

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 4th March, 2003

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MEASURES TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF KENYAN FISHERMAN

(Mr. Wanjala) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that Kenyan fishermen are denied access to Lake Victoria by Tanzanian and Ugandan security officers?
- (b) Is he further aware that several Kenyan islands, namely Wayasi, Homa, Sigulu Lolwe, Siro and Remba have been taken over by Ugandan security forces?
- (c) What urgent measures is he taking to protect the interests of Kenyan fishermen in the lake?
- (d) What further measures is he taking to reclaim the said islands?

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Wanjala not here? We will drop this Question!

(Question dropped)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Dr. Oburu!

HARASSMENT OF KENYAN FISHERMEN BY UGANDAN OFFICERS

(Dr. Oburu) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that security officers from Uganda seized boats and confiscated fish of great value, on 18th December, 2002, on the shores of Usenge Beach in Lake Victoria?
- (b) Is he further aware that Kenyan security officers who

recovered the fish from Uganda sold the fish and pocketed the money and the matter was reported to Usenge Police Station and no action taken?

- (d) What measures is he taking to secure Kenyan waters and fishermen against attacks and harassment by Ugandan security personnel?

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Dr. Oburu has been outside the country and he had asked me to alert you to that fact.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, the Question is deferred!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: The next Question by Mr. Sambu is deferred at his request!

KNH DEPOSITS WITH EURO BANK

(Mr. Sambu) to ask the Minister for Health:-

- (a) Could the Minister explain how Kshs411,893,077/90 belonging to Kenyatta National

Hospital ended up in Euro Bank?

(b) Who exempted the hospital from the provisions of the Exchequer and Audit Act (Cap.412) and from the Treasury Circular No.10 of 15th July, 1992 in regard to this transaction?

(c) What disciplinary action has he taken against the officer(s) involved in this transaction?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Maj. Madoka!

LOSSES INCURRED BY PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice:-

(a) Could the Minister inform the House how much loss has been incurred by the following public hospitals as a result of her directive on release of securities surrendered by patients in lieu of unpaid hospital bills:- Eldoret Referral Hospitals, Coast General Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital, Nyanza General Hospital and Voi Hospital?

(b) Could the Minister assure the House that services in public hospitals will not be compromised as a result of this directive?

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

(a) Following my directive, on the release of securities held in lieu of unpaid bills, Moi Referral Hospital, Eldoret, has released securities worth Kshs1,378,254; Kenyatta National Hospital has released securities worth Kshs1.5 million, while the remaining three other hospitals do not hold any securities from the public.

(b) I would like to assure the House that services in public hospitals will not be compromised as a result of this directive.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for the answer. Last year, the Eighth Parliament passed a Motion to the effect that cost-sharing in hospitals would be abolished. The Minister for Local Government has directed that cost-sharing will be abolished in all the health centres in the local authorities. Could the Minister also give a clear directive as to what the status is in the Government hospitals because it is, at the moment, causing a lot of confusion also because the President spoke of "affordable health care" which implies that there will be some cost-sharing element?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy of the NARC Government is that no Kenyan will be denied health care services if he or she may not be able to afford. However, we are saying that those who can afford, can surely pay for these services especially when they go to the private wings of our hospitals. However, those who cannot afford will not be turned away but they will be offered medical services.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Minister for her concern for the common mwananchi. What really concerns me is the huge amount of money that has been stolen through Euro Bank; from Kenyatta National Hospital. What action is the Minister going to take to ensure that the officers answer for this crime, pay back this money and that those who are still in Government service are sacked?

Mr. Speaker: Order! You are trying to ask Mr. Sambu's Question through the back door and yet it has been deferred! You are overruled!

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that those patients who visit hospitals and cannot afford to pay for medical services will not be turned away, but those who can afford, can go to the private wings of our hospitals. Is the Minister stating categorically that because affordability is the matter of the heart and not of the pocket, all those who can afford can go to hospital and claim that they cannot afford? Is the Minister saying that there is no payment of any fees in our public hospitals unless you want to pay?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are saying that because of the high number of patients who visit our hospitals, and we are all aware that 56 per cent of Kenyans are living below the poverty line, one may have to take a little longer before being attended to by a doctor. In that case, if you want to be treated much faster, you then have to go to the private doctors within our hospitals, but you will be called upon to pay. The very poor, who cannot afford to pay, will not be turned away, but they will be treated.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while thanking the Minister, could she tell us whether there will be no payments from now onwards in hospitals situated in the rural areas where the cost-sharing element is in place?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the poor will be treated in our hospitals whether in the rural areas or in the urban areas. So, every Kenyan who cannot afford will be treated.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask the Minister a question with regard to free health care. If

you go to the Government hospitals today you will pay for drugs or actually buy your own drugs. I do not know whether free health care is supposed to mean consultation with the physician or it includes the drugs as well because this is causing confusion in the health facilities. In some places patients are told to go and get the free drugs from the Minister which she talked about.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, because we are fighting corruption, that is the reason why we have no drugs in our hospitals. But during the next Budget, we will try to get more allocations on drugs and, therefore, we will be able to provide drugs in our hospitals.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is our experience that the most complicated part in hospitals is when it comes to clearing mortuary bills. I would like the Minister to guide us whether this directive also concerns the mortuary bills because in provincial general hospitals, relatives of the deceased are not allowed to take the body out of the hospital mortuary, until and unless they part with not less than Kshs4,500. Is that the case?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a waiver policy in the Ministry of Health which states that, if you cannot afford to pay the mortuary fees, you should go and inform the Waiver Department and, surely, they would release the body. But generally, the Minister said that no body should be retained in our mortuaries because relatives of the deceased cannot afford to pay the mortuary fees.

The Member for Nyaribari Masaba (Dr. Manduku): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we appreciate the efforts the Ministry of Health is making, and we have noticed that in some good hospitals where the Government has equipped them with medicines which are in their pharmacies--- I do not know whether the Minister is aware that, in most of the out-patient departments, you would find that a doctor or a clinical officer prescribes medicine and directs the patient to go and buy them from chemists. Whereas, if you checked in their pharmacies, you would find that the same medicines they prescribe are found in the hospital pharmacy. I do not know if the Minister is aware of that.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, this has happened and we are asking every Kenyan to help us to monitor the sale of Government drugs to private pharmacists. This is criminal!

The Member for Nyaribari Masaba (Dr. Manduku): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is not the issue of selling Government medicine in the private pharmacies, but the doctors and clinical officers direct patients to go and buy medicine from private chemists while they have the medicine in the hospital pharmacies. There is a collusion between the hospital staff and some private chemists in most of the towns. There is a collusion between Government officers and private chemists, which should be stopped.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a decay we have inherited from the same people on that side of the House. We are working on that and we will correct it.

Mr. Omingo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Whereas I appreciate the "maiden answer" the Minister has given, would I be in order to ask her to give clear policy guidelines on free medication because "poverty" is a relative term? How could you determine whether Magara is poor or rich? Could we get guidance on this?

Mr. Speaker: You are hijacking my eye. That is a supplementary question! Could we hear from Mr. G.G. Kariuki?

