuwa nyingi. Lakini ningependa watu wafahamu kwamba kwa sababu ya usaidizi wa Serikali na ule wa marafiki wetu wa ng'ambo, hakuna watu ambao wamekufa kutokana na njaa. Tutaendelea kusaidia watu waliokumbwa na njaa, lakini si vizuri kukimbia dakika ya mwisho wakati njaa imetukumba. Hayo ndiyo mambo ambayo Serikali inajaribu kukomesha. Wakulima wa kahawa kwa miaka mingi hawajapata pesa. Hata wengine wamewacha kupanda kahawa.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

Mr. H.M. Mohamed: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to also join my colleagues to support the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. This is a very important Vote because food is life. We have two types of farmers in this country; livestock and crop farmers. Both farmers are very important. Recently, His Excellency the President separated the Ministry of Agriculture from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. We were very happy and we congratulate the President for doing that. However, very little has been done about livestock - I can see the Assistant Minister looking at me - especially the beef farmers have not been assisted. I am saying this because I believe we are not going to discuss the Vote for the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. It is normally combined with the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, livestock farmers in this country have been very hard working. Unfortunately, they have not had the support of the Government. If you want to produce healthy and strong livestock, you need to have veterinary officers who will take care of the health of our livestock. The Government stopped employing veterinary officers long ago. We do not know the reason. These people are important to the pastoralists because they take care of the livestock. If we are not employing veterinary officers---

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I respect the hon. Member who is addressing us. However, I want to him inform that when the Vote of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development comes before the House, he will see that we have programmes that are going to assist pastoralists. Maybe he should confine himself to agriculture, crops and irrigation.

Mr. H.M. Mohamed: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is good news. If that is going to come, it is well and good. However, so far, we have no veterinary officers operating there. I have been to that area and they are not there. This is a fact! I will stop talking about livestock.

I would like to talk about the Agricultural Finance Company (AFC). This company is supposed to finance both crops and livestock development. However, it is unfortunate that livestock farmers do not have title deeds to secure loans. All the loans are being given to farmers who own farms and have title deeds, which they offer as security. Livestock farmers need to be supported.

They need to access loans so that they can develop their herds. This will ensure that they produce enough food.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about irrigation because the rainfall in this region is very unpredictable. For two years, we have rains and in the subsequent years, we do not have rain. The only solution to our problem is irrigation. It is unfortunate that the Government established several irrigation schemes in this country. One of them is Bura Irrigation Scheme. This was a very big irrigation scheme that could feed the people of this country. However, that scheme has collapsed. It was supposed to have had two phases. The first phase has collapsed while the second phase was supposed to be in Garissa at a place called Tegeiga. It was supposed to produce enough food to feed this country and export the surplus. To date, it has not started. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister to look into this matter and see how we can start irrigation schemes in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the role of the Ministry of Agriculture is to assist farmers through the employment of extension officers to advise farmers on modern farming methods so that they can produce enough food for the country. However, I think the role has changed now. Their role now is to identify where to import maize from. That is what is happening! They import sub-standard maize that is supplied to the Kambas and people in the north. As a result, people continue to die because of eating sub-standard food. It is time the Government supported farmers so that we can produce enough food to feed ourselves and for export. It is possible to do that if we use the water we have in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of my colleagues talked about Genetically Modified Foods (GMOs). These foods are very dangerous and I do not support this move. I heard some Ministers supporting GMOs here. In countries where these foods are used, people have a lot of problems. They are faced with obesity. It is easier to treat under-weight people. You just need to give them food and they will become all right. How will we treat people who have big tummies? We should not allow GMOs into this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also want to see the prices of food going down. It is unfortunate that the prices of staple foods in this country have been on an upward trend. This is because we are not producing enough. If we have surplus maize or wheat, the prices will go down and the farmers will also benefit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those of us who consume - we are consumers and producers - are feeling the pinch. The prices, especially in the last few years since the NARC Government took over, have been going up. When there is no food, there is no stability in the country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Mr. Poghio, you have five minutes to make your contribution before the Minister responds.

Mr. Poghio: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very good opportunity for me to join my friends and colleagues in supporting this Vote. I am rather encouraged today because the Government side is fully occupied by hon. Members. That shows us that human beings can repent and come back!

My message to the Minister for Agriculture is that this is, probably, one of the most powerful Ministries that this country has. The person charged with the responsibility of handling this Ministry should never feel that he is a "small" man because he is a very powerful person. We know that the person at the helm of this Ministry now is a courageous man. So, I would like him and his team to extend that courage to do the right thing. What is required in this country is for Ministers to do the right things, but not to do for the sake of it. In this case, I would like the Minister to scratch his head more until there is no more hair left on it. This is because the solution to hunger in this country lies with the Ministry of Agriculture. The problem of buying relief food as articulated

by Mr. Karume should not arise. It only requires the Minister spending less time in Nairobi. He should go out there and see how Kenyans are starving. This country has got very fertile soil. It is just a matter of agricultural officers going out there to advise farmers. They should advise them on correct farming methods. This happened once, and it can happen again. It requires courage to know when a farmer is making losses, to know that farmers are suffering under the weight of cost of production. He also requires the courage to know that the prices of farm produce are so low and do the right thing.

Since a lot of issues have been repeated, I would like to mention something about co-ordination in Government. As though we are back in the scramble for Africa, what this Government did recently is alarming. They just split up the relevant Ministries into different areas. Let me give an example to illustrate this. At the moment, the Office of the President is buying food for starving Kenyans. What business does the Office of the President have to do with food? Irrigation was removed from the relevant Ministry and put under the Ministry of Water. So, how do we talk about irrigation agriculture? Instead of talking about irrigation and agriculture, for example, we have to wait for them to hold their Votes, so that we can talk about irrigation and water. Therefore, this Government needs to co-ordinate issues. There is no way we can talk about the Vote on the Ministry of Agriculture without mentioning issues of irrigation because irrigation is crucial for survival of the ASAL areas. The Government has to find a way of combining some of these Ministries. In fact, let me emphasise that the Office of the President has no business dealing with ASAL areas. The Government is just loading too many functions to the Office of the President, which is not really necessary.

We cannot also discuss agriculture without mentioning land and land use. These two go hand-in-hand. Now we have to wait until the Minister for Lands and Housing says: "Land cannot be sub-divided below 2.5 acres." That affects agriculture. The Government should do the right thing and co-ordinate its Ministries.

What is the Minister for Agriculture doing in Nairobi? Does he know whether his officers in the field are working? One does not need to be a scientist to know that Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) are not working. In fact, they are not there. Even if we pass this Vote, it is a reflection of what civil servants produce every year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from a constituency where this year, the crop failed. Our people tried, but because of environmental conditions, the crop failed. Apart from blaming nature, we must also blame the Ministry of Agriculture. This is because all along, it is just the common *mwananchi* doing his level best. What happened to the issue of Guaranteed Minimum Return? Why can this programme not be revived?

On the issue of credit to farmers, all I can say is that there should be fairness, so that we have money that goes to the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have much time, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Kagwima): Hon. Members, it is now time for the Minister for Agriculture to respond.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to reply. From the outset, I wish to thank all hon. Members for their continued support and lobbying for an increased budget for my Ministry. Indeed, it is that support that has borne a lot of fruit to the extent that this year, we have an increase of 28 per cent on funds for Recurrent Expenditure. Though this increase is appreciated, I wish to agree with hon. Members that this allocation does not do much, given the fact that we have got other logistical support that is badly required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, during the Heads of States meeting in NEPAD, we gave ourselves the commitment that in this Ministry we shall be spending at least 10 per cent of the national Budget if we are to realise the goals envisaged in the NEPAD initiative.

