

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 27th March, 1996

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members:-

Mr. Gerald Ileri Ndwiga
 Mr. Tom Otieno Onyango
 Mr. Elijah Kipkoskei Sumbeiywo
 Mr. Immanuel Ichor Imana
 Mrs. Agnes Mutindi Ndetei

Mr. Orengo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Administration of Oath is done in accordance with Chapter 100 of the Statutes of Kenya. I was wondering whether, where an hon. Member who has taken an Oath in the current Parliament and is taking it for a second time, having defected, it is honourable for this House to stand when such a Member---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Orengo! Sometimes, the Chair is entitled to stop you in your tracks when it is clear what you are up to. I think that is a frivolous point of order.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

LIMITATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DEBATE

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, the debate on the Motion of Presidential Address be limited to a maximum of seven days, with not more than ten minutes for each Member speaking excluding the Mover in moving and replying who shall be limited to twenty minutes in either case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Procedural Motion which very much follows the tradition or pattern which - I am sure that hon. Members know this - we have adopted for the last three years. The limitation contained in this Motion is meant to allow as many Members as possible to make their contributions to this very important Motion.

I therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, beg to move this Motion.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Orengo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Procedural Motion and, therefore, I support it fully. I am hoping that while I am on my feet, one of my colleagues should move an amendment on the time allocated to other speakers other than the Mover. In the Presidential Statement, there was an exposition of public policy and also an exposition of what is going to be the major business of this House during this Session. This is an issue which requires a substantive reply from the Opposition to respond to this speech by the President in a substantive way. From the way matters look at the moment, the leader of Opposition may not have sufficient time in which to record what the reaction of the Opposition is generally to the Presidential Speech.

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

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are proposing an amendment to this Motion. The Leader of the Opposition should be given twenty minutes to reply. This is the amendment which is being proposed. The

amendment to the Procedural Motion is meant to give an opportunity to the leader of the Opposition to reply to the Procedural Motion, like the Mover, for 20 minutes. This is the amendment that we are seeking.

Mr. Biwott: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while contributing the hon. Member for Ugenya only made an observation and wished that in the course of his reply, the Leader of Government Business will propose an amendment. As far as I heard, he never proposed an amendment and, therefore, it is wrong for the hon. Prof. Rashid Mzee to second something that does not exist and it which was not moved. That was the point I wanted to raise that there was no amendment proposed by the hon. Member.

Mr. Kamuyu: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. My observation is that ten minutes which has become very traditional over the years in this Parliament cannot be enough to debate the Motion on the Presidential Address at all. Members are so hurried up that they need a little more than ten minutes because in most we have seen that over the years, very few hon. Members contribute on this Motion because it is debated for only 7 days. I, therefore, propose that the Leader of Government Business does conform with the proposed amendment. I am, therefore, seeking for an amendment from ten to fifteen minutes.

The Assistant Minister for Commerce and Industry (Mr. Osogo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support this Motion but I am very surprised by my Opposition colleagues at the way they are behaving now with this Motion. The Order Paper was out some time back and they know very well that before an amendment is proposed to any Motion, it must be handed to the Chair first and foremost and then they tell us exactly which lines they are amending and where they are fitting in the amendment. All of the speakers have been proposing certain amendments wildly from nowhere and indeed the Member for Dagoretti, the hon. Kamuyu, who has been in this House before stands up and says, when you were trying to correct him, that he has got something to tell this House and then he says he is supporting an amendment which does not exist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the procedures of this House should have been learnt already since we have been here for nearly four years now. We should have learnt the procedures of this House so as to be able to contribute and show some maturity in us and not debate as babies who came into this Parliament yesterday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr. Nthenge: Thank you very much Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to support this Motion the way it is. The issue on Presidential Speech is national and anybody would like to contribute except those who are very cold or too busy to be in the House because sometimes they might be representing us elsewhere. Now if you do the arithmetic you will find that at ten minutes per Member very many will get a chance to speak each day and the days are only seven. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we increase the time for a speaker on the issue, you will find that very few will get a chance to speak and this will deny the Members this chance of speaking, unless we double the time we are taking from seven days to fourteen days. I am, therefore, proposing that the Motion should be the way it is because everybody will like to say something either national or even concerning one's constituency because it is an open debate and we have to consider the others. We do not just a few to contribute and the rest to be denied that chance by a procedure that is amended unnecessarily. It has been tried before and it has worked very well. Each Member standing to speak without having to introduce other matters outside the Motion can go to the point straightaway and make four to five points in ten minutes and give a chance to another hon. Member to do the same. Therefore I support the Motion exactly the way it is. Thank you.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is just a Procedural Motion which is traditionally brought when the House has just resumed. May I therefore propose that the Mover be called upon to reply? I think in view of the interest I am seeing in the matter I will decline to give in.

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to say one or two things about this Procedural Motion. At the outset I want to say this; that although Procedural Motions get the green light from this House in an assumption that proper Business will be executed in the House, from the experience of the last Session, it is important that the Members of this House from both sides do agree from the outset that we give each other an opportunity to use the limited time that we are defining for the Business of the House.

It has been unfortunate that when we start Sessions with a rapport that we are going to respect and listen to each other and we are going to do the Business of the House as national leaders, many times we hear persons being heckled because people dissent from the views that they are expressing. I would like to challenge this House that if we want to rise to the challenge of leadership we have to be ready to listen to those views we are not acquainted with, the views that we may not automatically agree with, the views that will be very hostile to the positions we take. This is the only way we, as leaders, are going to know something other than what we have always we have been made to think is right. I also wish to say the following.

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Order hon. Muite! Continue Dr. Kituyi.

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am grateful for protecting me from this rather hostile House which is more hostile to reason than heckling.

As has been expressed by my colleagues here, this side of the House wants the Business of the House from day one to be as smooth as possible so that together we can set a vision of what are the challenges of the day to day and together we can agree on flexibilities and social activities on the other side. It is in that spirit that I now wish to propose an amendment to the Motion as presented before the House and the proposed amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I am afraid on the very first day of this Session it is clear that we are not taking our Business seriously. This is a matter which Members should have consulted well in advance. I can allow one or two emergency cases if I am to be consulted but I will not allow a crowding at the Table here so as to distract the conduct of debate. Now if, of course Members want to bring an amendment, they are entitled to do that but I also cannot fail to take cognisance of the fact that this Motion went to Sessional Committees on which both sides of the House were represented. So I would have expected those representations to be made there but it seems people are just thinking now here and in the process derailing everything here.

Dr. Kituyi, have you finished?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not finished. Having continued along the line, if we are going to be able to put substance in the debates of this House, a challenge is rising to the Government side which has been showing less receptiveness to policy issues articulated by the Opposition than has been the matter from our side of the House. Then the challenge before them is an invitation to Government to be ready to reason with us; it is a challenge to Government to be more flexible than being flocked into a line because it is agreed that it is against the Opposition line because that will be the only recipe where the utterances of unity of purpose will just die after the first day.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kones): In supporting this Procedural Motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the onset, I am so surprised that my friend hon. Dr. Kituyi who is a Member of the Sessional Committee never raised that issue in the Sessional Committee.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have not proposed any amendment to this Motion; I have supported the Motion. What problem does my colleague, Mr. Kones, have with the English language? Could I speak in Kipsigis?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members shall always address one another as hon. So-and-so.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kones): I challenge my hon. colleague to speak in Kipsigis if he can, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but that is irrelevant. The issue is that, the Procedural Motion that is before us is a Motion that is going to enable us to discuss the Head of State's Address to this nation. Every other Member after that has got equal rights to speak after the Leader of Government Business because this is a Government Motion. Every other Member whether a Minister or Leader of Opposition has got only ten minutes to speak.

Therefore, I support the Motion with no amendment.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for a senior Minister of Government to be debating a Motion before the House as if he is responding to a Motion of amendment when there has not been put any Motion of amendment?

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. would I be in order to move that the mover be now called upon to reply?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I am afraid I had already given the hon. Member the Floor.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment to the Motion now before the House. That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word Mover in the third line and inserting the following words.

"And the Leader of the Opposition each of whom shall be limited to 20 minutes respectively in moving and replying and making a speech".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Speech is intended traditionally to be the opportunity when the Government of the day makes it known to this House and to Kenyans in general what the Legislative programme of the Government is going to be. This is the occasion when Kenyans should be told how the Government is

going to resolve major issues of policy that affect Kenyans. In other words, the Presidential Speech is supposed to be a very, very important landmark in enlightening Kenyans and this House on how economic issues are going to be tackled; what the way forward is. The reason for moving this amendment is that equally when debating the Presidential Speech, this is the opportunity that the Opposition should seize, and should be given, to come up with alternative policies to indeed show that the Opposition is an alternative Government in waiting. The Opposition should have the opportunity of answering, very adequately indeed the shortcomings of the Presidential Speech where the Government has not convinced us on its intentions about any particular policy. So, clearly, a time longer than ten minutes ought to be accorded to the Official Leader of the Opposition even where the other Members of the Opposition are going to be confined to ten minutes which is not very much. This is because when one is criticizing the Presidential Speech; when one has in mind the major issues of the day that we should debate very adequately, even where the other Members are going to be confined to ten minutes, let the Leader of the Opposition at least be given 20 minutes to articulate, on behalf of the Opposition, the alternative views and vision of the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, other Parliaments in the world, sometimes debate up to 2 a.m. and even 3 a.m. at night if the matter is of sufficient public importance. I do urge this House to see that the Presidential Speech is one such matter of tremendous public importance because of the issues that ought to be discussed seriously, in depth and adequately. So, I do appeal through you to my colleagues on the other side of the House not to have forgotten so quickly, the appeal by the President that they should rise above partisan considerations. We are asking this as Kenyans and not just as Members of the Opposition. We want to have the opportunity to articulate adequately the issue that the President raised. So, I do appeal to the hon. Members across the House to support this amendment.

With those words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr. Orenge: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to second the amendment to the Motion and I do not wish to take a long time because hon. Muite has sufficiently addressed the need for the Opposition to give a substantive reply. But you would note that the President as Head of State, has in the programme of this Parliament one occasion on which he addresses Parliament during the formal opening or State Opening of Parliament and he makes a Presidential Speech. Thereafter, the Leader of Government business, in the Substantive Motion, "That the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy," has opportunity to address the issues which are raised in the Presidential Speech and after he has made his speech there is a Seconder and therefore the Government has three instances during which they have ample opportunity to express the position of the Government; all the programmes of the Government during this Parliament. I urge those in the Government benches to support this Motion because this is a practice of nearly every Parliament where there is a recognised Opposition; that the Leader of the Opposition is given time to also give an exposition or a reaction to the Presidential Speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few remarks, I Second the amendment.