Mr. G.G. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I appreciate the work which is being done by our new Minister, could she make a categorical statement that people in the rural areas will not, henceforth, pay for treatment in all Government dispensaries and hospitals?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying, once again, that we are talking about the very poor people who cannot afford to pay for treatment. This is a policy! When we talk about "affording", we are saying those who can afford but, those who cannot afford will be given free medical services.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Last question, Maj. Madoka!

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Order! If you notice, I have been very generous on this Question. I have given it more than the usual time because I have time in my hand and, secondly, because it is a very important Question. So, my generosity is now coming to a dead end.

Last question, Maj. Madoka!

Maj. Madoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think the Minister is not coming out forthright on this Question. We want a categorical statement that there will be no cost-sharing in public hospitals. There is no use of telling us that the very poor Kenyan will not pay for medical services! You are leaving it to the medical practitioners, or the workers in the hospitals, to determine who is poor and who is not poor! This will cause a lot

of confusion! So, we do need a categorical statement on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Could we hear from the Minister?

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was a statement not a question. However, I want to say that it is alright. I want to say it here again that, no Kenyan, who cannot afford to pay for their health services, will be turned away from our hospitals.

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

Mr. Speaker: Overruled! Next Question, Mr. Wario!

AMENDMENT OF NOMINATED COUNCILLORS' LIST

Mr. Wario: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Local Government the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Why did the Minister amend the list of nominated councillors submitted to him by the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) for gazettment?

(b) What is the legality of the councillors who were not vetted by the ECK?

(c) What action has the Minister taken to address the anomaly?

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Wario! Mr. Karisa Maitha called me and said that he left the country [**Mr. Speaker**]

yesterday for South Africa and, he requested me to defer this Question to next Tuesday.

An hon. Member: There is an Assistant Minister in that Ministry!

Mr. Speaker: He said he wanted to deal with it by himself. Would you be agreeable?

Mr. Wario: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Alright, Question deferred to Tuesday next week.

(Question deferred)

PAYMENT OF LEVIES IN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Education, Science and the Technology the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister explain the Government's programme on free education with respect to boarding schools in the country?

(b) Could he table levies payable by parents in order to clarify the current confusion in our schools?

(c) What criteria was used to distribute about Kshs519 million amongst the public primary schools in the country to enable each school to receive Kshs28,000?

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Free primary education applies to all students in public schools. This entails the elimination of all forms of levies in addition, the Ministry will continue to support the low cost boarding public primary schools in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL), by providing grants.

(b) As a result of the declared policy of free primary education, no levies of any kind will be charged in all public primary schools.

(c) The Government released an initial emergency grant of Kshs519 million to all public primary schools, which was divided equally amongst all the 17,976 public primary schools countrywide. Each school received Kshs28,871. This amount will be enhanced by Kshs811 per pupil, for the period up to 30th June, 2003.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the third time we are dealing with this Question. I have an old written reply that was brought to this House by hon. Gumo, although the Minister is reading a new answer now. However, the question which has been disturbing us since last time, is the issue of boarding primary schools. The Minister has not also come out clearly to tell us what they are doing for the boarding primary schools in terms of fees payment. Could the Minister tell us, with respect to free primary education, that there are no levies which should be paid by parents to public boarding primary schools?

Prof. Saitoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position, as far as free primary education is concerned, entails the removal of various levies that were being charged uniformly to all public schools. These particular levies entailed the teaching-learning materials and, of course, the rehabilitation and building funds. All those have been removed. This is for all students, in both day and boarding primary schools. Prior to the removal of these levies, the boarding primary schools in the ASAL areas were also getting special grants from the Ministry of Education,

Science and Technology. The grants will not be affected in any way.

In the current financial year, a sum of Kshs66 million has already been put in the Budget in order to be distributed amongst the 210 boarding primary schools throughout the country.

An additional Kshs16 million is also being sought in the Supplementary Estimates which will come before this House.

Mr. Poghiso: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When you see the Minister going round and round, you know there is nothing coming out. Could he give us the list of the 210 primary schools and the amount of money each will receive? Given that this is the beginning of the term, when are they going to receive those grants?

Prof. Saitoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform hon. Members that, out of the Kshs66 million that is already in the current Budget, a sum of Kshs50 million has already been disbursed. An amount of Kshs16 million will be factored into the Supplementary Budget. An additional Kshs25 million will also be disbursed. But this is as far as the end of this financial year is concerned. I think it is important that this is known as we talk about boarding and day primary schools. In the next financial year, this amount of capitation per child will then be enhanced from the current Kshs820 per child to Kshs1,020. However, as I have said, this one will be released in the next quarter. Immediately the Supplementary Budget is passed, the grant will be disbursed. The only thing that will change now is the fact that, in remitting these grants, well-defined criteria are going to be put into place. Firstly, we will take into account the enrolment in those boarding schools. Two, poverty levels in those districts will be taken into account. Three, the number of workers in those schools will be considered.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The question was: "Can he give a list of the 210 schools and the amount of money they have received so far?" He has not answered that question.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have the list with you, Mr. Minister?

Prof. Saitoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it must be admitted that the question that is being asked now clearly is supplementary. But I do have a list of those schools and it is right here. It also explains the amount of money that has been disbursed so far and we are talking about these 210 primary schools. But I must say that the Ministry will be very careful when we now define the boarding schools that will be eligible for grants. We have a number of primary boarding schools which are not in ASAL areas and which have been receiving grants. They will not receive them. We will make sure that the available grants will be concentrated only in the boarding schools in ASAL areas.

Mr. M'Mukindia: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. While we appreciate what the Minister for Education, Science and Technology has done in so far as providing free and compulsory primary education is concerned, we need to realise that nursery school education is an important component of our education system. We also find that most areas in Kenya do not have nursery schools. What programme does the Minister have to, at least, absorb nursery school teachers into the Government payroll and then leave the parents to cater for the other expenses such as provision of textbooks and building of classrooms?

Prof. Saitoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that education is a partnership by both the parents, the Government and all of us. The segment that the Government is now focusing on is to ensure that all the children that are eligible for primary school education go back to school. Indeed, there is a case for the pre-primary school, but I must be fairly candid here, that if we were to also absorb those teachers, the whole capital outlay would be amazing. As a matter of fact, today, the overriding need is that of additional teachers for the primary schools.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Mr. Mirugi!

Mr. M'Mukindia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a bit of confusion here---

*(Mr. M'Mukindia and Mr. Kariuki
stood up in their places)*

Mr. Speaker: Are you Mr. Mirugi? You are Kirugi and he is Mirugi!

(Laughter)

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Children Act envisages a situation where education is free and compulsory. Could the Minister tell this House, in clear terms, whether primary school education is compulsory? Secondly, the Children Act defines a child as a person below the age of 18. We know that there are students in secondary schools who are below 18 years. Are there any plans to make education free for those

who are in secondary schools within that meaning of the word "child" under the Children Act?