For the last two days, hon. Members have complained that they have not been appraised on the role of the SRA. It is for this reason that I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the highlights of the SRA as envisaged by those of us in the sector and also the overall Government policy direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to begin with, SRA is a Strategy for Revitalising Agriculture with six fast-track interventions. One of which is what hon. Members of Parliament have been discussing for a great deal of their contributions. That is, reviewing and harmonising of the legal regime to provide for effective management and governance of all institutions in the agricultural sector and related industries. This is one of the issues that I alluded to in my statement as I moved the Vote, that we are thinking of consolidating a single or a few umbrella legislations for effective management of the agricultural sector.

The second issue that we have focused on is improving delivery of research and effective interface between research and extension for purposes of advising our farmers and giving them the required support in terms of service provision.

The parastatal regime is third in that particular order. That is, restructuring and privatising of non-core functions of parastatals and those of the Government, so as to make them effective and appropriate for service delivery. It is for this reason that the pyrethrum, cotton and coffee boards are candidates for restructuring for purposes of ensuring effective delivery of services.

Fourth, is increased access to quality farming inputs. Hon. Members of this House, for the last few days have been discussing and urging the Government to see how to make it more affordable to do farming in Kenya. I would like to agree with them that this is a serious problem affecting not only the agricultural sector, but other services in the agro-business industry. Indeed, as I will be able to refer later in my notes, we are thinking of effective synergy between institutions dealing with fertilizer and other farm in-puts, so as to make it more affordable to our farmers.

Fifth in SRA is formulating of food and nutrition policy programmes. A programme I referred to as I moved the Vote is in the pipe-line for discussion by this House, after being discussed by the Cabinet.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sixth, is to take measures to improve access to rural markets and improvement of internal taxes to make it more competitive for us to produce in this country. It is one of the issues that we are focused on as a Ministry, and as a Government. As I said, SRA will soon be taken to the Cabinet and later to the House for approval in form of a Sessional Paper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members raised certain issues and I wish to respond to a few because of time constraint. But I will be able to respond to them in detail in the committee stage. As far as the Recurrent Expenditure is concerned, Mr. Sambu raised the issue that what I was moving was Kshs5.1 billion, against what he saw in the books of Kshs4.47 billion. Indeed, the difference is in relation to Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A), which was not captured by the Vote as it does not come from the Consolidated Bank. The breakdown of the Recurrent Expenditure is as follows:-

For purposes of personal emoluments, we are going to spend Ksh1.86 billion. Out of that, Headquarters will take Kshs504 million and Field Services will take Kshs1.356 billion. For purposes of operations and maintenance, we are going to spend Kshs926 million. Out of that, Field Services will take Kshs395 million, while the Headquarters will take Kshs531 million. I have to say that it is not money that is going to be spent in the headquarters. But it is going to be spent in the following fields:-

An amount of Kshs146 million will go to subscriptions to international organisations such as IFAD, DLCO, FAO and all other organisations that we have subscribed to as a Government. An amount of Kshs40 million will be spent for purposes of staff training, Kshs26 million for field services such as agricultural *attaches* in three countries. The Central Agriculture Board, which

assists the Ministry in terms of policy formulation, will spend Kshs23 million. For purposes of Information, Communications Technology (ICT), we are going to spend Kshs15 million. Another Kshs15 million will be spent for legal and policy reform reviews that we discussed earlier on in the House. We will spend Kshs10 million for the purchase of vehicles for the four directors of agriculture and other heads of departments. An amount of Kshs8 million will be spent for front-line staff uniforms, as I said in my earlier statement.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for purposes of Development Vote, out of Kshs3.2 billion, Kshs1 billion will be spent in the field - that is in various districts distributed in various places in the country. An amount of Kshs1.48 billion will be spent as transfers to Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). I want to say this: The Kshs1.4 billion is not money that is going to be given to KARI for purposes of research alone. It will be given for purposes of retiring some of the arrears that were not paid for, such as Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deductions that were supposed to be paid and other statutory deductions that are mandatory for various organisation. There has been a backlog of arrears arising from non-remittance of the same in the past.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Headquarters will have Kshs657 million. I want to be understood here: Some of the Kshs501 million will come from the donors. The rest will be held at the Headquarters to be given directly to various districts for various projects throughout the country. I say that because, for example, for the Eastern Province Horticulture Project, the Kshs240 million at the Headquarters is not going to be spent there. It is going to be held there and any time an officer on the ground needs reimbursement, that money will be spent on the ground.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a great deal of extension message was delivered in this House. I wish to say the following:-

I do appreciate the concerns of my colleagues about the inadequacy in terms of extension service delivery by our officers. One of the reasons - not entirely the only reason - is inadequacy of funds for purposes of mobility on the ground. However, I promise this House that, with this increased funding - and I know that, God willing, we will appear again before the House - I will take the following steps to improve service delivery as far as extension services are concerned.

First, I want to rationalise all the staff and ask myself: "How many officers do I need at Kilimo House? How many officers do I need at various provinces and how many do I need in various divisions, locations and districts?" After that rationalisation is done, I have given a clear directive and, for purposes of making it clear, I have told the officers: "Any officer who has been at any station for three years, whether he has been doing well or not, has to, of necessity, to move from that station to a new station." I have also given a clear directive that as we sign performance contracts with the Government, every officer working in my Ministry, be it in extension services or any office, must also sign a performance contract with clear parameters on what they are delivering.

As I said when I was moving the Vote, all the staff, starting with the initial number this year, are going to have uniforms for ease of identification throughout the country. The 340 new officers that we are going to employ, given the kind of deliberations and the wish from Mr. Muturi, are going to be distributed throughout the country. That is because any officer of the Government, when he signs a contract, indicates that he or she will work anywhere in the country. That way, each and every constituency will have a new officer and, hopefully, with a new uniform.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appeal to hon. Members that, when it comes to those transfers, please, do not come to my office or any office in the Ministry. Let the officers move to new stations and let us see what they will do there. Whether somebody is pregnant and about to deliver, or somebody is about to retire, he or she is still a Government officer. Let them work anywhere in the country. We are humane and we shall be able to understand that, if somebody moves from district A to B, he needs to get back to his home. But I take the sentiments of hon. Members seriously. Some officers have become so comfortable in some areas that they have forgotten the message they were supposed to take there. They want to be the shining examples as