(Question of the first part of the amendment, that the words to be left out be left out, proposed)

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, let me say that my surprise is inherent in the fact that this is a Procedure Motion, which was, in fact, one of them which do appear in this particular Order Paper, were discussed and approved by the Sessional Committee and the Sessional Committee does include the among its Members, the Official Leader of the Opposition. It also has got a number of Members from the Opposition side, which has now brought about this particular amendment. There was no controversy on this particular Motion. The second part of my amazement about this amendments is the fact that over the last three years we have debated the Presidential Address very much within the context of the Procedural Motion that has now been brought to this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one, therefore, cannot help, but wonder as what is the underlying motive behind, at this time, bringing this amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this particular morning, we were also involved, again in a debate over certain issues of appointing the composition of the Sessional Committee. I thought at that particular moment hon. Members they were only expressing their sentiments, and I did make quite clear then, that, indeed, the sentiments would be implicit in the appointments of the other Committees. Having stated that, it was amazing that even Members of the Opposition, who, themselves were Members and who themselves were supporting the Motion, even in their contributions, when we came to vote, they voted against it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say this because it is important, although I would hope to reserve my remarks when I do come to present this Motion. It is a pity that on the first day when we set out now to work out the Programme of this House, to set out clearly the mode of the debate, hoping that after three years, going onto the fourth year, that we would now be in a position to be completely above partisan politics; that we would be able to work together as a team for the interest of the people, we begin confrontational issues here. I hope this is not going to be the case, and I hope that the hon. Members would see it fit to actually approve this Motion as it is. We have had this over the last three years. There has been no complaint and it has served us well. But I also want to remind the hon. Members here that this Motion is to facilitate the debate on the Presidential Address. The President delivered the Speech into this House as the Head of State, and all of us are under the Head of State. Even the Leader of the Opposition is under the Head of State; all of us who are here. What I have done, on behalf of the House and as the Leader of Government Business in this House, was to move this Motion. It is in that context that I have moved it, and, therefore, having listened to the views that are going to be presented here by all the Members from both sides, I will then have the time, and I need that time, to be able to address the issues which would have been raised by the House as a whole, and this is a Motion not to be taken in a partisan manner. It is a Motion to be discussed by the whole House, presented by the Head of State. Let us understand that the Speech was presented by the Head of State and I think we should give it due respect by not bringing in partisan politics. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would like to urge the hon. Members of dignity, to reject totally the amendments which have been presented here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I think, there is some confusion, and for the avoidance of doubt, I want to read what the Motion would read if the amendment were to go through. It should read something like this:-

"That the debate on the Motion of Presidential Address be limited to a maximum of seven days with not more than 10 minutes for each Member speaking excluding the Mover and the Leader of the Opposition each of whom shall respectively be limited to 20 minutes in moving and replying and in making his speech."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, hon. Wamalwa.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi). On a point of Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought that the Official Leader of the Opposition will be given time to reply when we have fully debated the Amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No. Continue, Mr. Wamalwa.

Mr. Wamalwa: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me an opportunity to make very few remarks on this procedural amendments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it surprises me that the hon. Leader of Government Business should find anything to quarrel with a simple amendment like this one, which does not affect the substance of the Motion at all, and the fact that, that it was discussed at the Sessional Committee does negate the right of any hon. Member to bring up an amendment to the Motion at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps we want a little more time on this matter just to say how well the Government has done. I do not see that there is any reason in the Government side fearing I was being a little more time to speak because maybe we want to heap praises on them. What is wrong with that?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Speech on the State Opening of Parliament is probably the only occasion, in fact, it is the only occasion that His Excellency the President has to address this House in the whole year. So, it is a very important occasion, and what he says on that occasion is of great importance to all of us, and we would just like a few more minutes to be able to talk about the Presidential Speech a little longer and support it more fully. I do not know why the Government side should fear that, I see nothing at all to fear in that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, on this side of the House, take particularly this Session to be a very important Session, and we want to deal with a whole lot of issues affecting our national welfare. A lot of these things are contained in the Presidential Speech, and that is why we crave the indulgence of the House that we be given a little more time in our official reply to this Speech.

With those few words, I beg to support the amendments.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Dr. Misoi): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I take this opportunity to support the Motion as presented by the Leader of the Government Business. I am therefore, opposing the amendment introduced by the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Motion on the exposition of the Public Policy. It is also

very important that Members of Parliament take this matter very seriously and avoid using the opportunity to hurl or exchange abuses on a matter of this nature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the public is watching us as to how we debate matters which affect them. The time stipulated in this Motion for hon. Members, in terms of our experience, is good enough and there is no need for the Opposition to say that we need more time. It is not a question of time but what is important is the quality of your contribution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Government Business needs more time to go to the details of the policy, so that hon. Members can deliberate fully having received the details from this side of the House. In any case, this side is not equal to the Opposition and we need more time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do support the Motion as it is and reject that amendment *in toto*.

Mr. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in support of the amendment, I would like to urge the of the remarks the President made when opening Parliament yesterday; that we must have cooperation between the two sides. What are we asking for? We are merely asking for an extra ten minutes. This will not wash down the credibility of the Vice-President, Minister for Planning and National Development and this House, but will merely show that this House would give more credit to the Leader of Opposition to get the extra ten minutes to be able to expound on his views, and maybe like he said, heap praise on His Excellence the President. In my own view, I would request the other side, that for the first time, to think independently and not to be led by one person's views and follow what he says.

With those few words I support the amendment.

Mr. Biwott: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Motion as amended has nothing to do with the Presidential Address; the policies. It has something to do with egoism. It is egoistic and all they want to do---

Mr. Wamalwa: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for the hon. Member of Kerio South to impute improper motive upon the hon. Members of the Opposition?

Mr. Biwott: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no improper motive, because the Opposition Members want to elevate themselves to the level of the Leader of Government Business. Yet the hon. Member for Kikuyu, put it so clearly that this is a leader in the waiting. He is in the waiting room. He is not in the office. The one who is in waiting is not ready to assume the same responsibilities as the one who is already sitting in the office. The leader of the Opposition put it this way; that he needs a little longer to be able to expound on all aspects of the Speech as delivered by His Excellence the President. It is true, but if the other "Ministers" in the waiting room, are loyal to him and do not belong to the other faction, they will be able to expound on every aspect relating to the their respective "Ministries" which they aspire to. Therefore, they have no excuse whatsoever to say that they do not have enough time to expound on what they are saying. What the Leader of Government Business does is to sum it up; what the Opposition Ministers in waiting, have already contributed together with Government Ministers. So, ten minutes is enough. Hon. Member, Mr. Mwamzandi put it so well, when he said that the two leaders whom we were trying to equate now are not really equal, because the Mover will move and he will reply. What is the Opposition going to reply? When it comes to replying it is the Mover who is going to reply. Therefore, by that alone, there is an anomaly that cannot facilitate equation. With these few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Motion most strongly and urge the hon. Members to enlighten the Members opposite to be a little bit more realistic and logical.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to say something about this amendment. The Presidential Speech on the State Opening of this House is the most important Motion and marks the end of a whole Session, and also marks the beginning of a new Session. It also gives the Members of this House a chance to express themselves about the experiences they have had with their constituents for about three months of recess. All we are requesting for is that the Opposition Leader be given an extra ten minutes, to enable him respond to all the observations that the other Opposition Members have made. The Leader of the Opposition is representing more than 4 million voters that voted for the Opposition in this House. And all needs is an extra ten minutes only to be able to sum up the observation which all the other Members of the Opposition would have made. This is because all of us cannot get the ten minutes we want. The leader of the Opposition is going to use the extra ten minutes we are demanding to make his observations on behalf of the Members who did not get a chance to speak in this House. This is because we may have a chance to consult with him. We have already consulted with him, and we are asking him to express on our behalf, all that we would have observed. Let the Government side not become jittery. We are not jealous of the Leader of Government Business. They should not feel jealous when we demand that the Leader of the Opposition be given sufficient time to also express views and opinions in as far as the Presidential Address is concerned. This Motion

leads to a lot of debates. It is during these debates that we can explain what we observed in terms of development in this country for a whole year. It is in through the same Motion that we can also demand clarification on the policy of the Government. We can either criticise it or point out that whatever was passed in the previous years has never been implemented. How sure are we that what the President has addressed in His State Opening Speech will also be accomplished? It is for this reason that we are demanding that the Leader of the Opposition be given an extra ten minutes; not for any prestige.

Mr. Sankori: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think it is just fair that we do deviate from the usual work of this House. I say so because this is a Procedural Motion. We have handled other Procedural Motions in the past. It is just unfortunate that as we are nearing the last Session of this Parliament, we are bringing an amendment that probably might have some effects in the Parliament to come. I would probably suggest that it is not possible for us to make any amendment here knowing very well that we have got a Government which actually, with all due respect, did not get an election victory on silver platter. They came into power through struggle and we should always be above all, including the Leader of the Opposition. It is just fair to say that ten minutes are just enough for anybody to express himself and put across whatever points he wants to put. Giving the extra ten means that somebody will linger around, with nothing much to say.

With those remarks, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Boy: On a point of order Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to move that the Mover be now called to reply?

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

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there appears to be a dichotomy between what we are saying and what our actions are. The Leader of Government Business appeals to the House to cooperate and to put these matters above partisan considerations. But indeed, with respect, that is exactly what the other side of the House is doing. We pleaded for really no more than ten minutes. We have now taken much more than ten minutes debating on whether we should give the Leader of the Opposition ten minutes, and we have taken far in excess of that ten minutes.

Because of the tradition that has now become characteristic of the other side of the House. We want to co-operate on issues and it is a great pity that this is really not appreciated by the other side. Instead of all of us rushing to discuss important things within ten minutes, we are pleading that the Official Leader of the Opposition be given that extra ten minutes. So, since what is good enough for the goose is good enough for the gander, if we continue calling for Divisions then there ought not to be any complaints from the other side. If we extend the hand of co-operation and we are kicked in the teeth - if some of us believe in the Old Testament: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth - we should not turn the other cheek and the other side should not complain at all. We wanted the opportunity to articulate these issues and that opportunity is not being accorded. It is quite clear that although the other side is blaming us of being confrontational, this is not the side that wants to be confrontational. It is quite clear which side of this House wants to be confrontational. So, I do express regret that our very kind gesture has not been taken by the other side and it is a great pity that this is the manner in which we are going to start. Thank you.

(Question of the first part of the amendment, that the words to be left out be left out, put and negatived)

Hon. Members: Division! Division!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, I order that the Division Bell be rung. Order! Order, hon. Orengo! Hon. Members, for the avoidance of doubts, I will read again the proposed amendment, the question which you are voting on reads that, the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "Mover" in the third line thereof and inserting in place thereof the following words, and I quote: "and the Leader of the Opposition each of whom shall be limited to 20 minutes respectively in moving and replying and in making his speech". The Tellers for the Ayes are hon. Mrs. Charity Ngilu and the hon. J.J. Falana. The Tellers for the Noes are the hon. Ojode and the hon. Cheserek. The Ayes to the right and the Noes to the left. So we proceed.