Prof. Saitoti: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Ministry has no intention whatsoever to violate the provision in the Children Act; that particular one that stipulates that children must have free and compulsory education. It is true that it is compulsory. We have obviously made sure that we bring all the children right now to school, and that is the phase we are moving into. The determination is to enable all our children, especially in the primary schools, get free education. The desired end will be definitely to ensure that we do provide education for all the children under the age of 18, but the capital outlay is such that, right now, there is no way this can be sustained.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister for that elaborate answer. In fact, he should have been the Vice-President.

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Being aware of what happened during the last General Elections and how KANU lost, is the hon. Member in order to imply that our well- formed Government should have had another President?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sungu, why do you want to gag others?

Mr. Sasura: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. He should not gag me. There is a difference between free education and going to school freely. We welcome the policy of free education, but there is this mixing up of what the Ministry is calling multi-grade. In Rachuonyo District, for example, when free education was introduced, an adult of 27 years enrolled in Class One, and the multi-grade system demands that the older pupils will sit at the back of the class while the younger ones sit in front of the class. However, as pertains to free education, it is not fair for our children to go to school freely and then come back home without being taught. It is a known fact - and even the other day KNUT said it - that we need 60,000 teachers to be employed. What is the Ministry doing to give us teachers? Thank you for the free education.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Stay cool! That Question is coming up subsequently. I have approved that Question in my Chambers. So, we will wait for it to come, and be prepared to deal with it. That is the end of Question Time!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that this afternoon, before I came to the Chamber, I received a letter from His Excellency the President appointing hon. Prof. Saitoti as Deputy Leader of Government Business. So, you better note.

Very well! Next Order!

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday 18th February, 2003.

*(The Vice-President and Minister for
National Reconstruction on 19.2.2003)*

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 27.2.2003)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kahindi was on the Floor! Could you proceed?

The Member for Ganze (Mr. Kingi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir,---

An hon. Member: You are not Kingi!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! You know there is Mr. Kahindi and Mr. Kaindi. I called Mr. Kahindi, the Member for Ganze, to contribute.

The Member for Ganze (Mr. Kahindi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I had given background information about Ganze Constituency. I think I had narrated how Ganze Constituency was treated by the previous Government, and I mentioned that Ganze is one of the worst constituencies we have in this country today.

I would, therefore, like to deal with the issues affecting our people. The first one is about water. Ganze Constituency is currently served by a branch line of the Lango Baya line to Mombasa. There is a branch line that begins from Silala. For this line to be able to serve Ganze Constituency, we have to pump water at a point called Ganze, but most of the time the pumps are out of order, and water cannot be pumped to the constituency. Where the pumps are in order and are working, we have the problem of bursting pipes. In fact, that pipeline is as good as it was not there at all. In the absence of that pipeline, Ganze constituents use water from ponds. They have to walk for many kilometres to fetch water from ponds. This water is not safe for use, and more often than not you will find that the people falling sick after consuming the water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when they fall sick, they are supposed to go to health providers, whereas in the constituency we only have two sub-standard health centres; one at Bamba and the other one at Ganze. Both are operating with only a skeleton staff. In fact, as I stand here, Bamba Health Centre has only four workers. This is not enough for that area.

With regard to the same issue, we have medical colleges in this country which are supposed to enrol students for training every year. I would like to inform the House that, for the last five years, not a single person has been invited to attend training in any of the Government medical training centres we have in this country. We do not know why the training of personnel in our medical centres was kind of a preserve for only one region in this country. In fact, I intend to raise a Question in this House so that we can be given a breakdown of the students that have been admitted in those training colleges for the last five years, so that we are able to know whether the distribution was fair or not.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to land, I would like to inform the House that up to now, in Ganze Constituency, there is not a single person who has a title deed in that constituency. The land has not been demarcated. People were clustered in groups of 3,000 to 4,000 and given one title deed as a group. Honestly, how can people develop themselves that way? We would like to call for the cancellation of those title deeds that were given for group ranches so that the land can be sub-divided and people given title deeds which they can use to pursue loans in the banks in order to develop themselves. This is why I commend the President's Speech because it gives some hope to the people of Ganze and the country at large.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we settle down to serious business, I think we should address ourselves to the various issues that were raised in the Speech. One of the promises we made last year during the campaign was the issue of payment of salaries to teachers. I would like to thank the Government for having introduced free primary education, but I would like to say that no system of education can be better than its teachers. So, if we are not going to improve the terms and conditions of service for the teachers, then, however hard we try we may not be very successful. We should not only think about the teachers, but also other workers. On the same note, I would also like us to remind ourselves that retired people in this country spend a lot of time waiting for their retirement benefits. I think it is high time we came up with systems that can help the retirees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have talked so much about corruption. In the President's Speech, we declared some kind of war against corruption. Everyone of us wants to fight corruption, but I would at the same time like to appeal to Kenyans to help this country to save money. We do not want to spend too much money fighting corruption. We have very little money, so what we want to do is to ask Kenyans to be disciplined a little. They should give this country a break so that we rebuild the nation. For example, it is not going to be possible for us to build boarding schools in North Eastern Province when there are gangs hanging all over the place. If we have to fight those thugs by using the army, police or the GSU, more money will be used by this Government. The Government should, therefore, be given a break so that it builds the country without stress or much force.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President's Speech gave us a lot hope and there is light at the end of the tunnel. What we need to do is to support the President as we begin to rebuild this country together.

Thank you, so much.

The Member for Runyenjes (Mr. Wambora): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to make my maiden speech and participate in this historic debate on the Presidential Speech. The Presidential Speech came up with four major points concerning the economy; zero tolerance to corruption, conducive or enabling environment, donor funding and maximization of Kenya's resources.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been a public sector consultant for over 25 years and I would like to dwell on the last point; optimization of resources. I would like to talk about elimination of mismanagement, value-adding and marketing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Runyenjes Constituency are very interested in three major resources which are tea, coffee and milk. These resources are the ones which bring them prosperity. Tea is a very major foreign exchange earner which is not doing so well. I would like to request the Minister for Agriculture to come up with a policy framework which will facilitate branding of Kenyan tea and direct sale to overseas supermarkets. The

Minister should also address the issue of the sale of the Nyayo Tea Zones to local tea factories owned by the wananchi because, as my colleagues from the Mt. Kenya region have said, the Government has no business involving itself in tea growing. We would like our tea factories to be given that opportunity to buy those Nyayo Tea Zones.

The other major resource in my area is coffee. It was once a major foreign exchange earner, but at the moment it has completely collapsed. There is still hope that coffee can still make it as a major foreign exchange earner. I will give notice of a Motion on subsidising of coffee inputs and marketing of coffee later on because I feel this is a major area of concern to coffee growers. The collapse of the KCC has impoverished my constituency. It led to the closure of Runyenjes Milk Cooling Plant in August 2002. We have solutions to this problem which can be implemented. We would want the KCC to be fully operational and the Runyenjes Milk Cooling Plant to be reopened for the sake of the farmers.