farmers or livestock officers. We are also facilitating the mobility of those officers in a small way. This year alone, we shall be able to purchase, if this Vote is passed, 120 motorcycles, 24 vehicles for various provinces and other services that will assist, such as computers and telephone services, to our people. Despite the purchase of those vehicles and motorcycles, the Ministry still needs more funds to facilitate staff mobility in various provinces.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the extension services are concerned and the programmes in the Government, the extension programme that is currently being implemented by my Ministry, in conjunction with other Ministries, covers 53 Districts. It is expected to cover the other districts in the next three years, so that the entire country is covered by NALEP. Its main pillars include wide involvement of stakeholders, participatory approach in planning and budgeting, a strong-farmer extension research linkage and encouragement of private sector participation in extension delivery. Under this programme, currently 52 per cent of the funds go to divisions. This is expected to increase to 75 per cent in the next two years when all the money spent under NALEP will be spent in various divisions. Out this figure, 26 per cent goes to the district headquarters and this is going to be reduced to 10 per cent over the same period so as to release more money for various divisions. Currently, 7 per cent goes to various provincial headquarters for purposes of monitoring and evaluation. We are going to reduce it to 5 per cent so that at the province, there is less money and more money goes to the divisions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members of Parliament raised the issue of *Njaa Marufuku* Kenya. As hon. Members may be aware, one of the key goals of the Government is to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. This calls for innovative and concerted efforts towards a sustainable improvement of food security. The *Njaa Marufuku* Programme targets the very poor and vulnerable groups identified through local leaders. Eighty per cent of the funds will be channelled to existing women groups once they have been identified and mobilised so that they can take up that money. I know hon. Members raised concerns that only Kshs200,000 was going to be released to various districts leaving the headquarters with Kshs63 million. The truth of the matter is that the Kshs63 million in the headquarters will be waiting for the proposals to come from the ground and this money will be spent on the ground. It will not be spent at the headquarters. Each of the 71 districts has been allocated funds for purposes of appraisal and co-ordination of the groups and forwarding of the proposals to the headquarters. The initial budget for *Njaa Marufuku* was intended to be Kshs800 million per year and the Government has made its initial contribution of Kshs80 million for purposes of starting the programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me just explain slightly more about *Njaa Marufuku*. We do not want to set the priorities for the people. We want to go down to the people, discuss with them so that they can give us their priority of needs. For example, at times in a district such as Mbeere, you may think their main problem is water only to realise that their problem is not water. Their first priority may be seeds for either cotton or sorghum or finger millet. Once they say that, we have no reason to tell them we are giving them water if their priority is seeds. We do exactly what the people say because we strongly believe in increased empowerment of our people to determine their own destiny.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of sugar, many hon. Members raised a number of concerns, and I can hear hon. Keter talking about Chemelil Sugar Company. Chemelil is one, but among many factories available in this country. I appreciate the sentiments of hon. Members about the sugar industry being heavily taxed. For purposes of clarity, I just wanted to say that there are only two major taxes which I know are borne by the sugar-cane farmers. These are Value Added Tax (VAT) and cess. The Sugar Development Levy (SDL), which is 7 per cent is borne by the consumer of sugar. The sole purpose of SDL is to improve the sugar sub-sector.

I appreciate that some of the problems have not been sorted out, but the good news I have about the sugar sub-sector is that there has been improvement in all parameters. However, we are

not resting on our laurels. We still have to do a lot more to ensure that we improve the sugar sub-sector. We have expansion plans for South Nyanza Sugar Factory (SONY) and the neighbouring area. SONY crushes 15,000 tonnes of cane per day against a capacity of 2,500 tonnes. This, therefore, means even if SONY was to be expanded to 7,000 tonnes, there is still an unutilised capacity of 9,000 tonnes which we want to take up by starting new factories through private sector investment. I wish to urge hon. Members to identify potential investors and we will facilitate them so that they can start new factories.

The question of restructuring and debt write off and reducing cost of production so as to improve productivity is high in the agenda of the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the hon. Members that as we improve the sugar sub-sector, we want them to urge their people to buy shares in these companies so that they can be able to own the chain right from planting of cane up to consuming sugar at the table. In this way, we shall be able to have better elasticity in terms of income for our people and also improved sharing of the value in every part of the chain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as cotton is concerned, I want to inform the hon. Members that out of Kshs250 million that we are setting aside for cotton, whatever has been reflected to be at the headquarters is money that we are going to hold to be given to the cotton farmers as the need arises from the ground. We are also going to spend part of the money to mobilise the farmers in various parts of the country and train them on the cottage industry for purposes of value addition. A survey is being done on availability of small and efficient ginneries for farmers so that they can make other products.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was also the concern about the role of provincial directors. I appreciate that the role of provincial directors may not be noticeable as it ought to be. That is why we are reducing the money to be taken to every province so that much of the money is spent in the districts and divisions. It is for this reason that we will only have some little money for purposes of extension liaison and monitoring of various components.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as farmers training colleges or centres are concerned, hon. Keter raised a lot of concern that he was not getting any money for this purpose. I want to assure him that this year alone, we have been able to improve the money that is going to various farmers training centres by more than 250 per cent. It may not be noticeable in as far as what he is saying, but I will be able to explain when we go into the detailed books where that money is.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I conclude my remarks, there is the issue of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). As we were witnessing from the debate, it is wide and varied. I just want to state the position of the Ministry and the Government because we are the people responsible for issues of bio-technology as a Ministry. While we need to encourage use of bio-technology to address food production, the use of tissue culture is already in place such as the one you see of banana and cassava tissue culture and improved varieties of other crops. We regard research in genetically modified crops very highly. I can confirm this is going on at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), but it is going on for purposes of experiment and it has been discussed and authorised by the National Bio-Safety Committee with the secretariat at the Council of Science and Technology. It is true the Bio-Safety Bill is still under discussion and is currently waiting for comments by stakeholders before it comes to the House for debate. It has been useful to ensure that the research process is not slowed down and I can assure hon. Members that the regulation includes very stringent procedures which take into account the risks or absence of enabling legislation or whatever is the case. For example, all activities of research institutions are supervised by the National Bio-Safety Council sub-committee, of which the chair is from my Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there were very many other issues that were raised by

hon. Members but due to lack of time, I just want to say that I appreciate the fact that farm inputs and costs are beyond the reach of many farmers. I have called the following institutions for purposes of discussing and providing the way forward; Kenya Plant and Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), Kenya Seed, Kenya Farmers Association (KFA), co-operative societies and the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) for a meeting to be held under my chairmanship on 8th August, 2005. I want to assure hon. Members that the price of maize from Government purchases is going to remain at Kshs1,400 per bag. I also want to assure hon. Members that the amount of maize we imported last year is just a small fraction of the total maize that we purchase from the farmers. As far as seeds are concerned, we are clearly focused on improvement of uptake of seeds by farmers. We are looking for ways and means of ensuring that we do it as well as we should.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish once again to reassure hon. Members that most of the parcels of land under KARI, KEPHIS and ADC have been repossessed and that they are strictly under our custody.

(Applause)

I will be going to Kitale on 13th August, 2005 to announce the parcels of land that we have repossessed for purposes of KARI. I will be able to show the title deeds to various members of the public.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also wish to assure hon. Members that the title deed for Njoro Wheat Research land is within the custody of the Ministry. A total of 967 acres is still with KARI. I want to assure hon. Members that we are looking into other issues emanating from their concern.

For purposes of credit facility, I want to disallow the information presented earlier by Mr. Ojode because it was not factual. It does not reflect the reality on the ground. The money that we gave for purposes of crop seasonal credit, a chunk of it went to Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia and Nandi, not because I happen to come from that part of the country, but it is because that is where the bulk of the purchases are done. In fact, 98 per cent of the farmers that we lent that money have paid back to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). Therefore, it is not true that farmers are defaulters by nature. They default when the circumstances are beyond them.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. Poghisio) took the Chair]*

Vote 10 - The Ministry of Agriculture

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! We are now in the Committee of the whole House. I now ask the Minister to move.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,473,882,925 be issued from the Consolidated

Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2006 in respect of:-

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Let us begin with the Recurrent Expenditure.

Mr. Muturi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I think the Minister has talked of Kshs3.7 billion, but what we have here is Kshs4.446 billion.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I realised the anomaly in the Order Paper yesterday and I made consultations. I was told Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A) is not reflected in this. What we are focusing on is what we will get from the Consolidated Fund.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): That is the correct position. Let us proceed!

VOTE R10 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

Head 190 - Headquarters Administrative Services

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister to explain this from the outset because it is recurring on very many sub-votes. On page 285, Head 190, sub-head 000, Item Nos. 2110300 and 2110400, there is something called, Personal Allowance Paid as Part of Salary. Below it, there is another Item referred to as "Personal Allowance Paid as-". This is recurring throughout the Recurrent Estimates. I think it is important that the Minister explains the difference between these two Items. In fact, they do not even add up to anything.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Minister, do you want to deal with that now?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am consulting. I will be able to respond to that.

*(Mr. Kirwa consulted with
the Ministry Officials)*

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Anyone else?
Yes, Mr. Sambu!