DIVISION*(Question put and the House divided)**(Question carried by 81 votes to 33)*

AYES: Messrs. Achola, Aluoch, Busolo, Gatabaki, Gitonga, Icharia, Kibaki. Dr. Kituyi, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, Messrs. Mak'Onyango, Maore, Mathenge, Farah, Muite, Mulusya, Mungai J.N., Mungai R.K., Munyasia, Murungi, Gichuki, Githiomi, Mwiraria, Prof. Mzee, Mrs. Ngilu, Messrs. Njeru, Nyagah, Nyanja, Obure, Ojode, Onyango and Orengo.

Tellers of the Ayes: Messrs. Ojodeh and Cheserek.

NOES: Messrs. Abdi, Abu, Ahmed, Arte, Ayah, Badawy, Barmasai, Biwott, Boy, Cheserek, Criticos, Ekidor, Falana, Galgalo, Dr. Godana, Messrs. Imana, Kaino, Kalweo, Kamuren, Kavisi, Col. Kiluta, Messrs. Kirior, Kirwa, Kisiero, Kochalle, Kofa, Komen, Komora, Kones, Kosgey, Lengees, Leshore, Ligale, Lotodo F.P.L., Lotodo J.D., Magwaga, Makau, Dr. Manduku, Messrs. Manga, Masinde, Maundu, Mbela, Mcharo, Dr. Misoi, Messrs. Moiben, Mokku, Morogo, Gen. Mulinge, Messrs. Muoki, Musyoki, Mwamzandi, Mrs. Mwendwa, Ndambuki, Mrs. Ndetei, Messrs. Ndotto, G.I. Ndwiga, Ndzai, Ngala, Mrs. Nyamato, Dr. Onyonka, Messrs. Osogo, Otieno, Oyondi, Rai, Saina, Prof. Saitoti, Messrs. Saajjad, Salat, Sambu, Sankori, Shidie, Sing'aru, Sumbeiywo, Bishop Tanui, Dr. Toweett, Dr. Wako, Mr. Titi, Dr. Wameyo, Messrs. Wawire and Wetangula.

Tellers of the Noes: Mrs. Ngilu and Mr. Falana.

Abstention: Mrs. Wanjiru

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Therefore, Hon. Members, the amendment has been defeated and we will go back to the original Motion.

(Applause)

Hon. Sankori, why are you standing up? Do you want to contribute?
Order! Order! We are back to the original Motion.

(Resumption of Debate on the Original Motion)

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply and I want to reply very briefly, namely; that we have spent unduly long time on this Procedural Motion yet it is a Procedural Motion which is not any more different from the ones we have seen in the last few years. For that reason, and having spent substantial time, debated over the amended Motion which has now been defeated, I beg now to move this Motion in the hope that now the whole House will approve this Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members: Division! Division!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! You were only 18 and, therefore I have called for the next Order. Next Order!

Prof. Mzee: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir!

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion---

Prof. Mzee: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We called for a division and definitely there were more than 20 hon. Members standing up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, Prof. Mzee! It is not for you to accept or not. I assure you, you were exactly 18 and you will not give me a different number. I have already called for the next Order.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

LIMITATION OF DEBATE ON ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, the debate on the Motion on Private Members' Motions shall be limited in the following manner:-

A maximum of two hours with not more than 20 minutes for the Mover, 20 minutes for the Government Official Responder and 10 minutes for each other Member speaking, and that 10 minutes before the time expires, the Mover shall be called upon to reply.

This Procedural Motion relates to the Private Members' Motions which normally are debated on Wednesday. It is my hope once again that the House will be able to approve this one. But obviously, judging by the mood of the Opposition, it may very well decide to move on a confrontational stand. I hope that by now, the Opposition has seen the futility of these games, that they do not help the Opposition inside this House and neither does it help the Opposition outside this House. In fact, the image of the Opposition is being devalued very badly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State, Office

of the President (Mr. Kones): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on seconding this Procedural Motion, I hope this time the House realises that we have a lot of pending Motions that were presented by the Members last time which lapsed. But, we think that they are still going to be presented. So, I think that if we gave it two hours every Wednesday, 10 minutes for every speaker and 20 minutes for the Mover, it will be adequate time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Mulusya: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to support the Motion and briefly give my observation on the reaction of our colleagues on the other Side when it comes to 'give and take'. It looks as if one side is prepared to be given and it has to keep on being given. But now this time, the daggers are drawn and we shall fight it out in this House, throughout.

Thank you.

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Procedural Motion, I would like to say that the Opposition is not opposing for the sake of it. We are co-operating in every manner to see that there is progress made and the people of this House benefit from progress made through the debates of this country. We are not here with fixed mind. If KANU comes here with fixed mind, the Opposition does not come with the fixed mind. The idea behind debate is to convince others to follow the better judgement and that is exactly why we are having debates here. It is not just a question of talking but it is the question of convincing others which is the best method or what is best thing to be done.

We are very disappointed today by the way the KANU side has behaved by calling names to the Opposition. The Opposition is here by virtue of their own rights. They have been elected to this House and they have all the rights to say what they want to say and we are free to say what we want to say.

We are, as I said, not going to make it easy for this Government to get away with things which are not supposed to be right. Whenever they are wrong we are going to shout that they are wrong and the whole world hears and when they are right we are just going to keep quite. We are not going to play the drums for them. But, we are being paid salaries here on this side to shout when the Government is wrong and whenever they are wrong we are going to say that they are wrong. In this way, we are going to call "Division" whether the Speaker likes it or not.

With these few words, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr. Maore: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is important for people when they sit down to

prepare wonderful speeches, it is not supposed to be meant solely for the World Bank and IMF. It is supposed to be meant for this nation and for this House. I am trying to emphasise on the issue of "hypocrisy." We call upon the House to act in the national interests and in the same breadth the entire Government side chooses to behave as though the words were meant for somebody else to consume them is wrong.

Many of the hon. Members do not see anything larger than themselves or anything larger than their parties. They just see only those two in their own lenses.

I call upon hon. Members of this House to be patriotic, and the way of patriotism is not succumbing to coercion, intimidations and not to express their own feelings. I want to support the idea of listening to each other.

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

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise very sincerely and solemnly having given very careful thought and consideration to this Motion.

I would like to move the following amendment to the Motion. In moving this amendment, I would like to make it as clear as I can that I am motivated by nothing other than sincerity and in discharge for the co-operation that the Opposition continues to try to extend to the other side of the House.

There are certain Motions that by their very nature are of very tremendous public importance and it is necessary that those Motions should be given adequate time so that this House can debate exhaustively and thoroughly such Motions. One has in mind, for example, the crisis that we have at our public universities. If a Motion like that one were to be brought in this House, two hours with ten minutes per speaker will not be enough to thoroughly debate such a Motion of very tremendous public importance.

There are Motions that have been brought in this House such as the clashes, happily they are over, one hopes for all the time that there would be no resurgence. But, I do say with respect that a Motion touching on clashes is of such tremendous importance that two hours is clearly a time which is not adequate to discuss national matter. One can think of many other Motions. In proposing the amendment, I am not suggesting that all Motions should take three hours with each speaker being given 15 minutes. But, I do also urge that where a Motion is of great public importance, we do give ourselves, as a House, a time of three hours for that sort of Motion with each speaker being given 15 minutes instead of the present time prescribed in the present Motion of two hours and ten minutes. Ten minutes for an important Motion is hardly enough. Mr. Deputy Speaker is aware that some time during that ten minutes the hon. Member contributing is interrupted with points of orders, and

where hon. Member is interrupted on one or two occasions, he does not really end up having enough time to contribute effectively to a very important Motion.

As I said, there are many instances in other Parliaments where a matter which is deemed to be of tremendous public importance, the House gives itself enough time to debate it, the House even sits up to midnight so that every speaker or every hon. Member who wishes to contribute in depth to that sole Motion has that sort of time. I foresee that in this Session there is likely to be Motions being brought, as private Members' Motions, of very tremendous public importance; more important than some of the Bills that the hon. Attorney-General brings to this House for debate. Now, I am saying in terms of priorities, those Motions ought to have more time than even some of these Bills.

So, again, I repeat that I move this amendments not in any partisan manner and I do wish to appeal to the other side of the House to debate this amendment on the merit to support this amendment on the merit because it is not always necessary for the Government side to go for guidance in the KANU Parliamentary Group Meetings before they can support the Opposition. They were given that authority here by the President. He said, "You discuss as Kenyans." This is the first challenge and we want to see whether they are taking the advice of the President seriously.

So, with those few words, I do beg to move the following amendment, at the end of the present Motion "provided that with regard to Motions deemed to be of great public importance the maximum time allowable shall be three hours with 15 minutes for each hon. Member speaking."

That is to say that we are asking for merely an extra five minutes for each hon. Member and we are merely asking for an extra one hour; instead of two hours, three hours and instead of ten minutes 15 minutes. I do wish to urge with all the persuasions that I can command that that side of the House should support this amendment. Thank you.

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you, very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to second this proposed amendment. In making my contribution on this proposed amendment, which I am seconding, I wish to say this: It is a sign of strength if at the start of the day you hold one position and in the course of the day, you avail

yourself for advice and change your position. I am a Member of the Sessional Committee which looked at this at this matter earlier. However, on the basis of consultations with hon. Members of this House as it should be, I am faced by this perspective that when we are discussing a Motion of this nature, it is not a partisan Motion. Private Members' Motions offer the only opportunity where KANU Back-benchers have an opportunity to extend debate on a matter that is of grievous concern to their constituents without being limited to approval of Government Bills.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the spirit that we are giving a lot of leeway to the Government in Moving and ventilating debate on Government Bills, we consider it important, and it maybe a challenge to those of us who are in the Opposition and those in the Back-Bench in the Government. We should be given an opportunity so that we can also adequately debate matters that are brought to the House other than what is brought by the Government as business. This Session is one during which a lot of critical matters of national importance have to be raised.

A substantive debate on constitutional reform agenda has not yet been ventilated adequately in this House. The matters of how to bridge the gap between the neo-liberalist freeing of import regimes and the need to protect the primary producers of this country requires sufficient debate in this House. Motions on crippling repressive legislations are matters in the pipeline for this House. These are matters that you know cannot be sufficiently debated by any research presenter within a period of ten minutes. Therefore, it is very important that this proposed amendment be accepted by both sides of the House. I wish to ask the hon. Members on the KANU side to realise particularly the Back-benchers that it is painful when we are dealing with a matter that would be in the interest of their electorate they fail to see this obsession by being whipped into line without reflecting on how much they are denying themselves an opportunity to do service to the tax-payers who sent them here.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

*(Question, that the words to
be added be added, proposed)*

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, once again I do rise to express my own puzzlement in what basically has been going on since this morning. I do not know whether these are time wasting tactics or it is just a matter of opposing any Motion that is brought here. It has become extremely unclear as to what is happening.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this morning, after the Sessional Committee was set up, we did meet and deliberated on each of the every Procedure Motion that has been brought here. The Opposition was fully represented. At no time was this brought to the attention of the Sessional Committee that there was any need to amend any of these Motions or to depart from what has been existing in the last three years. It is only after we have come to this House that we are made to realise that even an hon. Member of the Opposition who has been party to the approval of this Motion is now recanting this Motion.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Leader of Government Business in order to mislead this House by alleging before the House that the Sessional Committee this morning did not deliberate on this issue? He is saying that there was no issue raised on the Procedural Motion which is on this Order Paper when he knows that there was such a matter raised by me.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Mr. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, either hon. Dr. Kituyi has failed to comprehend the substance of my own submission or he is deliberately trying to mislead this House. I have said that on this particular Procedural Motion, especially the ones where amendments are being moved, there was not a single input from the Member of the Opposition that we should actually amend---

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

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think you need to protect me from what could amount basically to nuisance.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Leader of Government Business to imply that when a matter that has been deliberated upon by a Committee of this House, and brought here, cannot be amended?