The other major issue of concern in the President's Speech was about employment. It will take time to create the projected 500,000 jobs per annum, but we are a patient people. Meanwhile, my request as an MP who cares for the youth is this: I believe that charity starts at home and we can start it within the public sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like those jobs in the public sector, even if they are not many, to be distributed not only on qualification basis, but also on regional basis. I believe that every district or region in this country has ample, qualified and competent people. This will go a long way in assisting people from all regions of the country.

The other issue of concern which the President brought up in his Speech was the provision of basic health services. He put it very clearly that a major priority will be the fight against HIV/AIDS. My concern is that the intensification of the fight against HIV/AIDS is concentrated in the urban areas especially Nairobi. I would like to request that the fight against HIV/AIDS be also intensified in the rural areas. We should also use rural-based groups to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We have many groups which can assist in this war against HIV/AIDS. The President also talked about the provision of health services. We have started building several dispensaries in Runyenjes. I would like to ask the Ministry of Health to assist us to complete these community-based initiatives.

Embu District is the only district without a district hospital. The oldest sub-district hospital is Runyenjes Sub-district Hospital and I would like to ask the Minister for Health to upgrade it to district status. We also have one of the oldest health centres, Kianjokoma Health Centre, and I would also request the Ministry to upgrade it to a sub-district hospital in order to bring health services closer to the people.

Finally, I would like to talk about the issue of resources at constituency level. Here, I am talking about the Constituency Development Fund. By this I am not referring to the funds which will be utilised in Nairobi but those which will be utilised at constituency level. I shall comment more on this once the report of Chief Justice (Rtd.) Cockar is tabled before the House. I think we shall be looking more into the wellbeing of the wananchi in the rural areas when we allocate enough funds to take care of the community-based projects.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Speaker: By the way, all hon. Members who are old should show tolerance. I would like to reach as many new Members as possible. I will make a deliberate effort to give an opportunity to the new Members.

Proceed!

The Member for Mandera Central (Mr. Billow): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My name is Billow Adam Kerow--

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As much as I respect your ruling, because you know I do, why should you discriminate between the new and old Members? We are all Members of this House! Can you treat us equally?

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Yes, indeed! I want to bring the new ones to the mainstream so that we are equal.

Proceed!

The Member for Mandera Central (Mr. Billow): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My name is Billow, as I was saying, and I am the Member of Parliament for Mandera Central.

First, I wish to thank the Almighty God for the peaceful elections and transition we had in this country. I also wish to congratulate all my colleagues, who were successfully elected. I also wish to appeal to all our colleagues who were not successful in the elections, to accept defeat and work with those who were elected. I say this because we have noted in certain districts and in particular Mandera District, that certain former Members who lost in the elections still find it very difficult to accept defeat. I appeal to all of them to accept defeat and wish

well those who have been elected so that they can carry out their duties in their tenure.

Clearly, there is a gaping disparity in socio-economic development in this country. This is likely to create resentment among the have-nots and pull down the haves from their pursuit of development. This is because if you look at certain areas like North Eastern Province, you cannot imagine that it is part and parcel of this country. At a time when others have docked in outer space for years and others are seeking settlement in the outer space, there are many in this country today who do not even have clean drinking water. It is a shame that, after 40 years of Independence, some parts of this country have no water, electricity or food, and they still face other kinds of problems. Although I belong to KANU, it is a pity that the past KANU Government was long on development rhetoric but short on meaningful, tangible and measurable development. It is my hope that the NARC Government will not outdo the previous KANU Government in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish also to support the President's concern on corruption. However, I also wish to point out that some hon. Members of the NARC Government define it simply as KANU. It is a fact that perhaps 80 per cent of the present NARC leadership is made up of people who were in the previous KANU Government. It is also a fact that only 10 per cent of today's KANU were there in the previous Government. Therefore, in its crusade to crack down on corruption, the Government must be seen to be cracking down on corruption within its own rank and file. Whatever happened in the past did happen. I am not saying that they must forget what happened, but we want to see them taking action against all those corrupt individuals both in the past and the current Government. With this in mind, in the case of Euro Bank, it is my view that the Governor of the Central Bank has the responsibility to ensure that all money that is deposited by the depositors in the banks is safeguarded.

The Governor has all the powers under the Banking Act. He does not need directions from the Minister for Finance to do so. It is a pity that, with all those powers, some banks in this country have collapsed with huge amounts of public funds. Therefore, the NARC Government must fight corruption. They must have zero tolerance to corruption. This must be seen in their actions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a light touch, I have always wondered whether the "Rainbow Coalition" is a coalition of the good, the bad and the ugly. This is because most of our brothers on the other side of the House, despite pointing accusing fingers at us, do not seem to support actions against those who are responsible for the collapse of Euro Bank.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to human rights, I wish to point out that this has been a major concern in the past. I wish to support and thank all those who have been involved in the campaign and advocacy for human rights for many years in this country. In particular, my concern is on the many incidents of bad governance in the past that led to massacres, particularly in parts of North Eastern Province. Between 1980 and 1990, there were massacres in Malkamari in Mandera, Wagalla in Wajir, Garissa and in other parts of that province. It is a shame that the Government was involved. I wish to call upon the NARC Government to take action against those who were involved in the killings of innocent Kenyans. It is sad to note that at the recent reception during the State Opening of Parliament, none other than a former Provincial Commissioner who was involved in the Wagalla Massacre was invited. It was very unfortunate, indeed, that such a person was entertained. It is sad that such a person can share with us the luxuries of this august House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to turn my attention to North Eastern Province. Many things have been said about the state of that province. It is a pity that the people of that province have always supported the Government of the day for a long time. However, they have never benefited in terms of development. President Kibaki was kind enough to mention in his Speech that the province requires maximum attention. The Government must come up with a deliberate affirmative action programme or a "marshal plan" to address the critical issues of development. The most critical issue of development is poor communication. If there was a road linking various parts of North Eastern Province from Garissa to Mandera, it would contribute a great deal to the development of that province. It would be easier for businessmen to transact their business. Therefore, communication is one of the major problems. If you were driving in certain areas of that province, you would think you were driving on the surface of the moon because the state of our roads is pathetic beyond imagination.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a serious concern regarding livelihood in that province. The residents of a district like Mandera depend on famine relief food throughout the year. Without the relief food our people will die. So, I would like to appeal to the Government to come up with policies that will make our people self-reliant, particularly where food is concerned.

Livestock farming in North Eastern Province has been neglected for a long time. I would urge the Government to consider, as a matter of priority, looking for a market for livestock in that province. The NARC leadership did mention that they will put up abattoirs and allow people to export meat through Wajir Airstrip. As a matter of priority, I would urge the Government to put up abattoirs of international standards so that our people can export meat. This is the only source of livelihood to our people. However, there is no market at all. That is

a simple matter which this Government must address. If there was a market for livestock in that province, I can assure you that the rest of the problems would be easily sorted out. There have been efforts to improve water supply, but I think we should develop this industry.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not need to look back on the past so much. But if we do we have to be careful--

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up! Mark you, all your immunities are now gone!

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my maiden speech. I wish to talk about my constituency. The people of Trans Mara who elected me to this House expect me to articulate their problems. I will do this in my first speech.