Head 193 - Development Planning Services

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 286, Head 193, we have Development Planning Services which is getting a total of Kshs21.6 million. What are these planning services?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will start with the question raised by Mr. Sambu. That is our new planning division that is being

instituted in the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the first one raised by Mr. Muturi is personal allowances paid as reimbursements for officers who go on leave.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On Head 190, which Mr. Muturi raised a question on, the Minister has explained that it is meant for reimbursement of officers who go on leave. It is not good to just indicate: "Personal Allowance Paid as-" It creates some suspicion in whoever looks at this Head.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think I can only refer to it as a printing error because, once we supplied that information to the Ministry of Finance, that is the product that we got.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am informed that we had gone up to page 287.

(Heads 190, 191, 193, 195 and 228 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 101 - POLICY, LEGAL REVIEWS AND REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Head 238 - Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA)

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Page 288, Head 238 on Horticultural Crops Development Authority, could the Minister explain why this parastatal which also charges farmers has been allocated Kshs128,992,000? Could he also tell us if they will open new depots and extension services in the North Rift region? He should also explain why this factory near Limuru which was completed several years ago is not being used to service the horticultural farmers around Limuru area.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 238 is Appropriations-in-Aid. The issue of opening HCDA centres in the North Rift and the one on extension services are in the pipeline. The factory near Limuru may not be utilised to the full capacity but, at least, some individual farmers and farmer groups are using it for now.

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Head 238, Item 3520300 - Receipts from the Sale of Non-Produced Assets, which continues subsequently to the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS). I would like the Minister to explain what that means. What does receipt from sale of non-produced assets mean?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the KEPHIS does inspection in various fields at a fee. These are the services they render and that is the money they get upon rendering those services.

Head 198 - Policy and Agricultural Development Co-ordination Services

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 198, Item 2211300 - Other Operating Expenses, I tried to compare it with the other Recurrent Expenditure Estimates under the Item "Contracted Professional Services". I would like to know what these Contracted Professional Services are. The figure is Kshs521 million.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, these institutions also provide services such as consultancy and they do it at a fee.

*(Heads 198, 238, 230 and
240 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 102 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

Head 235 - Headquarters Land and Crop Development Services

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Page 289, Head 235, Sub-Head 010 on Cotton Development, Item 2210300 - Domestic Travel and Subsistence, a sum of Kshs45 million has been provided for. What surprises me is that below there, on Item 2210800 - Hospitality Supplies and Services, there is a whopping sum of Kshs60 million. I am raising this issue because, as I said during my contribution, we do not seem to see anything happening on the ground within the cotton growing areas. Are these people just going to roam about in hotels and villages? It is too much!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the first question, Domestic Travel and Subsistence, is for purposes of mobilising farmers throughout the country. The second one which is Kshs60 million, is for setting up the Cotton Board. The balance of the money will go down to farmers to provide seeds and other materials for purposes of mobilising the industry.

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Sub-Head 010 - Cotton Development, I would like to have a clarification from the Minister. I do not seem to see any item on salaries for the employees. Does it mean that this Cotton Board is a body that does not have employees?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, when I talked of creating the Board, it also includes people who will be serving that particular Board. For the time being, because of the transitional period, the employees of the Ministry will be serving the Cotton Board until the interface is completed.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Sub-Head, there is an Item on Training Expenses which has been allocated Kshs33 million. Could the Minister explain whether it is the farmers who will be trained with this little money or the officers that will be serving the Cotton Board?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is for training of farmers, and it includes activities in the co-operative movement. We will share this money with the Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing. It is not for training of officers.

(Heads 235 and 502 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 103 - FACILITATION AND SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES AND EXTENSION RESEARCH

Head 229 -Agricultural Technology Development and Testing Stations

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Page 290, Head 229, where are these agricultural technology development and testing stations located?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, these stations are distributed in various parts of the country. These are the stations that are supposed to give appropriate technology to farmers. One is in Mtwapa, in Coast Province, while another one is in Western Kenya. They are located in a number of Farmers Training Centres (FTCs) throughout the country.

Head 638 - Provincial Agricultural Extension Services

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 638 on Page 292, in light of the Minister's explanation during his response, could he explain why there is provision for a net expenditure of over Kshs89 million to provincial agricultural extension services. I thought we are moving away from that level. If, indeed, what happened last Thursday is anything to go by, then we should not be making these provisions. That money should go to the lower levels.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is not that this money is going to be spent at the provincial level alone for purposes of extension activities. It is also meant to maintain the offices at various provinces as well as payment for utilities, maintenance of offices, staging and participating in shows, buck-stopping and monitoring activities in various districts.

Head 759 - Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Page 294, Head 759 - Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, although the Minister had explained the provision made under Item 2630100 on the Current Grant to Government Agencies and Levels of Government, I would like him to tell the House the other levels of Government which Kenya Research Institute (KARI) is going to give money. What I know is that KARI receives money from the Government.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am made to understand that the nomenclature in the Ministry of Finance refers to it thus, but it is money meant for activities of KARI in various stations.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Minister is well aware that in my capacity as the Chairman of the Public Investments Committee (PIC), I deal with KARI, as a parastatal. The net gross expenditure indicated here is Kshs1,477,000. However, over the years, the complaint we have heard from KARI is that, at the current level of grants they receive from the Government, they are not able to retain sufficiently qualified scientists.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, is the Minister satisfied that, with this level of grant from the Government, KARI will not be overburdened and have to run to international bodies to beg and borrow, thereby, possibly, sacrificing on the quality of research that it does? They, indeed, said that there is concern about the GMOs.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there may not be sufficient funds for KARI. In our budgeting, as Government, we reduced by 15 per cent all monies going to parastatals, and KARI was spared for the purpose of ensuring that its scientists get better remuneration than has been the case, because there was an exodus of very experienced scientists to various institutions; more so, when the salaries for university lecturers were improved.

Mr. Bett: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, still on the same Head 759, under the title

Appropriations-in-Aid, there is a provision under Item 3520300 - Receipts from the Sale of Non-Produced Assets.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): That one was handled.

Mr. Bett: I am sorry about that, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Very well!

*(Heads 202, 229, 255, 260, 638, 639,
661, 699 and 759 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

*(Heads 254, 257, 258, 259
and 261 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 105 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE BASE FOR AGRICULTURE

Head 247 - Land Development and Machinery Services

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, a total amount of Kshs107,708,000 has been provided under Head 247 for land development and machinery services. I know of one centre outside Chepkoilel Campus in Eldoret, which has so many good machinery lying idle because they need small repairs. There are bulldozers and many useful excavators which could be used to dig dams. Could the Minister ensure that those machinery are repaired and put back to use?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, very honestly, the money that we have been provided with may not be enough to revitalise all these centres. If we had a provision of Kshs1 billion, we would make all centres with earth-moving machines effective. However, I will ensure that we utilise the little resources that we have gotten to the best of our ability.

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Head 247, I would like to know the details of the intended expenditure of Kshs11 million on purchase of household furniture and institutional equipment, provided under Item 3111200.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is some basic equipment that the GMO stations require. That is what this money will be used to purchase. It is, definitely, not household furniture for any of the officers.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Sub-vote, Head 247, at the tail end - Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A), the last item, you notice that over Kshs60 million is receipts from the sale of inventories, stocks and commodities. The net expenditure is actually Kshs47 million. Now, the main heading is: Lands Development and Machinery Services. It appears to me that we are getting rid of those equipment. Is that the case, Mr. Minister?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we spent Kshs47 million to get Kshs60 million. So, the A-in-A is what we get when we provide services to various farmers, by using the earth moving machines. What we spend in terms of fuel and lubricants is Kshs47 million.