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I suppose what I have to do is to profound essentially on what I was saying. There is a reason why we have a Sessional Committee. The Sessional Committee is not an entirely a Government Sessional Committee. We have virtually every substantive Opposition party represented there. This has been the tradition.

This is the case so that the differences can be settled out in the Sessional Committee, instead of bringing out unnecessary long differences here and spending a lot of time on long debates as we are doing today. That is why

the Sessional Committee is supposed to be set up. I want to tell you why at this particular stage, I think it is extremely difficult to start amending the amount of time or the length that the Motion should take. It is asymmetry in the following sense---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You might have heard the hon. Leader of Government Business say that the Opposition's responses amounted to a nuisance. Is he in order to refer to the hon. Members of the Opposition responses as a nuisance?

The Vice-President and the Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely careful in my phraseology. I requested to be protected from anything that could amount to a nuisance. That is all I said and I never said that whatever is being stated by the Opposition amounted to a nuisance. I am very careful on that and I never impute any improper motive on anybody. Let me go back to the substance of this particular amendment which has been brought.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my main reason for opposing the amendment at this particular stage is that if, indeed, we want to give more time to a Motion lest, on a Wednesday, we need to look at the whole thing in totality. We need to ask ourselves several questions and this House is in order to do so. Do we need to meet for the number of days that we do meet, because we want to transact more business? For example, do we want then to debate on Wednesday morning, because that is the time we have about two hours to debate? Do we want to dispense with the Questions. We do have questions which are normally brought about by Members on Wednesday. This is something that we need to look into. We need to also ask ourselves another question. If we are going to add another one extra hour, obviously, we will not be able to finish the business of that Motion on that particular Wednesday, then it will just go to another week. How many Private Members Motions are we then going to debate on? We may very well give more time to one Motion, but, indeed, what will happen is that we shall be compressing the number of Private Members Motions' which will be deliberated within the Session. So, the question here again is that of equity. Do we want to have very few Private Members' Motions discussed in a Session? Do we want to deny other Members a chance to bring Motions? Even if we do not want to that, and we go along with the amendment which has been brought here, then do we want to extend the time of this House? Let me just explain that one.

I want to submit to this House that this amendment, as presented, calls for more questions that can be answered right here. That is the only solution but I told him that we can just---

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am still very disturbed by the fact that the hon. Vice-President just denied or rather tried to twist and deny the House the right of demanding that he withdraws the fact he said that anything on the Floor of this House can become a nuisance. Would I be in order to demand that we look through the HANSARD tomorrow and if at all he mentioned the word "nuisance", he is made to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order Mungai! In the first place we had passed that stage and allowed you a point of order on the understanding that it was referring to something immediate in the Vice-President's contribution. You want us to revisit the HANSARD. It will be out this evening or tomorrow morning and I will look at it but I think I must also advise Members that the rules of this House are contained in the Standing Orders, in the Speaker's Rules and in the Members Handbook. I will advise Members to read the Members Handbook very carefully especially when it comes to what is Parliamentary language and what is unparliamentary language.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development: (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was on the point where I said that the amendment as presented calls for more questions that can actually be addressed here. Those questions are: Do we want to compress the number of Private Member's Motions by extending the time than would be able to be handled within the given time in a Session? That is the number one question. If we do that, from purely a point of equity, we will be denying the deliberation of Private Member's Motion by many other Members but I do not think we want to do that. The second question is: If we then say no, then we will be extending the time of deliberations of this House maybe by a number of days or whatever it is. Again this is a fundamental question and indeed we need to also look at many other issues. Then this is an issue that the Sessional Committee will then be mandated to looking into it because there have so many ramifications rather than deciding arbitrarily that we must amend this one. So I think with those few remarks I hope that the Members of the Opposition will understand that the main reasons why this particular amendment is being opposed is not really or entirely out of malice or sheer confrontation. Many of us do not relish in unnecessary confrontation. It is because there are fundamental underlying issues that need to be addressed.

I beg, therefore, to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Obure: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This amendment is not for the Opposition singly but for the Kenyans at large and this House. We came here to do our job and not a shoddy one but a clean job. You

remember in the past that this House has been taken for a ride where a clause was inserted in a Bill which could deprive this country billions of shillings and which resulted in the Goldenburg scandal. When we say that we should have enough time, it is not only for the benefit of the Opposition. It is equally for the benefit of the ruling Party to debate substantially and look into Bills and Motions so that what we pass here is not only for us but for the generations to come. There is no need for hurry when we are passing motions. After all, so many motions have been passed in this House but they have not been effected. So, why is the Leader of the Government Business saying that we need to pass more businesses? For what reasons? Let us look into these things realistically and look at what we are passing for the benefits of the generations to come. So this one extra hour and five minutes for each speaker is very important. Why do I say that it is important? It is important in the sense that there is a lot of interruptions when a speaker wants to expose the ills done by this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have noticed in the past that whenever we want to expose the ills done by this Government, there is a lot of interruptions so as to hide the ills. So if we are given these extra five minutes, we will be able to expose what is being hidden by this Government. Again what we are trying to do in this country today is for our own good. Why do I say it is for our good? It is not for the benefit of the Opposition only because what KANU is trying to prevent from passing and not to pass, will affect them tomorrow. In a few months time we will have hon. Wamalwa Kijana as the President of this country and the Opposition will be fighting us. They are sharpening the knife for themselves. Sometimes back we tried to pass a Motion on the Detention Act but the KANU Government opposed it. When we come to power, I will ask the hon. Kijana Wamalwa to take these people into detention because of what they are doing now.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Biwott: I think in their hearts and in their own souls, the Opposition Members know very well that they do not have a genuine reason to enact this amendment. I say so because we have had an experience in dealing with Private Member's Motions. In this House the time that we register the greatest member of lack of Quorums is during the Private Member's Motions which shows that the time is more than what they need. Therefore, the argument that we need extra time in order to articulate more on a subject that is coming in the form of a Motion is not really convincing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other avenues which the hon. Vice-President has said before that where there is a grave issue that we must discuss this House has the authority, by way of leave of the House, to extend the time they need to deliberate on such a matter. They can suspend one of the Standing Orders in order to deliberate on the subject as it is. Therefore, there will be no denials of time available from this House to debate things that are of national importance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other point which came from the Member for Kikuyu was that the KANU Members including me, are told what to do in their Parliamentary Group meetings. First of all---

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order Sir! Can the Mover be now called upon to reply?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! That is for the House to decide and I will put the Question accordingly.

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

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Government Business took a lot of time arguing that his major reason for opposing this amendment was because some of my honourable colleagues on the Opposition side are also Members of the Sessional Committee and that they did not, during the meeting of the Sessional Committee, input on the amendments that are now being proposed. With respect, that demonstrates a misunderstanding of the position as I understand it because, the function and the business of the Sessional Committee is to set an agenda for discussion; for debate in this House. It is not the business or function of the Sessional Committee to debate or indeed agree on amendments to the Motion which was drafted by the Government. Indeed, it would have been wholly improper for both Members on this side of the House, who are also on the Sessional Committee, to propose amendments during the Sessional Committee. The Standing Orders of this House are very, very clear indeed. Amendments to any Motion are to be proposed in this House. A Motion cannot be amended during the deliberations of the Sessional Committee.

Amendments can only be proposed during the debate of a Motion in this House. The Sessional Committee has no jurisdiction to make decisions for this House. That is why even a Motion is drafted as a Motion but the debate and the decision must be that of this House. So, with respect to the Leader of the Government business, it is not a good reason for him to argue that because Members of the Opposition who are also Members of the Sessional Committee did not propose those amendments during the deliberations of the

Sessional Committee, then the amendments cannot be put.

Indeed, the Members of the Opposition could not suggest those amendments and this House consists of all the Members of the House; not just those who sit on the Sessional Committee and it would be tragic for anyone to put forward the argument that amendments can only be put before this House if the same is first put before the Sessional Committee. We are not filibustering; we are not in any manner opposing the Motion. Indeed we are not opposing the Motion as put. We are supporting this Motion subject to the amendment that has been proposed. It is again not good enough reason to argue that the Private Members Motions will be constructed so to speak--- We will be denying the opportunity to many more Motions by Members of this House if we extended the time, because this amendment is not asking for an extension of time in respect of all the Motions. It is only when a particular motion is of tremendous public importance. That is the motion in respect of which we are asking that the time should be extended. If need be, on such Wednesdays where we have a Motion of great public importance--- If need be, let us sit beyond 6.30 p.m. Let us if need be, sit even up to 10.00 p.m. Let us sit even up to midnight because that is why we are in this House; because the Electorate, the Kenyan people, have sent us to this House in order to use the forum of this House to articulate, on their behalf, matters that are of tremendous public importance. But what has tended to happen in the past is, matters which are not of tremendous public importance are the matters that are given inordinate time in this House. When we are debating Bills which are not of any immediate public importance, one can talk, and people have talked for two days, three days, and even for four days on matters that are not of great public importance. And when it comes to a matter of very, very great public importance, a Motion brought before this House by the Opposition or by the KANU Backbenchers, on a matter of tremendous public importance, that Motion is given only two hours with each speaker being limited to ten minutes. We wanted, by proposing this amendment, to rectify that situation in advance. We wanted not to tie our hands because if the Motion is passed in its present form we tie our hands. So even in future once the hands of this House are tied and where we have got a Motion which this House feels ought to be given adequate time, we will not be able to do it. So, we are not depriving other Members, indeed we would like to encourage debates on as many Motions as possible. We are merely saying that let us not pass this present Motion in its present form. Let us give ourselves a leeway, the jurisdiction. It is not something that is going to happen every Wednesday. It is only those Motions which have great public importance that we are pleading should be given adequate time and they are going to be there. There are going to be many Motions of tremendous public importance. We should revise our priorities, instead

of debating views that are not of immediate public importance. When Motions of public importance are brought to this House, those are the ones that we should accord adequate time. So, I again regret that my hon. colleagues on that side, presumably because they have not had a KANU Parliamentary Group Meeting, are unable to be seen to be supporting the Opposition. If they want to debate on the Motion to be adjourned so that perhaps they can have a KANU Parliamentary Group Meeting to get clearance that they can come and support a Motion that is proposed by the Opposition, we would be more than happy to support that sort of adjournment.