One of the problems of the people of Trans Mara relates land. We have a problem of land issues in Trans Mara more than any other constituency in this country because my predecessor who represented us for ten years did everything under the sun to break every known law on land to manipulate the land issue. The Trans Mara lands office is the most corrupt office as far as land issues are concerned. I would like to ask the Minister for Lands and Settlement to constitute a committee to address these problems. It is a pity that somebody has three title deeds for a piece of land. I thank the people of Kenya for getting rid of the KANU regime. We have problems because of the KANU Government that was in power for many years.

The Committee I want the Minister to constitute must cancel all the title deeds. This is because a lot of wealthy men, some of whom have become millionaires by looting all our parastatals, including Kenyatta National Hospital and the NHIF, have so much money. They come to Trans Mara by choppers to buy land from the people. Our people are left landless.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a shame that for the 40 years this country has had a Government, people have had to buy land from areas other than their cradle land. There is also some land which has been taken over by the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) from its former loanees who defaulted in payment. The title deeds that were used to secure those loans were acquired illegally from Trans Mara lands office. The land was subsequently sold to whoever was willing to buy it. To those people who may still be interested in buying land from Trans Mara District, I would like to warn them that we have had enough of these illegal transactions. Let them stay away from Trans Mara District.

We will not allow people to destroy our ecosystem any more. The values of the people who stay in Trans Mara District are totally different from those of the people who buy land in that district. Once these people buy land there, they corrupt the indigenous people and destroy their social values. So many group ranches have been declared in that district. Since 1971, when the district was declared an adjudication area, huge tracts of land have been allocated to individuals. Individuals have been using the title deeds to the land allocated to them to acquire bank loans in Nairobi. We are opposed to this development. I am glad that the President has said that all the laws relating to land issues, which are more than 20, will be amalgamated into one law, so that we can have a single law regulating land issues to protect the interests of the people. The laws that exist to date have been used to manipulate the people and steal land from them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Trans Mara District has had the problem of land clashes. Tribal clashes between the communities living in that area have been going on. The problem has been instigated by individuals who have been causing havoc in that area. The former Government had been applying a divisive technique among the communities in that area. Consequently, the communities living in that area have been killing each other to acquire land and steal cattle from each other. After the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government took over power, we have had peace in that area. The people are happy. The Gucha/Trans Mara border is now secure. However, we have a major problem in the name of *Mungiki*.

Mungiki is not synonymous with the Kikuyu community. It is a batch of people which was created by the former regime to terrorise people and protect them so that they could continue looting the resources of this country. Those in the former regime used the *Mungiki* to fight for them. If you dared challenge them, they would even kill you. This is a major problem in Trans Mara District. The former Member of Parliament for my constituency has supplied more than 100 people with illegal arms.

I know more than ten of his friends and bodyguards who have acquired pistols. Some chiefs in that area have been carrying pistols. So, I would like the Commissioner of Police to ensure that all civilians who possess illegal firearms in Trans Mara District are disarmed immediately. Some people in the former Government had created a small army in the name of *Mungiki*. I do not know the local synonym for *Mungiki* in Trans Mara. That was their way of terrorising the people and ensuring that they lived in fear, so that they could control them.

The people of Trans Mara do not live in fear any more. However, the perpetrators of terror in that constituency may do to others what they did to the late Father Kaiser. So, I would like to urge the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs to re-open the inquiry into the death of the late priest; the killers of Father

Kaiser are known. I understand that it was very difficult for the police to solve the mystery. Some people in power then ensured that the killers of Father Kaiser were not revealed. However, we know them. We would like the identity of the people who killed Father Kaiser revealed. If that does not happen, these murderers will kill other people. They have even threatened that I will not be alive by July, and that there will be a by-election in Kilgoris, because they have illegal firearms; they roam the area freely with firearms. The firearms were supplied to them by the most powerful person in that area then, who had all the powers of State in his hands. This is a dangerous person whom the Government should deal with, including all other persons he may be using.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Trans Mara District is endowed with tourist attractions, among other resources. We grow a lot of maize. However, whenever we realise a bumper harvest, the price of maize would fall from, say, Kshs1,200 to Kshs400. As if that is not enough discouragement to farmers, instead of supplying Trans Mara farmers with the 614 seed maize variety, the Kenya Seed Company is currently supplying them with the Katumani seed variety. Farmers in Trans Mara District have been discouraged from growing maize because the Kenya Seed Company has deliberately ensured that farmers in that area do not get the right seed, so that they do not harvest anything, so that they can import maize. The Kenya Seed Company should tell us whether they are working for Kenya or for the merchants of death. That is where we are now. Our farmers are not able to sell maize any more because of low prices. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that the farmer is able to sell his maize and make enough profit to enable him plant the next crop.

In Trans Mara District, we also grow sugar-cane. However, South Nyanza (SONY) Sugar Company, which gets most of its sugar-cane from Trans Mara District, has not paid the farmers their dues for more than a year. We are asking the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development to stop the importation of sugar into this country. Trans Mara District alone is capable of growing enough sugar-cane to meet the sugar needs of this country.

We also have tourist activities in Trans Mara District. Indeed, the Mara Triangle is in Trans Mara District.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you for taking the Chair; I hope that you will give me a little more time to contribute to the Motion.

Over the last 30 years, all the roads leading to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve have been bad. The previous Government did not bother to set aside some money to repair the roads leading to the game reserve, the reason being that rich individuals from that area, who have looted the resources of this country, have so many aeroplanes stationed at Nairobi's Wilson Airport. So, they ensured that tourists did not travel to Maasai Mara National Reserve by road, so that the poor people in that area could not sell anything of interest to the tourists. They ensured that tourists who wished to visit the game reserve, did so by air. So, we would like the roads leading to our area to be done.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mwenje): I am sorry, Mr. Konchella, your time is up.

Could you take the Floor, Mr. Musila?

The Member for Mwingi South (Mr. Musila): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this chance. I stand here to support the Motion but before I do so, I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his election as the Speaker of this august House. Let me also take this opportunity to thank hon. Members for electing me as the Deputy Speaker of this House. I want to assure all hon. Members that I will execute my duties with impartiality. I will only be guided by fairness and our Standing Orders.

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

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair]

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency the President for what must have been a very well thought out and most comprehensive Address ever delivered in this House. Let me join hon. Members to say that it

was one of the best speeches ever delivered in this House. It gave us hope in many areas that are important in the building of our nation. I would like to touch on a few matters contained in the Speech that His Excellency the President delivered.

On free primary education, during our campaigns as NARC, the promise of free primary education was very popular with the electorate. I want to commend the Government for taking a bold step and ensuring that we delivered what we promised the people during our campaigns. It is a shame that Kenya had to wait for that long to give free primary education, and to become the second last African country to do so! The only African country that does not have free primary education is Somalia which, as you all know, has no government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the most important thing is for the Government to move very fast and resolve some of the teething problems that have been experienced in the delivery of free primary education. To name just a few which have been highlighted before, we have a problem with teachers. The number of teachers, even before the introduction of free primary education, was very low. For example, in Mwingi District, we had a shortage of 800 teachers and with the introduction of free primary education and the influx of new pupils to primary schools, it means that we must recruit more teachers immediately. Therefore, I call upon the Government to spare no effort in recruiting new teachers. Without the teachers, we will not succeed in offering quality education to our children.