(Heads 233 and 247 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)

(Vote R10 agreed to)

VOTE D10 - DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

(Head 190 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 101 - POLICY, LEGAL REVIEWS AND REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

(Head 198 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 102 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

Head 502 - Food Security and Management Programmes (KSPFS)

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 502, item 1310100 talks about Grants from Foreign Governments. Could the Minister explain how that becomes an expenditure? The same thing is repeated almost everywhere in this Estimates. It is further broken down in various heads.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me consult.

*(Mr. Kirwa consulted with
Ministry officials)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have a programme with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). That is the money they have given us for purposes of publicising information in various fields, using various stakeholders. What was taking place this year is the Kenya Maize Development Programme.

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if it is money that they received from USAID, then it should be Appropriations-in-Aid. How does it become an expenditure?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I may not be able to give the logistics but, initially, USAID was not giving us that money directly. It was being used by various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). This year, that money was given

to us as a Ministry to spend as we so wish.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Minister!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me consult effectively.

*(Mr. Kirwa consulted with
Ministry officials)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is Grand Revenue. When it comes to that, we have to issue an Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) to be able to spend the money. That is why it is reflected in the Budget.

(Head 502 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 103 - FACILITATION AND SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES AND EXTENSION RESEARCH

Head 225 - Integrated Development Programme

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 103, Head 225 - Integrated Development Programme, Item 3111300 - Purchase of Certified Seeds, Breeding Stock, as you recall, we just passed similar items under Recurrent Expenditure. Why are they being brought in the Development Expenditure? It is not a lot of money. It is Kshs41 million, but why is it coming under Development Expenditure?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is money from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have a question on a different Item, although what Mr. Muturi has asked has not been sufficiently answered.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Kipchumba! If you want to follow up, there is no reason to complain.

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to ask the Minister: If he receives money for an Item in Recurrent Expenditure, why does he transfer it to Development Expenditure? We need a better explanation! I also want to ask a Question on Head 225, Item 3110500 - Construction and Civil Works. It appears on every Sub-Vote. I want the Minister to explain: If all those departments are housed in one building, why would we talk of construction and civil works almost everywhere?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Minister, maybe, you will have to deal with both queries.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am made to understand that this donor money, as proposed in the project, is not reflected in Recurrent Expenditure. It is only reflected in the Development Expenditure. That is the explanation available to me. Secondly, where we are talking of civil works, you remember---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Minister, please, proceed!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you remember I was talking about rehabilitation of various stations, centres and even district offices.

That is why we are talking about civil works to improve the face of our offices and various stations. That money is going to be expended through the normal procurement procedures of the Government. Preferably, it is going to be expended by the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, for purposes of giving us properties in the right face.

Head 237 - Horticultural Crop Development Services

Head 260 - Farmers Training Centres

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on 105, the first Item---

An hon. Member: Which Head?

Mr. Muturi: It is Head 237. The last Item on that Head, Item 4110400 - Domestic Loans to Individuals and Households (Co-operative Bank), there is Kshs35 million. As you will appreciate, if there is something to be paid to the Co-operative Bank, how then does it become "household?" Are people given money to purchase household goods and the Government is paying?

If the Minister could take two questions, on Head 260 - Farmers Training Centres, Item 2210600 - Purchase of Buildings, there is Kshs80 million. Could the Minister explain which training centres will purchase buildings worth Kshs80 million?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will start with the last, that is, Purchase of Buildings. We have invested in Wambugu and Waruhiu Farmers Training Centres, both in Central Province, close to Kshs200 million. A few years ago, the owners of the said institutions, the Wambugu and the Waruhiu families, decided to hike the rent from Kshs100 per year, to Kshs1 million per year. We, therefore, found it prudent that instead of continuing to pay rent at that particular rate, we would rather purchase the items for purposes of continuing with the work of the farmers training centre.

Secondly, the money that is going to the co-operative society as referred to by hon. Muturi, is not money that is meant for purchasing domestic items. It is only the Vote Head that provides for that. This is money that is assisting the nine irrigations schemes that were started under this particular programme and, it is to facilitate purchase of items such as sprays and other components that are used for purposes of irrigation in those particular areas.

Eng. Okundi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am looking at the allocation to the districts. On page eight, under Cotton Development, there is an allocation of Kshs250 million for cotton growing. Now, a number of districts which are---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Eng. Okundi, which Head are you referring to?

Eng. Okundi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think this Item is in the Heads you had called out. It is under District Allocations, on page eight.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): Order! I do not know how the Minister is going to help you if he does not know which Head you are talking about!

Eng. Okundi: But these are districts---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): He is not using that document at the moment.

Eng. Okundi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why not? Why did he give it to us if we cannot use it? The districts which grow cotton, including Homa Bay which even has a cotton ginnery, have not been given money for cotton development.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Poghisio): All right, you have made your case.

Unfortunately, the Question proposed is under particular Heads in the Development Vote. If it is not mentioned in relation to that Head, the Minister is not obligated to deal with it. So, you had better find the Head so that you can raise it.

Head 763 - Veterinary Research

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 107, there is Head 763 - Veterinary Research, and in the next page, there is Head 765 on Animal Production Research. I want the Minister to explain why veterinary research is under agriculture and not Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 105, Head 260; Wambugu and Waruhiu FTCs, the Minister said that they will purchase those institutions at Kshs80 million. There are other FTCs which are on trustlands, for example, the one in Kaimosi which is on Nandi County Council trustland. Even Kabianga and Isiolo FTCs are on trustlands. So, if you are paying for the ones owned by individuals, are you also going to reimburse the county councils, because the land on which the FTCs are situated was acquired initially by the British Colonial Government forcefully, as per constitutional provisions on Sections 114, 115 and 117?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will start with the question by hon. Sambu. The two FTCs happen to be on private family land. The rest of the FTCs happen to be located in various councils. We want to respect the interests of every individual. It is for that reason that when the families said they were hiking the rents, we negotiated for this purchase. But the purchase price is not entirely reflected here. It has to be determined by the prevailing market rates. I will not, therefore, say that the entire amount is going to purchase the two institutions or whether it is going to be adequate. On the long-term, it will depend on the way the various county councils will discuss with the Government, and we are open to discussions.

On the question raised by hon. Kipchumba, the two institutions, KEVEVAPI and KETRI, are under the Ministry of Agriculture because both of them are under KARI, which is under my Ministry.

*(Heads 225, 229, 237, 246, 260, 271, 759,
760, 761, 763, 764 and 765 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE

Head 698 - Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 698, Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP); why is it not under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, management projects happen to be reflected here because the donors of the said money wanted this management to be co-ordinated by KARI, which happens to be under my Ministry. We are not implementing the projects alone. We are implementing them with various Ministries such as the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. This is encompassing the operations of those

Ministries. The World Bank, who is the donor, decided that the projects are better managed under the KARI. That is why it is here.

(Heads 258, 259 and 261 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 105 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE BASE FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Head 247 - Land Development and Machinery Services Stations

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 247, Item 3110200 - Construction of Buildings, Kshs39.47 million has been allocated. I am just curious to know from the Minister where these buildings are going to be constructed. We have heard that Kshs80 million will be spent on Wambugu and Waruhiu Farmers Training Centres. Where are these buildings going to be constructed?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this money is for purposes of rehabilitation of the 23 existing stations.