With those few words, let me again express regret that my hon. colleagues on the other side have not seen it fit to play public relations. This Government is a Government that stands to gain tremendously by supporting this sort of amendment proposed by the Opposition. The KANU Government would be doing itself a tremendous public relations job and not getting paid. They do spend a lot of money paying international public relations firms in London and in New York to try and patch up their image; package it in a manner that can be marketed when without paying that money they can do themselves a lot of good in the area of public relations by being seen to be supporting a Motion moved by the Opposition.

*(Question, that the words to be added
be added, put and negatived)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now go back to the original Motion.

(Resumption of Debate on the original Motion)

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(Question put and agreed to)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

LIMITATION OF DEBATE ON ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

That the debate on any Motion for the adjournment of the House to a day other than the next normal Sitting Day shall be limited to a maximum of two hours with not more than five minutes for each Member speaking.

Provided that when the period of recess proposed by any such a Motion does not exceed nine days, the debate shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes and shall be strictly confined to the question of the adjournment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless there is a Member from the Opposition who has the appetite to wish to move an amendment to this Motion let me only draw the attention of the Opposition to one fundamental fact. That, in the event a Motion of adjournment is brought here and by its own nature and judging by the mood in the House, the House normally can move a resolution at that material time, either to extend the time or to shorten the time. I, therefore, hope that any Member of the Opposition who relishes to move a general amendment here should also bear in mind that should it be felt by the House at the time of debating a specific Motion that is so important, this House can always pass a resolution specific to that Motion either to extend or to limit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope with that explanation, we shall, perhaps, desist from having again to go into division and etcetera. I beg to Move.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kones): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to second this Procedural Motion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it has been the tradition that on a day that the House adjourns to the adjournment Motion is allotted two hours where five minutes is given to every Member.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is always being enthusiasm for Members to give their contributions when the House adjourns and five minutes, though it is not enough, in most cases because so many Members would like to contribute, we say that five minutes is quite adequate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is a procedure, which has worked for many years and there is no reason why it should not continue to work.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir for remembering my name at last.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion being a Procedural Motion, but there are certain things that ought to be looked into. I think the Sessional Committee and those concerned with the Standing Orders Committee should look into certain things, so that we do not take things for granted. The fact that there has been moves to introduce certain amendments to the Motion shows that Members are anxious to do certain changes in order to make things move much more smoothly.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, among the things that I would have liked the Standing Orders Committee to look into are amendments of the two-hour proposal here. I think, we should have much more time because in two hours, even if you give five minutes to every Member, you will get from each hour a maximum of 12 Members speaking and that would amount to about 24 Members speaking during the two hours of and that is an Adjournment Motion. For example, when we are going for Recess, we need more Members to speak and probably, not only 10 per cent of the Members here. We need, at least, more, probably if we could get as many as 30 or 40 Members speaking, that would be alright. Therefore, I propose that in future, while supporting this Motion, we should look into ways and means of making this Debates a bit longer.

As far as the Motion of Adjournment is concerned, again, 30 minutes, a very short time because usually, it is a Motion that is Moved when there is something very, very serious. An example was given earlier on where we had an Adjournment Motion on Clashes. We had only 30 minutes to speak but how many Members can speak in 30 Minutes? Only five Members speaking on something that affects the whole nation and that affects the lives of people. That is why I am saying that in future such Motions should be given more time, let us say, one hour.

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

Mr. Orenko: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion. I was going to move an

amendment, but having talked to the Deputy Chief Whip, we have agreed to co-operate. He talked to the Leader of Government Business that this matter is going to require a lot of controversy through discussion but if we use the give and take policy, we can resolve a lot of issues.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to point out in regard to what the Leader of Government Business said, particularly considering this Procedural Motion, that there are certain fundamental questions that needs to be looked into, and we are forced to have a piecemeal approach because the Opposition at all the times has said that there is a need for a major Constitutional and legal reforms. That is the process under which we can look at the Standing Orders and Rules of this House in a global sense, but since the Government has become very difficult on the question of fundamental reform, we have to adopt tactics whereby we go for piecemeal changes and approaches, particularly in this House because the existence of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Opposition, should be given due recognition. Unfortunately, and I have pointed this before, we do not have an Opposition Day in this House, and that makes live very difficult for the Opposition because every business that comes before the Floor of this House, the Opposition has to get the co-operation of the Sessional Committee and the Leader of the Government Business.

But on the Motions of Adjournments, many times there are Motions of Adjournment which require more than 30 minutes, and I urge the Leader of Government Business to look into this issue in a practical sense. In the Opposition, we have got about three political parties and every party should be given a hearing. We should not just be voting, but we should be given a hearing, and I ask the Leader of Government Business, who Chairs the Sessional Committee, that he looks into the question of this Motion of Adjournment, that in many cases we require more than 30 minutes, and if longer time can be allocated, then, it would be enough for, at least, a substantial number of Member to contribute on Motions of Adjournment. That again, would give every party in this House, which includes four parties in the Opposition, some say in the House.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I support and I hope the Leader of Government Business stops being confrontational because he has become very confrontational and as the Leader of this House, he should be the less confrontational character because the House needs his leadership. That is why he is the Leader of Government Business and that is why he chairs the Sessional Committee rather than the Official Leader of the Opposition.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Gatabaki: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to say a few words regarding this procedural Motion. The question which we should be asking ourselves is; why is the Opposition desirous of having more time? It is because the Opposition has not got forums outside this House. It is because of KANU's monopoly of air time, it is because of KANU's monopoly of public rallies. This is the only place where the Opposition has got real opportunity of addressing issues. We are not just desirous of having more time to come here and raise issues, we do not have any other forum. This is the only legitimate forum we have. I cannot be covered by Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. I cannot be given licence to address public meetings. So this is the only place where I can express my views. It is absolutely important for you in the Government to realise that, we are asking for certain basic minimal constitutional changes; to allow us to have more forums of discussing and raising agendas with the other people. The reason we asking for more time, is because we feel oppressed out there. That is why we are asking for additional time to raise national issues.

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

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Vice President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all let me express my gratitude to hon. Members for the feel that we have now come to the substance of the matter before us.

Having said that I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on March 26, 1996.

In moving this Motion, let seize this opportunity, first of all, to welcome all Members back to Parliament

after a long recess. It is my belief that the recess was very well deserved and properly utilised by all of us, because it was an opportunity that we as Members of Parliament had to interact with those people who elected us; Kenyans who depend and look upon us for the guidance and for the enhancement of their day-to-day living. It is my belief that armed with the knowledge right on the ground of the issues which face mwananchi on a day-to-day basis, our contribution in this Session will be meaningful and indeed relevant to those fundamental issues. Kenyans have put confidence in this House. It is their total belief that whatever we do here is not for our own interest but it is for their interest. We are going to come out with programmes which will be able to enhance the standard of living of the people. Before I go any further, I think it is fitting that at this time - although this was noted by His Excellency the President- I should at the same time express our deepest sorrow and regret over the demise of the four Members of Parliament who are no longer with us. We did stand in silence yesterday, in respect and memory of them, so there is no need for me to do so. It suffices to say, that the hon. Members who have departed, we are going to be missed by us a great deal. We are going to miss their charm and their contribution. Indeed, we are together with the members of the constituencies which they represented. In the same vein, let me also congratulate to the Members who have also been elected to replace them. I think two of the Members have already been sworn in, and we welcome them, and we hope that they will be able to make as much contribution as their predecessors to their Constituencies. There are also Members who have also been sworn in today. They too are welcome here, and I hope that they are all going to join us in the service of wananchi.

Let me also make one very fundamental observation; that the Presidential Address to the House is an important State duty of His Excellency the President.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is it in order for hon. Wameo to consult in such a loud tone, that we almost unable to hear what hon. Saitoti is saying?

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say that we are indeed grateful for the fact that His Excellency the President always finds time, at the appropriate time, to come and perform this very important State function of opening this Parliament. That in itself is an indication of the President's deep appreciation of our the Parliamentary democracy. Indeed he is the longest serving Member of this House. He has been there for a long time. This also demonstrates his appreciation and deep commitment to the democratic system in this country. His own Address should be understood for what it is. It gives a broad framework of the policy issues of this country. The Address is neither restrictive nor is it exhaustive. It must be seen in taht light. It is an Address that we are supposed to build upon and to expound upon on a number of issues. That is the freedom which is contained and embodied in that particular statement. It mainly gives the framework and the freedom to be able to discuss. It would have been otherwise unfortunate if it was restrictive and it is not intended to. Therefore, I hope that as hon. Members, as we debate on this Motion, we will hold in perspective the fact that this is a framework on the policy that this Speech is fairly non-exhaustive,

non-restrictive and we should debate it properly and accordingly. I think the important thing that I think is very relevant to this House, is what is contained in the Speech; to the effect that we as hon. Members here, may have been elected through different political parties, and that is why we are on different sides of the House. But when it comes to the fundamental issues of the interests of Kenyans, we should bury the differences. We should hold together and say; "Kenya is much more important than each one of us". And that whatever difference we have, we must know that the reason each one of us was elected by the Kenyans, was the total belief that we are going to make contributions to the general welfare of the Kenyans. Therefore, I want us to head that particular advice in His Excellency the President's Address, that please, when he comes to the fundamental issue of the State, and the broad interest of the Kenyan people, for goodness sake let us work together.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that in the last two years, I think we had virtually buried the confrontational stands that we saw in 1993. This morning, I think, one could see certain vestiges of 1993. Let us hope that there will be nothing of that nature. There is of course ephors by the Opposition that maybe this is the last Session. I do not think anybody has said that. Whatever it is, the only way we can achieve anything for the Kenyan people and for the country is through working together. Indeed, I want to pay tribute here to His Excellency the President for the manner in which he has offered himself to serve this Country totally and to dedicate it properly and clearly. Indeed, the examples are many but I want to draw the attention of this House to some of the instances which are contained in the Speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that in the very recent past, His Excellency the President, had missions to a number of overseas countries for the purpose of attracting investments to this country. He led a mission to the United Kingdom in November. He led another mission to Germany and another one to Malaysia. He facilitated the holding of a very important investment process here in Nairobi and which was attended by the Secretary for Commerce of America. All this is was meant to try to urge the international community and the

private sector of the international nature to invest in this country. Why does he do that? This is in recognition of a fundamental fact that, the population of this country has increased considerably and which is now running to 26 million people. Once you take out a pure penal assement which is physical and which we have already carried out, you will find that the people in this country that who can be classified as poor have a growth rate commensurate to the population. It is almost nine or ten million people. We ought to be able to address the issues such as what Kenyans are going to eat because we want every Kenyan to have a meal everyday. How are we going to be able to provide employment opportunities for the 500,000 youngsters who are entering the job market? This can only be addressed one, by ensuring that we have a lot of investment coming into this country. The issue of the donor money will help but it will not be the total solution. Indeed, all over the world the donor money is slackening. There is not going to be that much. What is going to help us in the long-run is capital inflows of an investment nature and that is why His Excellency the President, has offered himself to the services of this country to make that contribution. Indeed, he has made it very clear that the Government has embarked on a very fundamental process of the reforms of this economy. I think for the benefit of the hon. Member, the reform package is contained in this very fundamental document and I do urge - this is a public document -each and every hon. Member to read thoroughly this statement to acquaint himself or herself with the fundamental---

QUORUM

Mr. P.N. Ndwiga: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I direct that the Division Bell be rung.