On the same issue of free primary education, I know it is a big burden to finance it. However, if we are really to succeed, we have to ensure that we finance free primary education, so that we do not have parents opting to go directly for primary education without going for pre-primary level. That will ensure that there is quality education right from Standard (I) to Standard (VIII). It is also obvious that in a very short while, because of the number of pupils that are going to primary schools, we will need to evaluate the positions and places in our secondary schools. This is because, soon or later, we are going to have many pupils joining secondary schools. So, what we must do immediately is to ensure that we start planning to increase the places available in secondary schools. We must also ensure there is quality secondary education by providing bursaries. Currently, only Kshs800 million is available for that purpose. We must ensure that we increase that amount.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President, in his Speech, declared that the Government will place considerable emphasis on the development of North Eastern Province and other districts which have been marginalised in the past. That is commendable. I think it is high time to focus on districts which have been marginalised. I am thinking of Mwingi District as one of the districts which have been marginalised. During the last 40 years, the successive KANU regimes have deliberately marginalised Mwingi District. That is done by denying them basic essentials of life, particularly water for irrigation and drinking. KANU ensured that, that district and others in Ukambani were permanently on famine relief. That way, KANU relied on that region to get votes in return for famine relief food. During the last campaigns, we said no to famine relief food. Therefore, we would like to appeal to the Government to use just a fraction of the money that has been used in the past by KANU to buy famine relief food and provide water. If that is done, it will enable the communities in those districts to become net producers of food, instead of what has been happening before; net receivers of famine relief! I think that could be done; it is only a matter of change of priority.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President emphasised on efforts to stamp out corruption. In doing so, he declared war on corruption. I think that is a war that must be won if we are to remove our country from the economic mess that it has found itself in, in the last two decades! We must win that war if we are to alleviate poverty which is so rampant in our nation. Tonight, 60 per cent of our population, which represents 18 million people, will go to bed hungry because they cannot afford a second meal. That is the seriousness of poverty in this country and it is all because of corruption. Our people have suffered enough because of corruption. Our people have to pay money to have their children recruited in the army and police. Our retired public officers have to pay bribes to receive their hard-earned pensions. Our people have to pay for their children to get admitted to such institutions like the Kenya Medical Training College. Our people have to pay even to get treatment in Government hospitals. Therefore, it means that we must all unite, regardless of the communities we come from, in fighting that war, which must be won.

I would like to appeal to some of our colleagues who have, one way or another, been seen to oppose the war on corruption, to know that they are alone. That is because they cannot be supported, even by their own constituents. I would also like to touch on poverty alleviation. As you are aware, during the last two years, the last Government spent most of that time drumming up and talking about poverty alleviation. But you know as well as I do that we have not made a dent on poverty. Poverty continues to increase in our midst. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) which was publicised through seminars in towns and provinces has remained unattended to. So, I would like to appeal to the Government, and especially the Minister for Planning and National Development, to see to it that the initiatives that were started on poverty alleviation are rekindled, so that

we can start to fight poverty in our midst. Without doing that, this nation cannot succeed. So, I am appealing to the Government to address itself to poverty alleviation because that is the only way our society can move forward.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Nominated Member (Ms. Abdalla): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity to contribute to the debate on the Presidential Address.

My names are Ms. Amina Ali Abdalla, a Nominated Member of Parliament, KANU. First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allah for my nomination to Parliament. My journey to this House is a victory for those Kenyans who think outside the tribal box. Secondly, I wish to thank my party, KANU, for its progressive nomination criteria and for giving 75 per cent of its nomination slots to the female gender. I would like this to be noted as a demonstration of KANU's willingness to change.

Let me turn to the Presidential Address. Many of the speakers who have spoken before me have commended the President for making a comprehensive Address. In fact, in my opinion, it was a statesmanly Address. I, however, only hope that the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) hon. Members who have been making campaign-like speeches and justifying them on the President's inaugural Address will now start giving back-to-work speeches.

The President's commitment to zero tolerance to corruption should be supported by every Kenyan if we are to move forward as a nation. The reality is, however, that corruption is so institutionalised in this country that a change of the political party in power is not sufficient for us to eradicate it from our midst. In the last 60 days, we have had a lot of political and technical recycling. People who are so conversant with the loopholes of corruption have been appointed to senior Government positions. We must be realistic in the fight against corruption. I do not want to spend my ten minutes of uninterrupted speech defending KANU's mistakes in the past, because the majority of those who were involved in these mistakes, and who are on the other side of the House, have narrowed debate in this House to a KANU bashing contest. That must end. This is not a KANU bashing contest. We need to move forward as a nation.

I wish to request hon. Members in this House to move forward and strengthen two institutions that would give us checks and balances in fighting against corruption. The two institutions are an effective Opposition and an objective civil society. With regard to an effective Opposition, I wish to ask those who have been doing a lot of KANU bashing - the same people were in the former KANU Government - whether they were comatose when they were in the former KANU Government, so that they can now exonerate themselves from the actions of a Government they served for decades! If, for some reason, they were comatose, and we should forgive them, what assurances do Kenyans have that these people are not drifting into a coma right now, only to wake up and tell Kenyans that they are not responsible for the acts of the Government that they are now party to?

The civil society, especially the people who have been involved in highlighting the ills of our Government have been very effective. They have highlighted issues of poor governance, opaqueness in policy and lack of transparency. However, I wish to urge the civil society to remain as objective and impartial as they have been. It is not in stating intentions that we will fight against corruption, but in implementing the stated policies.

Let turn to the subject that interests me most, which is the conservation of natural resources. I was very pleased that our President noted the important role that pastoralism plays in the development of this country. I am, however, amazed at the fact that we all know that pastoralism is one production system that is fully dependent on sustainably managed natural resources and, of course, at the mercy of climatic conditions. However, the environmental agenda in this country has over-focused on closed canopy forests which, we must accept, represents less than 3 per cent of Kenya's land area. We must shift our focus from concentrating on the areas which already have been given a focus by the international community through the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the financial mechanism which links it to the global environmental facility. Conservation of drier areas is covered under the convention on desertification, a very impoverished convention that has no financial resources linked to it. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the NARC Government to prioritise the conservation of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) in this country.

I would further like to state that the environmental activism and conservation movement in this country should not only expand on ecological factors of conservation, for example, moving from closed canopy forests to the drier areas, but should also venture into all sectors of our economy. As the Leader of Government Business promises heaven to investors, he should be sensitive to the fact that investments sometimes might give us short-term returns, but cause us irreversible environmental damage.

The Minister for Home Affairs suggested that refugee camps should be moved from their current locations. He should know that the highest cost to the sub-Saharan African countries is the negative environmental impact of refugees. So, his suggestion to move these camps is a suggestion to play environmental musical chairs in refugees-hosting areas.