(Heads 247 and 698 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)

(Vote D10 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

REPORT

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Poghio: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs3,473,882,925 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2006, in respect of Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture, and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while congratulating the Minister on the passage of his Ministry's Vote, I want to urge him to ensure that in keeping with the promise that he gave to the House; that the money that is shown to be held at the headquarters will, indeed, find its way to the grassroot as proposals come from the various parts of the country.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to join my colleague in congratulating the Minister on the passage of his Ministry's Vote by the House. However, I wish to request him, and his team, to make sure that the field officers visit the farmers. The performance contracts should work and the officers should show which farmers they have visited, so that we improve agriculture and get rid of food shortages.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Bw. Naibu Spika, wakati ninapompongeza Waziri kwa kupitishwa kwa Voti yake, ningemuomba ahakikishe kwamba mali yote ya Wizara ya Kilimo yanatumika vilivyo, hasa, kupanua Jengo la Taita Farmers Association, ambalo limekaa muda mrefu bila kutumika.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while congratulating the Minister for ably handling this Vote, I want to request him to consider allocating more funds to the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL), perhaps, in the Supplementary Estimates, so that the employees in those areas will be utilised better.

Eng. Okundi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while congratulating the Minister for this Vote, which has now been approved, I wish to point out something. Under the Head on Cotton Development, several districts which grow cotton were not included. These are Homa Bay, Rachuonyo, Bungoma, Migori and Nyando. Currently, Homa Bay is housing the cotton ginneries for the entire western Kenya. This is a very obvious omission and I would like to request the Minister to amend the Estimates accordingly to include these districts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You should request the Minister to do something, but he cannot amend the Vote.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL

Second Readings

THE FORESTS BILL

*(The Minister for Environment and
Natural Resources on 19.7.2005)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 19.7.2005)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o was on the Floor. He is not here.

Let us proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to the Forests Bill.

May I start by beseeching my colleagues here, that we should not let this Bill suffer the fate of the first Bill that we debated very well, but eventually threw it out of the House. May I also

congratulate hon. Musyoka for bringing the issue of environment, together with his able Assistant Minister, Prof. Maathai, to the national level where we now are talking about the environment at several levels.

The environment of this country must take centre stage. It should be a subject which should be included in schools curriculum, right from primary to university level. We have all watched the degradation of our environment and the destruction of trees taking place. We have also watched our rivers drying up in this country.

Recently, I read a letter, which had been written to a newspaper by a primary school child from a Nairobi school, crying about the death of Nairobi River. The letter lamented about the springs which flow from Kikuyu and Ngong Hills, percolated with clean drinking water. The streams roll down Nairobi, taking with them filth, swill and dirt along the way, to the extent that the river has a dubious distinction of being the most polluted in this country. As we pollute Nairobi River, we are equally polluting Athi River because the tributary from the concrete jungle of Nairobi is full of waste. The raw sewage we release to the river and all the effluent from the Industrial Area end up in Nairobi River. Nairobi River then feeds Athi River. I would like the Minister, Mr. Musyoka, who comes from an area where Athi River flows through, to take it upon himself together with other hon. Members and steer up the clean-up of Nairobi River. If we cannot sustain the quality of our running waters, then we cannot talk about protecting the environment.

In this country, and particularly Western Province, streams and rivers that were permanent 15 years ago have now been reduced to seasonal streams or have lost quantities of water to as much as 60 per cent to 70 per cent. I want to urge the Minister, in conjunction with the Minister for Lands and Housing together with the Provincial Administration, not to pay so much attention to Mau Forest only. Mau Forest is certainly important for the Mara eco-system, but we have greater danger at the Mount Elgon Forest. More than three-quarters of the forest land of Mount Elgon, which provides a critical catchment area for Lake Victoria, has been destroyed. We want to see the vigour of enforcement of the law in driving out people who have illegally settled on forest land and revert it to forest growth.

It is generally known that the United Nations (UN) requirement for minimum forest cover for any country should be at least 10 per cent. Countries like Japan have forest cover of over 70 per cent. You will be surprised to know that Kenya's forest cover is only 1.7 per cent of our land, which is way below the minimum requirement. In fact, I would like to urge the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and our Nobel Laureate not to target the minimum 10 per cent recommended, but to target having a forest cover of not less than 30 per cent to 40 per cent of our land. That is the only way we can resuscitate and sustain our environment.

We must make it compulsory, with penal sanctions, for every land owner including the Government and public institutions and individuals like you and I, that whoever owns land must have the minimum piece of land prescribed by the law under forest cover. That is the only way we can redeem our forest cover in this country. That is the only way we can bring back the rain cycle we used to have in the 1960s and 1970s. I recall that up to the early 1980s, in Bungoma, you could plant your crops in the last week of February because you knew that within a week or two, the rains would be around the corner. We used to do dry planting. Now, the rains do not come until late April. You can imagine how much weather change there has been in a span of two months. This is because of how recklessly we have handled our environment. Taking care of the environment does not involve only planting trees. We have other issues that have heavily undermined the environment.

I was happy, recently, to hear the Minister talk about a policy which must be followed by a legal regime. He was considering controlling or even banning the use of plastic bags for packaging.

That position must have been taken yesterday and not today. Everywhere you go, and even drive along, all you encounter are plastic papers flying all over. The plastic papers, apart from being a menace, are a danger to our livestock and to our wildlife. We need to borrow a leaf from countries like Venezuela where the use of plastic packaging is banned by law. The country uses paper converters for packaging in supermarkets, and at every level. I hope that the Minister, Mr. Musyoka, will take a bold step and will not mind business people who are saying their businesses are being destroyed. It is better and safer for this country for a plastic paper factory to close down, than to continue chocking our waterways, killing our animals and having a nauseating site of plastics flying all over.

I want to also touch on the issue of Lake Victoria. This lake is a source of life for over 6 million people. In fact, if we consider the catchment areas of the Lake that go up to Mount Elgon, we will see that they serve close to 13 million people. If you visit Lake Victoria, in Kisumu, you will find raw sewage flowing right into the lake. You will find effluent factory waste flowing into the lake. This is the same lake from where we enjoy a meal of fish, or *fish*, as my colleagues from the lake-side call it. We need legal provisions to protect our lakes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that we have the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Authority (LVEMA), we need to work in harmony with the three East African states, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, to ensure that the laws that protect the lake are harmonised. I was frightened the other day when we had a meeting in Mombasa with the East African Legislative Assembly Members. We were told that a recent survey shows that certain parts of the lake are as shallow as two metres. They were nine metres deep 15 years ago. This is so because of the inflow of soil through erosion. All the rivers that used to flow into Lake Victoria now look red. They look like the colour behind the Speaker's Chair because of the soil that is flowing through them. In the old days, when you went to River Nzoia, you would see fish swimming below the surface of the water. However, all you see is a whole chain of red soil flowing along the river and being pumped into the lake. If you fly over Lake Victoria, there are certain parts of Homa Bay and the general Nyanza Gulf, where the lake is no longer blue. The colour of the water is red. That is where we have a livelihood of millions of people. That is where we get fish to export. The Minister must critically look, not just at forests, but the environment also. The Forests Bill goes beyond looking at forests. We must protect our environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, having been an administrator, you can recall that in the old days, we used to have policies and laws that never allowed anybody to cultivate 20 metres from a river. We used to have the riverine protection. That is how we used to protect the soil from flowing into the river. If you visit any place, you cannot tell where the river is. We no longer have riverine vegetation. People have cultivated up to the banks of the rivers. As they cultivate, the soil is blocking the streams and rivers. Where the water movement is heavy, the soil goes to the lake. This is dangerous for the country. It is undermining agricultural production. I would like to see a situation where the Minister and his team set up outreach offices in every area to make sure that anybody who is cultivating up to the bank of the river is prosecuted because it is against the law. Such people may even be denied the opportunity and the privilege of owning land. If you cannot look after land, it should not be seen as a right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last Forests Bill, we had clauses that made it difficult for people to collect firewood and other things from the forests. I want to urge that forests should not be no-go zones. Public education must be such that we must educate our people on how to live with forests. Forests were always a source of medicine, firewood, food and many other things for people. There are communities in this country that live on roots and wild fruits. These fruits are available in forests. We should not, therefore, have a situation where we insulate forests from human beings.