(The Division Bell was rung)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We have a quorum now. Proceed!

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the interruption, I was at the point where I did mention about very deep and fundamental economic reforms which were alluded by His Excellency the President and I therefore wanted to ask the hon. Members to read this particular document because it is a document that charts the course of reform between 1966 and 1998. The reforms are being undertaken by the Government and, indeed, at this particular time, we are grateful to have to say that positive signs are beginning to show. The growth rate in terms of the GDP is going at a fairly good level but before that, we are also seign a lot activity in the money market and in agriculture sector but the moving policy is that all of us must own up to these reforms in realization of one thing; the reforms are difficult. They are painful in the short-term although in the long-term they are beneficial. The people who are poor face problems and this is a recognition the Government has already made. In terms of reforms, the Government has already worked out an important strategy to address this issue to be able to take into account that safety-nets are put in place to ensure that the vulnerable members of our society are taken care of and this is embodied in the social dimension strategy which will look especially into those who are affected outside of the large cities especially in the rural areas and also in the urban areas where people are suffering.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot develop and get very far in solving the problems if there is insecurity. This recognition has also be made by the Government and I want to seize this opportunity to commend the Police for the very good work that they have done in the recent past. They have continued to do so in dealing firmly and effectively with thuggery and robbery in this country. The Police should continue rooting out robbery and thuggery properly because the existence of robbery and thuggery goes counter to the efforts of the Government to create the necessary enabling environment for the investors to come into this country and for the economy to grow. They should proceed firmly and clearly with this exercise. I want to say that the Government will continue to intensify measures to make sure that the Kenya continues to be a safe place for the tourists to come to this country and for the investors to put their own money here and for the domestic investors to continue putting their money here. One fundamental point I believe is that this honourable House ought to come out in all

and in certain terms to embrace the great effort the President has made in the launching of East African Cooperation and his effort in improving the efforts in the Sub-regions. Only, within the last two weeks the President in his capacity as the Chairman of the summit of the three Heads of State did launch the East African Cooperation in Arusha on the 14th March, 1996. This provided an important opportunity to the Kenya. It answers the prayers of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania for the people of East Africa are brothers and sisters. Kenyan businessmen have got the opportunity to a much bigger market and I want to urge the people of East Africa to strongly build on this cooperation. Let it in future become a federation because we are one people. We must understand that the world is not becoming smaller. Many continents and countries are getting together. Europe is getting together. The Pacific basin is getting together. Let us get together. There is also the initiative of the IGAD shared by His Excellency, the President. Those are important things to embrace. We must embrace the COMESA efforts. Those are fundamental factors but I want to say this because there has been some alarming statements made in the past that, in the eyes of the Kenyan Constitution, a Kenyan is equal to any other Kenyan. This is irrespective of his ethnic background, race or creed.

We want to make it abundantly clear that Kenya shall not be a party to any forms of apartheid. Anybody, with views or wishes of the re-incarnation of apartheid, will find no comfort in Kenya. We want to say clearly and in no uncertain terms, that if there is a criminal, he shall be judged as an individual and not as a tribe, a race or a member of a certain sect. We are part and parcel, and we will always remain to be members of the international community, where we will judge a person not by his race but as an individual. This, we want to be very clear. And indeed, this House should come out firmly and clearly, and condemn those who perpetrate tribalism, the greatest evil and poison in Africa. That, we must reject totally, absolutely.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to second this very important Motion, which touches on the Address delivered here by his Excellency the President. May I also take this opportunity, to welcome back to the House, all my fellow Members of Parliament (MPs), after a period of hard work in their constituencies? Here, we will start deliberations on issues of national importance. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the new MPs, who were sworn in today, for winning the elections and being elected as representatives of their constituencies in this House.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the President, for his moving Address which he delivered in this House and for the advice he gave to the MPs in this House and to wananchi as in general. We are aware of the concern that the President has for this country, for his people and their welfare. Even in the course of his Address, he referred to the words that we see at the entrance to this august House. We all know what the President has done by having to travel to visit overseas countries to woo investors to come and invest in this country. We have to supplement the trouble that the President is taking on our behalf, by maintaining peace and unity in this country. We all know that without peace in this country, those investors cannot come here; they will not be able to risk their money in an area where they are not sure of operating peacefully and without interruptions. The Government has gone all out to create a conducive atmosphere for investors. It has gone out to rectify whatever problems we have had, as far as the economy of the country is concerned. In this respect, I would like to congratulate our Minister for Finance for the fine job he is doing, by following the advice of the President in maintaining and restoring the economy of this country. It is very important that our own people also supplement foreign investments. It is no use that we should be pleading for foreign investors to come and invest in this country, when our own people are not serious about the investments here. If we still have Kenyans who have money overseas, I would appeal that they bring back that money and invest it here. Let them take the lead in investing in their country, so that others can come and join in. It is important that through such investment, our people will get employment and be able to provide for their families, pay for the education of their children and also be able to raise the standards of living in this country. Without means and ways of maintaining themselves our people will turn to thuggery and insecurity in the country will make our economic situation deteriorate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to also take this opportunity to thank the three Presidents of East Africa, for the steps they took in restoring the East African Co-operation. I also congratulate President Daniel arap Moi for being elected by his colleagues, as the Chairman of this Co-operation. We, as Kenyans, should take advantage of the opportunity that has been offered to the East Africans by the Co-operation and make the best use of it in business and many other areas. We should be able to create a stable East Africa, where our people will be able to do business and move around freely and exchange views and ideas in a more conducive manner.

I also want to thank those who are involved in the jua kali sector, because they have played a very big role in creating employment for our people. Some of these jua kali operators are people of very minimal means.

They are making those sacrifices so as to help themselves and their own families, but by so doing, they are creating employment for our people. Every effort should be made to make sure that they are catered for financially, in training and in other ways, so that they reach what we call the "take off stage" as far as industrial development is concerned, probably from small-scale industries to bigger industries. It is important that we make it our aim to ensure that we have good living standards for our people. We can only do that by encouraging those who are able to get into business, even in a small way, to do so. After all, even in the advanced countries, the majority of the employers are small-scale ones with between five and 50 employees. They look after their employees well and that way, those employees earn their livelihood and are able to maintain their families, keep their living standards, pay taxes and, therefore, improve the economies of their countries. So, we should all be involved in promoting the small-scale businesses.

This morning, I was a bit disheartened to hear some of my friends on the opposite side of the House saying that it is now going to be total war, because there seems to be no co-operation between the Government side and the Opposition side. We are not here to be at total war. The total war that we should wage in this House, should be to collectively fight for the improvement of the living standards of our people, means of communication, businesses, education and so on. That is the war that we should wage. It is the war that our fore fathers, or pioneers, vowed to conquer. They vowed to wage war against ignorance, disease and poverty.

With those many remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a few observations on His Excellency the President's Speech that he made during the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament this year.

Let me start by congratulating the three Heads of State of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania for the historic move they made in reviving the East African Community. This is an important point that promises the future survival of the three economies of East African States and hopefully, it will create a wider market for our goods and greater employment opportunities for the people of this region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has happened elsewhere in the world has only gone to demonstrate the futility and the short-sightedness of those leaders who made it their duty to destroy a thriving East African Common Market and a well established East African Community in 1970s. Since the destruction of the Community, events elsewhere in the world have underlined the fact that in order to survive, it is wise for countries in various regions of the world to come together and organise larger regional markets which provide more opportunities for their people and their industries. One can easily pick a few things which have happened. If you look at the North American continent, there is North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) which unites the United States of America, Mexico and Canada into a very, very big continental market. In the Far East, there are regional economic communities that provide greater opportunities for the economies of that area. In Europe, and I want to say it here that, at the time when the East African Community was disbanded, we were miles ahead of Europe. European countries still thought and acted as single entities whereas here, we were already a community. Today, the European countries have come together into the European Community (EC). They have expanded their markets and improved common services and immigration policies. Europeans today can travel across Europe without a lot of impediments and they can look for work in other European countries without any problems.

In East African today, if one was to take the example of Kenya and Uganda, Kenya has a lot of experienced tea pickers who do not have jobs at the moment. Until recently, Uganda was importing tea picking machines because they did not have people to pick tea. With the advent of the Community, I believe now that East Africans will be able to move across territorial boundaries and seek jobs and economic opportunities anywhere in this region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was impressed by His Excellency the President's Speech when he talked about the economy of this country and informed this August House that the Kenyan economy has improved.

If this, indeed, is the situation, one must be grateful. But one would like to see signs of this improvement and what they really mean for the common man in this country. I would like to ask the following questions: Has the lot of the common man in this country improved to commensurate with the improvement in the rate of economic development? Are there greater job opportunities now for the common man in this country with the improvement of the economy? Are Kenyans going to have access to goods at cheaper rates than they exist at the moment?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, until these questions are answered, I think we are flattering ourselves by thinking that the economy has improved and will continue to improve. The only measure for the

improvement of the economy of any nation is when there is a genuine and discernable trickle-down-system where the improvements are manifested and the benefits that accrue go to the most common person in that country. As I speak now, the Kenyan peasants see no relief or let-up in the harsh realities of current economic conditionalities. As I speak today, a lot of Kenyan peasants do not know whether they will have something to eat. Our agricultural policies have not been streamlined to enable the small scale-farmer and, indeed, the large-scale farmer to realise true benefits that are due to them. Take the example of a maize farmer in this country today. This year, the maize farmer does not really know whether he is going to afford the price of seed maize. He does not know whether he will afford the price of fertilizers and yet he has to farm because farming to him is a way to life.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all maize farmers in this country made a 60 per cent loss this year. The inputs that they used to grow maize last year were pegged on the prevailing prices at the beginning of the year when the price of one 91 kilogramme bag of maize was going at around Kshs.1000. When it came to harvesting, the price of maize was KShs.400 per 91 kilogramme bag. That was a terrible loss to the farmer. If this country is serious about the economic growth, it must make sure that the farming community is well protected and the farmer is encouraged to produce food. Even if we lack everything else and there is enough food to feed our people, we could turn our attention to other areas where work must be done to keep the nation together.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President also spoke about the need for national unity. It does not need a lot of intelligence to see that the need for national unity and even unity in this House is a give-and-take process. It is incumbent upon the Government to be magnanimous and reach out to the Opposition if this unity is going to be a reality. For over four years now, we have been talking about the establishment of structures of national unity and justice. All this has fallen upon deaf ears. We have struggled in word and deed to get certain legal and constitutional reforms undertaken in order to reflect the true position of our multi-party society. The Government has been most reluctant in meeting us on this front. The Government must now reach out to us. We have a genuine case in demanding legal and constitutional reforms. We want the abolition of archaic and colonial laws that still remain on our statute books like the Chief's Act to usher Kenya into the 21st Century.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, removal of Section 2(A) did not mean that Kenya now has a multi-party Constitution. In a truly multi-party democracy, the existence or the eventuality of some form of Government of national unity or coalition is a very real issue and we must not shy away from this. We must amend our Constitution to reflect the realities of the day, that is, that we have more than one party and a time will come when it becomes necessary to form some sort of coalition government. That just shows you that 10 minutes are not enough to say anything.