Playing environmental musical chairs is not our only crime in the refugee scenario. Kenya is the poorest country in negotiating good deals for refugee-hosting regions of our country. This is probably because all the refugee camps in this country happen to be in the marginal areas, for example, Daadab and Kakuma complexes. As our neighbours have been in the forefront in negotiating good deals for refugee-hosting areas, we Kenyans have left it to the refugee agencies to determine their activities in those regions. I wish to urge the NARC Government, especially the Refugee Secretariat in the Ministry of Home Affairs, to stop being a rubber stamp to the programmes suggested by foreign refugee-hosting agencies. It is in this regard that I would like to bring to this House a Bill that will not only provide a refugee-friendly legal framework, but will also incorporate the measures that will address the negative impact that refugee-hosting communities have to endure.

As I conclude, let me state strongly that I believe that there is a very special place in hell for those among us who remain on the fence. I wish to assure all hon. Members of this House that I wish to fan the flame of a viable Opposition, and use all the energies available to me to make sure that this House does not turn into a one-party House.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Omino): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I was getting a little worried that you found it difficult to recognise me while I am on the right side as opposed to when I sat on the left side. But I have not changed. I am Mr. Joab Omino, Member of Parliament for Kisumu Town West. Something, however, has changed. Kenya has changed and that is why now seated on the opposite side of the House are "holy boys".

Kenya changed because change was overdue. The Kenyan population voted not only for change in Government, but also for change among the people; the first line in ensuring that Kenyan human rights are observed is the population itself. I am an hon. Member of the "unbwogable" team. Last week, some hon. Members expressed doubt as to whether the word "unbwogable" is parliamentary. It is because I am using it right here in Parliament. Secondly, it is about time we also introduced some of our languages into English, not only to enrich our own languages, but to also enrich communication worldwide.

Let me turn to the Presidential Address. Those of us who have been here for a long time know the difference between this particular Presidential Address and the previous Presidential Addresses. My friends across the Floor ought to be hiding their heads in shame because, for a long time, the former President never gave this House a list of the legislations that he wanted it to deliberate upon. In fact, in most cases, those Speeches were long lectures but this time round the President gave an exposition. What is an exposition? It is to lay there so that all may follow. So, the President went through all the issues he wants this country to be engaged in.

On education, of course, we had free primary school education in the past, but why was that programme abandoned? I guess in the minds of some people they thought that if they spent a lot of money in education they would have less to take home. So, we must now embrace this policy and make it part of our daily lives; that no Kenyan child will stay at home. The Government should ensure that those parents who make their children stay at home are found guilty of an offence and taken to prison.

Prison should be seen as a place where people are corrected and not punished. Therefore, when we saw the torture chambers in Nyayo House, we asked ourselves whether we had, in fact, been living in this country; a country that was held worldwide as peaceful, secure and fairly democratic. Those who were responsible for doing what they did to our fellow Kenyans must answer for their crimes. This is because you cannot have a prosecutor going to court without somebody having investigated the case.

So, the people who framed false charges, investigated and found evidence to go to court and the judges who found those people guilty on the basis of the evidence presented before them must also tell Kenyans why they did that kind of thing to other Kenyans.

We want to be industrialised by the year 2020, but if you visit our universities, you will find a pathetic situation. How can we be industrialised by the year 2020 if, in fact, our engineers are being trained on equipment that was bequeathed to them by the British after the Second World War? How can our scientists reach the height of scientific achievement if, in fact, the equipment or instruments they use are out of date? How can we produce that manpower if, in fact - leave alone teachers who have made their case very strongly about being given more salaries - we do not reward university lecturers adequately so that those who were hounded out of this country can come back and contribute to the development of this nation?

The President also touched on health. We all know that poverty is the other side of the same coin as disease. We are busy vaccinating and inoculating our children against diseases, but that has not stopped malnutrition from ravaging our young people. Why do we not also spend as much money, though with as much excitement, to vaccinate our cattle so that the cattle can be reared here and produce more milk, which children will drink and become resistant to some of these diseases? Why does the Government not pay special attention to the

arid and semi-arid areas so that we can expand the boundaries of agriculture? Why can we not copy what they are doing in Sudan or Egypt? These countries are as dry and arid as parts of our country. This is the case, and yet these countries produce enough food even to export to us. Only last year, and the year before, we were busy crying about imported sugar from the COMESA region.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

This sugar came from Egypt and Sudan. Even Malawi produces more sugar than we do. So, we must lay emphasis on agricultural production so that anybody who imports what is being produced in this country must be seen as a criminal and treated as such.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard detailed and condemning reports from the Controller and Auditor-General and the Auditor-General (Corporations) year in, year out. These officers have listed one scene after another. That is a good place to start fighting corruption because, at least, those cases are documented. So, we hope that the Judiciary and the legal hands of the Government will pursue these cases. If those of us who have worked in the Public Service are included in those lists, let us carry our own crosses.

You will remember that in the Seventh and Eighth Parliaments, there was talk of money stashed away from Kenya. Even the then President said that, that money should be brought back. We assume, therefore, that somebody somewhere knows where that money is. We want to know where that money is, how it got there and who took it there. This is because that is as much corruption as putting your hand in the till at the Treasury.

We have a good Government. If, by definition, the word "Government" means and includes the Opposition, we would like to ask them to repent their sins. I say unto the Chair that unless they repent their sins, they shall not enjoy the kingdom of NARC.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Member for Kasarani (Mr. Omondi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise here too to support this Motion. I would like to begin my contribution by congratulating all the hon. Members of this august House for having done a very good job during our times of campaigns. I am very much aware that during the campaigns many of us suffered differently. Some of us have been rewarded by being elected into this august House.

I would like to appeal to the Government, on behalf of all of us here, to consider those people who suffered in the process of campaigning to get rid of the previous Government. There are some people who were sacked from their places of work merely for playing *unbwogable* records, like that broadcaster known as "Elizabeth Obege". She was merely sacked from her place of work because she played the *unbwogable* record during the campaign period. I appeal to the Government to reinstate such people with immediate effect.