That is how we attract them to go and destroy them. We must teach people that they must live with forests. We must teach people that forests are a source of livelihood not by mowing down the timber and selling it but by getting them to live with forests. There were penal sanctions in the Bill where even women who go and collect materials from forests are liable to prosecution. You know that in a country where over 90 per cent of our source of domestic fuel is wood, you cannot insulate forests from people going to collect firewood. Indeed, most of the trees normally shed off dead branches. Those are the ones that people collect and use as fuel. Therefore, forests should be managed in a friendly manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the board that will manage forests needs to be re-looked at. We need a stakeholder approach. This board should not just operate from Nairobi and direct its operations from here. We would like a situation where the Forests Management Board (FMB) is established up to the locational level. I know in the new draft Constitution, there is an attempt to abolish locational leadership by abolishing chiefs and so on. But I believe the units will be there. We must go down to the lowest level if we want to make an impact.

Equally, in the 1980s, we had a very vibrant reforestation programme through the running of forest nurseries. At that time, nurseries were opened up to the village level. We had women groups running nurseries where they were growing trees and supplying seeds to people to plant. I do not know about Mwingi Constituency, but in Bungoma District, all nurseries are "dead". We do not have a single nursery that we can talk about. Through this board, I would want the management to address the issue of reviving forests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know many of my colleagues, like yourself and my friend, Mr. Bahari, across the Floor, and even the Assistant Minister in this Ministry, Mr. Kamama, come from ASAL areas. We also know that, scientifically, anywhere grass can grow, a tree can grow. We want to deliberately target ASAL areas and plant trees *en masse*. Let us put money in trees because, the benefits of tomorrow will be enormous.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to move closer home on the issue of Pan African Paper Mills (EA) Limited, commonly known as Pan Paper. This company is situated in Bungoma District, Webuye Town. It has been in operation for a very long time. It should be conditioned to assist farmers to start agro-forestry in their farms. For example, if a farmer has two acres of land and he is able to plant trees, this company should be able to extend professional forestry services to him to plant trees, harvest and buy them from him. This is the only way we can save public forests and also help farmers grow trees and earn money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak here, we are faced with an embarrassing situation where Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) is delayed in connecting persons and institutions that have applied for connection of electricity because of a single thing; they have no poles. Poles for electricity are now being imported from South Africa. This is a shame! The KPLC, as a utility, should be involved in the development of plantations that supply them with poles. We should encourage private developers to grow trees and supply poles. I feel embarrassed to read in the newspapers that 170,000 applicants who have paid connection fees, cannot be connected with power because there are no poles in the country and that KPLC is waiting for poles to come from South Africa. This is a terrible indictment on the management of our forests and public affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of forests does not belong to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources only. It is a cross-cutting issue. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, Parliament in its totality and everybody must be involved, if we are going to make a meaningful change in the management of our forests. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is key in the development of forests. I would expect a Bill as important as this one to be co-sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of

Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Energy. That is because all of them are direct beneficiaries of the forests that we are trying so much to develop and protect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the old days, we used to have dams. It is a pity that, in this country, if you look around, the only dams that we have are the ones that were developed during the colonial days. Since Independence, I do not think successive regimes in this country have developed more than 100 dams. I am saying that, hand in hand with the protection of forests, must be the harvesting of storm water, which could be used to develop forests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that you do not get enough rains in Mwingi for trees to grow rapidly. But I also know that you get sufficient flash rains and storm water which, if you harvested, you can hold it up to the next season. That is the water that we can use to develop tree nurseries and irrigate trees at the initial stage.

When we talk about trees, we talk about forests. I have said here before that it is incumbent upon my colleague, Mr. Musyoka, the Minister for Water and Irrigation and other line Ministers, to engage Egypt and ask them to contribute towards the reforestation of water catchment areas in Kenya. Those areas include Mau Forest, Cherangany Hills, Elgon Forest and all the areas that feed Lake Victoria. The principal beneficiary of the Lake Victoria Basin is Egypt. It is not enough for Egypt to station an hydrologist at the exit of River Nile with a deep-stick to measure the flow of water every six hours. That is not enough! Mr. Musyoka must tell them that, that is not enough. They should come to Ukambani and drill a few boreholes. That way, they can tell us that they are helping us to protect the environment. They must be involved in the protection of the catchment areas of Lake Victoria. That protection lies in the growing of trees. That will, in turn, help them to make sure that the flow of rivers into Lake Victoria is steady and sustainable. It is those waters that will then flow to Egypt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people have talked so much about the Nile Treaty. Let us not even bother about the treaty. It affects Egypt and the riparian States of the Nile. Let us talk about a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Kenya. That is a matter in which the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources needs to be fully engaged. One of the handicaps of forest development is lack of money. World over, everybody is falling head-over-heels to try and be associated with environmental protection. We have a jewel here in the name of Prof. Maathai. We should release her to go all over the world and look for money, and come and afforest our dilapidated forests. I am sure that any door that she opens and asks for money to come and re-cap Mt. Kenya or Mt. Elgon--- I am sure that even the meanest of the mean would open their wallets and give us money. We need to harness and use our available human resource. We have no better human resource in this field than Prof. Maathai. I would like to suggest that, as a Government, we need to utilise the talent, recognition and the abilities of Prof. Maathai fully. I do not think we are using her to the benefit of this country as we should. The fact that she is in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, gives her even a greater voice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to finish by talking about the management of our urban centres. Our local authorities mismanage the environment in a frightening manner. As we talk of growing trees out there, I think the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources must start with cities. If you go to European cities like the Hague, Brussels, Amsterdam and elsewhere, you cannot cut a tree in your own compound without a permit and if you do so, you will be prosecuted. We must learn how to protect our trees. I went to some European country and found out that even some companies that run television cables are not allowed to dig and cut roots of trees without supervision from environmentalists. This is the only way we can be able to tell our people that a tree is a source of life and it needs as much protection as we protect ourselves. I would want a situation where the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, the Minister for Local Government and other

Ministers concerned, work hand in hand to ensure that our civic leadership is not concerned day in, day out, about how to share out plots and fight. Every evening you see, on television, councillors boxing each other. You never see them talking about how to protect the environment around them. Everywhere you go is an eyesore. There is rubbish dumped everywhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources needs to look at the management, workings and achievements of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The NEMA has now been around for a couple of years and I have not seen any impact of its work. It is an authority with legal backing and that has got the capacity to prosecute and close down factories that pollute the environment and yet, how many of us know what NEMA does? How many of us here, hear of the presence of NEMA even in the areas we represent? Nothing! I would want the Minister to critically look at the management of NEMA, its activities and make sure that it lives up to the legal backing that we gave it through this Parliament by legislation. There is no point having an authority that is not doing its work. I am sure Minister Musyoka has the capacity, will, means and the strength to make sure that NEMA discharges its functions properly.

We do not want to hear of NEMA only when people are applying for environmental impact assessments. That is the only time we hear of NEMA when they put up advertisements in the papers urging interested people to come forward and so on; it must be pro-active. We want NEMA to be involved in the development of the environmental curriculums in our schools. The NEMA should be on the frontline of everything environmental and that is the only way we shall realise its importance in this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support and urge my colleagues not to throw out this Bill this time!