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

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute on this Motion.

In making my contribution, I enjoin His Excellency the President and, indeed, the august House here as well as all Kenyans in be-mourning our four departed colleagues. The President touched on very key issues of principle and of policy to guide this House during this Session of Parliamentary sitting. I intend, in my contribution, to touch upon some of these by way of emphasis. The economy is one of the key areas which the President touched upon and stated that we are in a very critical stage. We are, indeed, in a transition period, working our way through the reform processes, which are hoped to stimulate economic growth and bring about prosperity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I want to emphasise here is the fact that every reform process has a cost, is painful and that there is nothing for free. These days there is very little by way of grants and a lot is dependent upon us Kenyans to do all we can in order to strive to this prosperity. I want to urge all my colleagues in this House and also all Kenyans, that the ball is in our court for us to work together co-ordinatedly and through peace, love and unity in order to reap the benefits of economic prosperity. I want at this juncture, to thank our development partners, the donors for the good gesture that they have shown, the recognition that this KANU Government is indeed committed to economic reforms as well as social and political reforms. I know Rome was not built in a day, and everyone knows that. The reforms cannot be done overnight. Even though a lot of us would like to see those reforms done overnight, they do take time and, it is in this regard that some of our colleagues feel and tend to think that the Government is not serious. It is simply because the Government cannot achieve overnight what needs time to be achieved. We are definitely committed to reform and time has shown that we are capable of achieving results. Indeed, over the last three years or since 1991 right through 1992 through 1993, 1994, 1995 and now 1996, definitely the decisions that were taken then are showing and are bearing fruit today.

The President stated that the economy is crying out for investment, especially from overseas investors. I want to echo these words of wisdom. Indeed, we are looking for local investors, but more particularly, foreign investors. I say foreign investors so that we can share this internationalism. I also want to say here that the recent purchase of Kenya Airways by KLM is a typical example of this foreign investment and foreign confidence in our economy and in the system of this country. In order to enhance these foreign investors here, it is important that we, as a nation, work together.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Do you realise that while hon. Keah is on the Floor, hon. Matiba is also on his feet? Is he in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Matiba! If you want to talk to hon. Titi, sit next to him.

(Laughter)

(Hon. Matiba sat next to hon. Titi)

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to encourage foreign investors to come to Kenya, it is imperative for us as Kenyans to show that we are prepared to work together as one nation. I say this because, time and again, we have heard some Kenyans, unfortunately, speaking ill of their motherland outside Kenya. Some of them have even ventured to speak ill of their motherland within here. In this respect, the Press is not excluded. My plea is that, we as Kenyan must be proud of Kenya. We must do Kenya proud by speaking well about our country rather than speaking in a derogatory manner about our country, Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to enjoin my colleagues in congratulating the three Heads of State for this achievement in the East African Co-operation. In this regard, I want to urge that we do also recognise not just the East African Community, but all the Pan African Institutions and give them support. Here, I have in mind the African Development Bank, the African Import and Export Bank, COMESA and the PTA Bank. We should all try and work through these banks so that we can retain and conserve within African the resources that Africa has. I say this because some of the banks, for example, would prefer a Letter of Credit. Instead of that Letter of Credit being supported by the African Export and Import Bank, they would rather have that Letter of Credit supported by a bank outside Africa. This is really going retrogressive.

The President called for the cleaning up of our economy and of our own House. This is something that must be supported. We must clean up in every respect. We have witnessed what is going on in various parastatals and all I can urge is that, this cleaning up should affect all the parastatals and, indeed, every corner and every aspect, everywhere. Where there is dirt, that dirt must be cleaned up. These are the words of wisdom that are contained in this exposition by His Excellency the President.

While on this point, I would like to point out to my colleagues, the professionals that when we talk about corruption, it should be borne in mind that when a corrupt act takes place, several things have happened. If a building contract has gone up four times, the architect is involved, the quantity surveyor is involved and the accountant is also involved. All these involved are professionals and they have lent their signatures to this escalation of costs. Sometimes, these escalations are not really warranted. All the professionals are, therefore, involved in one way or another, at some stage.

My call is for all professionals in Kenya to make sure that they exercise their professional ethics. Let them make sure that they do what their professional ethics require them to do and not to over-exaggerate or over-infringe, but to be strictly professional. I can go on and on, indeed, we must abhor thuggery and I must congratulate the police for the work they are doing.

For the Bills that are coming to this House, all that I can say is that we have to debate them actively and we have to discuss them by speaking the truth. We must really get away from the "culture" of abuse, abusing one another will not take us anywhere.

I want to thank the Government for the Social Dimension Programme that is in place. I am sure that inclusive of my constituency Kaloleni stands to benefit from this Social Dimension Programme. I ask that equity be the order of the day in the distribution of the benefits of the Social Dimension Programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I support the four-paged speech of His Excellency the President. The President talked about the "signals" received from Paris' Club Consultative Meeting. It is not good for any country to qualify to be a reliable borrower. We should aim at improving the economy to a stage whereby we will not go to the Paris Club Meeting for aid.

In our investment, we should encourage foreigners to come and invest in our country. I support that but not to invest in every thing. We should not invite foreigners to come to this country to invest in every thing, we should guide them on where we want the investment. It is not advisable to bring the investors to come and buy and invest in the informal sector - *Jua Kali* or invest in food *kiosks*. We should guide the investors on the areas where we want them to invest; in the factories, industries and so on, where they will provide employment for our people. But not to invest in everything where the Africans are investing and then the foreigners invest there and make the African business community not to do business.

We should also encourage the investors to have joint ventures with the local citizens like in other countries. But not the briefcase-investors who come here, invest and then take everything outside plus what they have found here. We should encourage domestic investment but not foreign investment. The country's economy will not grow if there is no domestic investment.

Therefore, these signals from Paris Club, are just like the signals that we get from the ICU that a sick person is getting better. They are just the same signals that we are now doing better economically. But are we convinced that the per capita income of this country has increased? Although we claim that we are doing well economically, we have some people in this country who cannot afford three meals a day. Unemployment is very high. The young people are not getting employed in this country, and yet we are claiming that we have done well in our economy. Why are we not providing employment? There are some people who are working and paid but their salaries cannot buy three meals a day. They cannot raise bus fare and so they travel on foot because their salaries cannot maintain them up to the end of the month. There was a Motion in this House that called up on the workers negotiate for their salaries without the interference of the Ministry of Labour. But now, the basic salary in this country stands at Kshs1,440. How can a person survive on that amount of money? Unless we do something, we wipe out corruption in this country. Unless our people are paid well, if the economy is improving, corruption in this country is going to be minimised. Some people engage in corruption because they are poorly paid. I do not support corruption and I do not say that should be a reason for one to become corrupt. But people become corrupt because they are not paid well. If we pay the police officers, the civil servants and the workers well, we shall reduce corruption. The Minister does not mind because he is paid well and he has all the privileges.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the habit of buying Members of Parliament by the Government to defect amounts to wrong investment.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My friend, hon. Kiliku, has said here categorically that Members of Parliament are being bought to defect and that is a very bad investment. Can we have a substantiation from him?

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say that Members of Parliament are being bought. I cannot say that. I said that kind of investment---

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of information---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, Mulusya! That is illegal. Mr. Kiliku, you have been asked to substantiate a categorical statement which you made to the effect that it is a bad investment for Members of Parliament to be bought to defect. That is what Dr. Wameyo wanted. There is no information to be given until you substantiate that.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Speaker, Sir, I said that because not a single KANU Member has defected to the Opposition. It is only the Members of the Opposition who defect to KANU because it is the ruling party that is a wrong investment which subjects the people to by-elections. That is another bad investment. Why should we have by-elections all the time and yet this exercise is very expensive to this country.

Mr. Boy: On a point of order, Sir! Who and how much was that Member was that Member given? If he does not substantiate, can he be told to withdraw and apologise?

Mr. Kiliku: I beg to substantiate. When my election petition was being heard in a court of law, I was told by the KANU people to defect so that my election should not nullified and Mr. Boy Juma Boy was one of them.

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing: (Dr. Misoi): On a point of order Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a very serious allegation that Members of Parliament are bought to defect. What we are demanding is a substantiation of a Member of Parliament who was

bought and defected to KANU but not a sample of hon. Kiliku. That is what has to be substantiated.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I was talking about ways of improving our economy.

Mr. Boy: On a point of order Sir! Is it in order for the hon. Member to insinuate and impute improper motives on other Members that I tried to bribe him when he knows very well that I have never even approached him even one day? Can he substantiate to at least substantiate that I wanted to buy him to come to KANU?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Members. You all know that the purchase of human beings which used to be slave trade was abolished in 1882. I shall hear no more of that. Hon. Kiliku, continue.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to invest well and where we think we are misusing the public funds, we should not invest in that. I am trying to discourage unnecessary by-elections for this country. It is too expensive for a young country like this one and it should be discouraged.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order Kiliku. There are so many ways of arriving at by-elections and I do not know why you are labouring on that.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing: (Dr. Misoi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for hon. Kiliku to claim that some people are disorganised and are therefore leading other Members to defect? Is it in order for him to blame other innocent people?

Mr. Boy: On a point of order, Sir!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! You cannot rise on a point of order, on a point of order. Carry on, Kiliku.

Mr Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the East African Co-operation and I say that when we had the East African Community, we had the East African National Shipping line and---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Your time is up!

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to respond to the speech by his Excellency. First of all, there are notable words in this Speech and I quote "When debating the bills, I urge Members to place the general interest of the people above the party interests and loyalties". This is at the end of the Speech and in the middle of the last page. This should be the guiding sentence in this debate. First of all we should look at our people before we do anything for ourselves and such Speeches although nobody can put exhaustively what is needed, there are certain things that ought to have been highlighted in this Speech. The first one is, of course, this question of the labour policies. We are not looking after our people. The inflation has soared very high and our salaries are at the stage in which they were in 1989. Today one thousand shillings is one hundred shillings of 1989 and therefore when you talk of somebody earning two thousand shillings, that person is living below the poverty line.

It is the equivalent of somebody earning about Kshs200. And how you can expect somebody to live on that, I do not know. Already the employers do not want to employ anybody permanently. They are talking of contracts and contracts mean that the man who is employing you can get rid of you any time. And that is at the expense of your whole family.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when families are insecure, the nation is not insecure. We are thanking the police for being vigilant and shooting at random those whom they suspect are thieves. But you are unlikely to finish the thieves unless there are fundamental changes. Any of us can turn into a thief when he knows he is going to starve. Anyone of us can turn into a thief if he knows his whole family is going to die. Therefore, we and many very, very important people here have turned into thieves for the pleasure of it and they have been named every where in various Committees here. But, these people have rendered the country very poor and therefore the economy is in doldrums. Although we say it is improving, it is not improving in that we are having poorer and poorer people begging on the streets. Very, very young people; girls are begging in the streets.

Men and boys are begging on the streets and so on. That is not a sign of improvement. We may be talking of per capita improvement which is an academic figure. If we have a few people with billions of shillings stolen from wananchi, when you divide it, the rest of wananchi will have a very high per capita income while the actual wananchi are earning nothing. The economy will not improve unless we effect minimum constitutional, legal and even administrative reforms. We are crying for this, wananchi need more freedom to do their own things. We do not want to have chiefs breathing over us.

Members of Parliament, especially in the Opposition, cannot even address their people. The President has said here that, "I believe you have had adequate time to consult and exchange ideas with your constituents". How is this possible? When your constituents come and gather around you in a shopping centre, you have a very angry looking Chief or Special Branch Officer asking you whether you have got a licence to address your people

while you are just being consulted. Therefore this sentence where he says, "I believe you that you have adequate time," is not correct, because we have had no adequate time. We have been stopped from addressing our people. On a few occasions we have been given licences and therefore these are quite nice speeches but in practice they mean very little.

The infrastructure of the country is completely in disarray. Roads are no longer there. How will people invest in a place where there are potholes every where? People have encroached on road reserves and turned them into plots. In fact, in future if we have to provide the infrastructure, especially roads, we shall have no space to construct the roads because we might be forced to bulldoze the various structures people have put up. An example in Nairobi is Langata Road where people are putting petrol stations next to the road when they know that, that road is too congested for the residents who live there.

We need good telecommunication systems. Our telephone system is becoming worse and worse, and yet we are asking people to invest in this country.

The Railway system, those who are charged in looking after the railway are already selling parts of the railway ground instead of thinking of putting double lines and having their staff well accommodated. They are instead selling the houses which belong to the Railways. They are also selling the grounds on which the improvement of putting double lines or even dribble lines would have been done. So, here is a case of looting.

We are encroaching even on our own houses. Those houses belonged to the local authority. Houses belonging to the officers are being sold left-right and centre by people who buy them at KShs.50,000.00 and sell them at higher rates of about Kshs.50 million. How are we improving when we are robbing our own country?

The market areas are being encroached upon and wananchi cannot sell their goods. Where there is a market place, people encroach on it, divide it into plots and sell them, and people put up highrise buildings in such places. How are we putting the economy into the hands of wananchi when we are encroaching even in the very grounds on which they have to trade.

Agriculture is in disarray. The people who are supposed to protect it are importing maize, sugar, wheat and rice without paying taxes. They do not pay the tariffs and various charges that they are supposed to be pay at the Port, and, therefore, they end up selling---

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Dr. Misoi): On a point of Order, Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi to mislead this House, and the country, that people are importing various commodities without paying taxes, yet the Government has made announcements that such should not happen? Hakuna magendo sasa.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister, who is talking has been in this House when documents have been Tabled here which shows that people have imported rice, wheat and everything without paying even a cent for tax. These are the people like Sajjad! These are the things that we have to look upon and not give just nice speeches which in the end mean very little, but to please the people.

We have got a problem with the water system. Water is in shortage and these are the areas we ought to address. In a place like my Town, the water that has been brought to us by the Japanese Government has already been taken away and is feeding other people, but we still get the bills. We are being accused of not paying Kshs.26 million which we have not used at all.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Ligale.

QUORUM

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of Order, Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It appears like there is no quorum.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): It appears or there is no quorum?

Mr. Mulusya: There is no quorum, Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula) Order! Now we have Quorum.

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the liberalisation of the economy of this country, that His Excellency has been able to do, does indicate that not only is he in charge, but he does care for the welfare of his people. In this regard,

we would also wish to congratulate his able Minister for Finance, and his officials who have had to do the donkey work; working long hours behind the scenes to try and ensure that inflation is brought down below the ten digit level; that the monetary and fiscal policies are commensurate with the growing economy. Indeed, they have tried to create a climate that can be able to attract investments in this country.

We would wish to congratulate His Excellency in particular for going out there to try and attract investments. A country that cannot attract investments both from within and from without, will perish, it cannot grow. And in so doing we must create a viable environment, an environment in which people will feel safe investing their money. The missions that His Excellency has led to countries, like Germany, United Kingdom, Malaysia, and Singapore, as well as the symposium that was held here recently, at which various businessmen from within and from other countries notably United States of America have been a testimony of His Excellency's own concern for the economy of this country. If there are countries in Africa that have the possibility of take-off, like the Tigers of the Pacific region in the far East, I very strongly believe that Kenya could be able to stand in that category. In particular, with the revival of the East African Cooperation, which does place in position a market of close to 80 million people, with a fairly vibrant economy and Kenya being the bull-work within that region, I believe we have a chance to be able to attract investments from various investors all over the world. I know there is an interest already taking place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that in the recent past, we have had a number of investors come here to look, particularly, at the vegetable oil industry with a possibility that they could plant palm oil in this country which could save us from importing a lot of palm oil from the Far East which is used in a vegetable oil industry. We have agricultural land and sufficient rainfall at the Coast where we can be able to plant this crop as well as other vegetable oils like simsim and groundnuts in addition to palm oil which could be able to save us a lot of foreign exchange that we currently utilize in importing that imported commodity.

The various other measures that the Government has taken like for instance, in fighting corruption, thuggery and carjacking are ingredients not only for providing stability and security to our country but are also concomitant which offer an opportunity to attract investors. Investors are not only going to be assured that their money will be safe and repatriate their proceeds and dividends and hence uphold economic and financial regime but they also want to know that if they are here and in this country, their families operating here will be safe. They want to know that there will be security for their people, that when they wake up in the morning to go and work they are not going to have to look back or to be told that their families have been attacked during the day. That a wife who has gone out to work, shop or visit friends is suddenly hijacked and the car taken away from them. We must applaud some of our closet friends, sons of Kenya who have done a good job. In this regard, I have in mind people like Isack Lugonzo who was recently gunned down by robbers. We do not know what the motive was. When those kinds of things do happen, they do send a chill down the spine of a lot of us and, therefore, we must commend the police for the efforts they are making to ensure that this country continues to be safe not only for the investors from abroad, visitors from abroad, tourists from abroad but for also for us Kenyans. In fact, if anybody stands up here and says that our police are shooting people in a trigger-happy manner and they do not understand and appreciate that it could be them next time you fail to understand them. When thuggery takes root, responsibility for "finishing" people's lives at random, it could be any of us and we must, therefore, commend the police for what they are doing. But we must also commend the public. In fact, through giving these hotlines which have enabled Kenyans to get in touch with the police when there are suspicious characters around, we have been able to apprehend a number of suspects that would probably otherwise would have gotten away free. I would like to request Kenyans to be vigilant and to come out and inform our police where suspicious elements in our midst do luck and want to cause havoc.

There are still other areas, where there is a lot of corruption which in the past, we used to want to sweep under the carpet. I am glad that currently, we are all talking about corruption openly. We are admitting that there is corruption in our midst and that this Government is determined to do something about it; and it is doing something about it. I would like to commend the Government for what it has done in particular, in our ports, Customs and Excise Department and in various other areas where we do have corruption. There are one or two other areas where we still have a lot of corruption. A lot of our people used to go to various departments, for example, licences, citizenship or immigration and other places where there was corruption, but now we have plugged the loopholes. At the moment, a lot of those connen and corrupt elements are in Ardhi House. There are a lot of them in Ardhi House, where they are involved in plots allocations and we now hear of fake title deeds that are being issued. I know we have a very able Minister there, a man of integrity in the name of a retired General. I am requesting him and all of us generally, to try and ensure that this business in Ardhi House stops.

With those few remarks, I will continue next time.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very delighted to have this chance to say

something today. Whether we like it or not, this nation has no other leaders but ourselves. It is our responsibility, therefore, to guide it to the correct destination. Failure to do this, we are going to be cursed. This is because the people of this nation have given us the honour of leading them and they expect and believe that we are going to lead them properly. Therefore, it is necessary that we lead them properly. What do we do, so as to lead them properly? First we should deny ourselves some of the things that will make us not lead the nation properly. Wherever your personal interests clash with national interests, as a Member of Parliament (MP), you should let the national interests prevail. I will give you an example. If you very much want a piece of land, which is also wanted for a school, what do you do? You should allow the school to buy the piece of land. These days, we MPs will want to buy it first, but that is wrong. The nation should first of all have the school, because the school belongs to all of us while the piece of land you want to buy, is for your individual commercial interests.

Therefore, the first thing we should do is to accept to deny ourselves such opportunities. A leader who cannot deny himself something is not a leader but a grabber. If he is not a grabber, he is not a fair leader. Yet, not a single statesman does not make sacrifices. Once we do not make sacrifices, then we are just working for ourselves and not for the good of our nation. It is very important for us to look ahead many years to come, when our great grand children will be reading and benefiting from what we did. When I joined this House a number of years ago, we were being mocked by the whites, that we had no lawyers and doctors. It is true, they were right. But now, we have them. You, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, can challenge any lawyer in the world. You are as good a lawyer as the white ones. In fact, you are better than a good number of the then lawyers. We want to have ideas for the future, so that our great grand children will say that they had very good leaders.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, where you feel that the nation stands to gain, you should abandon what you are doing for your personal benefit and work for the good of the nation. I will give you another example. Suppose I have an appointment with hon. Mulinge, for him to take me somewhere to look for a girl to marry my son; and at the same time there is a big meeting whose objective is to convince our people to be united and work together. Hon. Mulinge and I should resolve that my son will get a wife later and then, we decide to go to the big meeting and unite our people for the good of unity of our nation. That is the kind of hon. Members that we should be. We should talk about the nation, instead of continuing to talk of ourselves as individuals.

I am very much interested in the success of this nation and so, are we all. But we are forgetting the method we should use to benefit the nation. Wanting something is one thing, but knowing how to achieve it, is another. To achieve what we want, we should first of all be thinkers. We should sit together, discuss issues and agree. When I went into politics, I was used to multi-partyism. It is not a new system to me. At that time, Europeans, Asians and Africans would sit together and discuss issues for the good of Kenya.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Nthenge. Hon. Members the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 28th March, 1996 at 2.30 pm.

The House rose at 6.30 pm.