Mr. Bett: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for recognising me. Speaking hot on the heels of such an eloquent speaker, the hon. Member of Parliament for Sirisia, "disables" one but I want to fully associate myself with the comments and views he has expressed on the issue of the forests and the environment. I also want to thank the Minister for finding time to sit with the Committee. He sat with us for two days and we have preferred some amendments to the Bill which I think, in due course, we will discuss them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, consequently, I will not be taking too much of this House's time. However, I want to underscore the importance of indigenous trees. These are the original trees that were put on this part of the world by God. The pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees came from elsewhere and they are prone to attack by pests and such other diseases because they do not belong to these particular climatic conditions. We all remember what happened to cypress trees about three to four years ago. They were attacked by pests mainly because they are exotic trees. I want to urge the Minister, in the implementation of this Bill once passed, to really stress on the planting of indigenous trees everywhere in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the forests are the habitat for wildlife. We need wildlife in promoting tourism. We need the forests to provide a habitat for our wildlife. We need the birds, insects and many other creatures because all of them contribute to the ecosystem balance that is needed.

I want to touch on farm forestry. The tree planting days are no more in this country. Those days were crucial when they were publicised. They were emphasised in primary and secondary schools. It was, indeed, making the children of this country appreciate the importance of trees. But these days, we do not hear of them. We need to sensitize our people, right from youth, so that they become familiar with the importance of trees. They will know that we need trees for economic development, environmental conservation, socio-cultural benefits and other uses that accrue from trees; like conservation of water catchment areas. We need those tree planting days to be stressed by

the Ministry again. Such days should be made official, so that people come to appreciate and recognise the need for trees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about tree planting, we need tree nurseries. At the moment, they are very few in the country. The ones which are functional today are those being run by private companies, for example, Rai Plywoods, Timsales, and Pan African Paper Mills in Webuye. There is not much being done by the Government. So, we are, indeed, urging the Ministry to stress the need of keeping nurseries. These nurseries can also be run by women and youth groups, so that they give them some income also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the eucalyptus trees require a lot of water. There is always a tendency by our farmers to grow them on wetlands. Wetlands are extremely useful for purposes of cleaning dirt that may be going into the ocean. So, I would like the Ministry, indeed, in collaboration with the Provincial Administration, to restrain people from planting eucalyptus trees in wetlands because they take a lot of water and consume what we call the "kidneys" of the earth. They also dry up the sources of water and, at the end of the day, we end up without water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works excavates for purposes of constructing roads. I would like to urge the Ministry that, as it does that, the contractor is made to plant trees along the roads. Indeed, they should return the soil which they remove during road construction. So, the restoration of quarries should immediately be done by the contractor who is involved in the construction of a road.

As opposed to what we have today, there are so many gullies and open grounds where the various contractors remove the earth to do roads. This is a health hazard which has resulted in deaths of so many people in such dams which were used as soil excavation grounds for building roads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when these trees are planted along the roads, they have got so many functions and one of them is purifying the air. As carbon monoxide is emitted from a vehicle in motion, the air is purified by those trees. We are talking of the need to have forests and land but we are not addressing the issue of population. Why are people invading forests? That invasion comes about as a result of uncontrolled population growth. We must control our population so that forests are preserved. If we do not do that, it will affect our lifestyles and livelihood.

Finally, I would like to talk about research. Research must be undertaken for purposes of getting better trees and chemicals that will be used to treat affected plants. I want to plead with the Minister to impose harsh penalties on people who are found guilty of invading forests and cutting trees. The penalties must be punitive so as to deter these people from invading forests and destroying our land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this Bill is passed, it must be read together with the Environment Act, the Water Act, the Mining Act and the Wildlife Act. These Acts have to work concurrently. The officials of those Ministries must, at all times, find ways of creating good working relationships for the sake of our forests and wildlife, so that tomorrow's generation will find that we preserved and protected our forests.

Thank you, I support the Bill.

Mr. Arungah: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Taking into account that this Bill had exhaustively been discussed and that the two speakers who have just spoken have covered the salient points, could the Mover be called upon to reply?

(Question, that the Mover be now called upon to reply, put and agreed to)

Hon. Members: Division! Division! Division!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You are not able to raise the requisite number for a Division!

Mr. Wanjala: (Inaudible)

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope I did not hear [**The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources**] Mr. Wanjala use the word "treason". I hope this Minister is not accused of committing treason.

I want to take this opportunity to heartily thank hon. Members who have already contributed to this very crucial Bill. I use that word advisedly because the world has been waiting to see how this House handles this crucial legislation this time round. I want to thank the Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation who ably seconded the Bill and hon. Members who contributed including Mr. Sirma, Mr. ole Ntimama, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o and my learned friend, Mr. Wetangula, amongst many others. We have also just heard a very solid contribution from Mr. Bett, and it is clear to us that we need this Bill,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to commend this Bill as absolutely good law. I know that our development partners have been waiting for this House to enact the Forests Bill, 2005, in order to make available a tremendous amount of resources. When I recently visited Helsinki, the capital of Finland, I noted that, that country is simply waiting for this House to enact this legislation. They have already committed an excess of Kshs1.6 billion to help us seriously consider re-afforestation. Our development partners have already committed in excess of Kshs21 billion to help us consider reafforestation. I have just given the example of Finland. I know that other countries are similarly waiting. Talking about Finland, it is said that every Fin literally lives in the forest because that country's forest cover is in excess of 70 per cent. A country like Japan has 70 per cent forest cover as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, therefore, have to work very hard in order to improve our forest cover from 1.7 per cent to between 30 per cent and 40 per cent, as Mr. Wetangula suggested. I cannot agree with him more. In fact, if I can single out the example of Mr. Wetangula, in terms of farm forestry---

QUORUM

Mr. Sudi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think this House lacks quorum. This Bill is so important that we have to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! You do not have to explain. You have drawn the attention of the Chair to the fact that we do not have a quorum. That should be enough.

Ring the Division Bell!

(The Division Bell was rung)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Will you sit down? We now have a quorum! Mr. Minister, please, proceed!

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take very little time. As I was saying, this county needs this Bill. This time round, we cannot afford to let the country down. Therefore, I am making a very passionate appeal that, we should speedily enact this legislation. I know Mr. Biwott has consulted with me on the role of the conservancy committees. I would like to say that, under that law, there will be total community involvement. This is a document that will be owned by the people of this country. Therefore, I would like to suggest that we move with speed to enact the Forests Bill (2005).

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

Is Mr. Oloo-Aringo not here? The Motion is deferred!

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE

(i) That, this House resolves to establish a Select Committee to be designated the Budget Committee, which consist of a Chairperson and not less than fourteen other members who shall be appointed at the commencement of every Parliament.

(ii) That, the Select Committee shall examine annual and supplementary estimates of expenditure presented to the House and shall report to the House, what, if any, economies should be made consistent with the proper carrying into effect of the policies implied in or by such estimates.

(iii) That, the Select Committee shall examine draft annual and supplementary estimates of expenditure, which the Minister responsible for Finance, shall table before the Committee at least thirty days before the final estimates are presented to the House.

(iv) That, the Select Committee shall evaluate tax expenditure, economic and budgetary policies and programmes with direct budget outlays and shall report such results and recommendations to the House every quarter.

(v) That, the Select Committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and further that in the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Committee shall elect one amongst the Members to the Chair.

(vi) That, majority of the Members shall continue a quorum and;

(vii) That, the Parliamentary Service Commission shall establish a Budget Secretariat to be referred

to as the Office for Fiscal Analysis with such officers that are necessary to facilitate the Committee discharge its function.

(Motion deferred)

BILLS

Second Reading

THE WITNESS PROTECTION BILL

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Attorney-General not there? The Bill is deferred.

(Bill deferred)

Second Reading

THE STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS BILL

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Attorney-General not here, so the Bill is deferred.

(Bill deferred)
Second Reading
THE SUGAR (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prof. Oniang'o also not here? The Bill is deferred.

(Bill deferred)
Second Reading
THE COTTON (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dr. Ojiambo also not here? The Bill is deferred.

(Bill deferred)
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members,
there being no other business, the House is, therefore, adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd August, 2005,
at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 7.17 p.m.