(Applause)

It is fortunate that the police officers who were sacked simply because they discussed or talked about the NARC Government's impending victory during the campaigns have been reinstated. I thank the NARC Government for that action. Again, I know there were very many people in our country who suffered terribly in the hands of that despotic Government like those people who were evicted from their farms in Rift Valley Province, Coast Province and many other areas. All these people are landless and they are a burden to the society. I would appeal to the Government to set up an urgent committee to consider the plight of these people because we cannot claim to be a good government with good intentions for its people, if we forget these people. These are our colleagues who suffered in the hands of a bad Government which they all helped us to remove. We must consider resettling them in their farms or giving them alternative places to stay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Speech touched on all areas that gave deep insight on what we are supposed to do. I thank the President very much for giving our Ministers all the free environment to act, show their skills and govern. However, this does not mean that these Ministers should overstep others. I ask the Ministers and all others that have been given responsible positions to adopt a system of collective responsibility. For example, if a Minister comes to make a very strong policy statement in my area, I think it would be a good thing if I am also invited and I am with him there. Last time, hon. Balala came to my area and ordered a number of houses to be demolished failing to understand that probably the basis of my campaigns were those houses. He came and said that they be demolished in my absence. I consider this act to be a breach of good relations and I think if all of us want to act together, we should adopt a policy of holding consultations and work together as a

team.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was the question of land in the President's Speech. Land is a very rare and sensitive issue. Land does not grow, but the population grows therefore this is an area that we must jealously guard in all our policies and legislations. It has been abused in the past because the former regime used land to induce the sycophants who they used to harass wananchi. Therefore all bad land laws must be reviewed or amended. All these legislations that favour the haves and do not favour the have nots must be amended and we must also remove the provincial administration from the control of land because this is where all the mess emanated from. You cannot imagine a chief allocating land - somebody who does not even know the importance of land is given the power to allocate all chunks of land. I appeal to the Government as well to take it upon itself to control the land tenure, ownership and anything concerning land so that we do not mess about with our rare commodity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming to the liberalisation of our economy, we know that we support that policy because we have allowed all the businessmen to import their goods and compete with our goods here. However, I and other Members of Parliament from Nairobi think we have a big duty to protect our citizens in Nairobi because most of them came all the way here to secure employment opportunities in Nairobi. Therefore, we cannot allow the investors to tread upon our people on the basis of liberalisation. So, the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) problems must be given a lot of attention because about 80 per cent of my voters work there. Therefore, I suggest that these labour and industrial laws which have not been followed should be re-examined and followed to the letter because if it is not done then it means that our Government is concerned only with the investors who are rich people from outside and not our own people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to free education, I commend His Excellency the President for allowing free and compulsory education in our country. This issue was promised in our manifesto during the campaigns and we used it extensively. It is, indeed, a good thing that we have honoured it and our children are now enjoying free and compulsory primary education. However, this system has also come up with some problems which must be looked into. For example, we cannot accommodate all the children now and the number of teachers that we have are not enough to provide education to these children. Therefore, I suggest that all our school-leavers, who have not been trained or employed elsewhere, should be allowed to come and help in this exercise and all those who had been employed and not trained, should be trained as a matter of priority. I suggest also that those informal schools and the teachers therein should be converted into the Government and all those teachers be employed so that this problem is solved once and for all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to security, we are all aware that security is the basis of everything. We cannot be able to go about our business freely when security is not there. I suggest that we enhance the security network and information among us so that gangs like *Mungiki* are not allowed to operate undetected before they commit felonies and offences like they have been doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been wondering what is happening with our intelligence unit because I wonder how a gang of about 1,000 people can organise itself, terrorise very many people and, in the process, kill very many people including two policemen without the police noticing. I think there is something wrong with the intelligence unit of our police department and it needs to be examined and given a facelift.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, international terrorism is another thing which takes very long to be planned. It takes a very long time to plan and prepare a bomb like that one that was used in the August 7th, 1998 bomb blast and yet our police officers do not detect such things and yet they are quick to detect where *chang'aa* is being brewed. When things of such big magnitudes occur they are nowhere to be seen. I think if our policemen are not properly trained then we should give them the necessary training. If they are suffering from low pay, then this House and the Government must consider giving them better salaries so that they do their work properly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on corruption, I think the civil servants and all other workers need to be given proper salaries so that they are not---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your time is up!

The Member for Taveta (Dr. Shaban): Bw. Naibu Spika, kwanza ningependa kumshukuru Mwenyezi Mungu ambaye ameweza kutuvukisha kutoka uchaguzi uliopita mwaka jana na tukajikuta tuko kwenye hili Bunge. Kwa wale Wabunge wawili ambao hawako na sisi, naomba Mwenyezi Mungu awaweke mahali pema peponi. Kwa wale ambao waliopatwa na matatizo, tunashukuru Mwenyezi Mungu pia kwa sababu wako na sisi hapa na aliwawukisha salama. Ntoa pongezi zangu kwa Rais Mwai Kibaki. Namtaka maisha mema na afya njema. Ningependa pia kutoa pongezi zangu kwa Bw. Spika na Naibu wake ambao wamechaguliwa kwa muhula huu mwingine wa miaka mitano. Ningependa pia kusema hivi kwa Rais mstaafu, Daniel arap Moi, kuwa namuombea heri na fanaka kwenye maisha na shughuli zake za hivi sasa. Ningependa pia kutoa shukrani zangu kwa wananchi wapendwa wa Taveta walionichagua na kunileta katika Bunge hili.

Bw. Naibu Spika, vile vile ningependa kusema kuwa, sera za Rais Mwai Kibaki zilikuwa nzito na nzuri.

Lakini, isitoshe, kuna mengi ambayo yanaweza kufanywa kama tutaacha kuonyesha vidole na kuambiana kuwa, usifanye hivi, au KANU ilifanya hivi na vile. Kwa sababu, ukisafisha kikombe ndani na uache kukisafisha nje, hakitakuwa na faida kwa sababu hutakitumia. Ningependa kusema kwamba, wale ambao wanataka kuonyesha wengine vidole; ingekuwa ni vizuri sana wajiangalie kwanza na kuhakikisha kwamba wao ni wasafi, kabla hawajaanza kuzungumza.

Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kusema kuwa, kwa wananchi wote wa Kenya, upendo ni jambo muhimu sana. Kama tutapendana na kuishi vizuri, pia wananchi watafuata mfano bora ambao tutakuwa tukionyesha.

Ningependa kugusia sera ya elimu ya bure kwa watoto wetu ambao walikuwa na matatizo ya kulipa karo shuleni. Ukitoa elimu ya bure na watoto wafike shuleni na kurudi nyumbani jioni bila kusoma, sidhani kama itakuwa na faida yoyote. Kabla sera ya elimu ya bure katika shule zetu kutekelezwa, shule nyingi sana hazikuwa na walimu wa kutosha. Kama hazikuwa na walimu wa kutosha wakati wanafunzi hawakuwa wengi; je, sasa hivi shule ziko katika hali gani? Ninashangaa jinsi shule zetu ziko sasa hivi, na ninafikiria kwamba watoto huenda shuleni asubuhi na kurudi jioni bila kupata elimu yoyote. Kwa hivyo, lingekuwa jambo la busara, kama Serikali ingejari walimu ambao wamehitimu na hawajapata kazi. Kama ingewezekana, yafaa idadi ya vyuo vya kufunza walimu iongezwe ili tuweze kupata walimu wa kutosha.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kuhusu afya bora kwa Wakenya wote, madaktari na wale ambao wanafanya kazi pamoja katika idara ya afya wanafanya kazi kubwa sana. Serikali inatumia pesa nyingi sana katika kuwasomesha ili wahitimu. Lakini jambo la kusikitisha ni kwamba, Serikali imeshindwa kuwalipa mishahara wa kutosha, na inawabidi waende kufanya kazi katika nchi za nje. Hatimaye, Serikali hupoteza pesa nyingi zilizotumika kwa elimu na mafunzo ya hao madaktari. Pia, ningependa kusema kwamba, wakati madaktari na wenzao katika idara ya afya walipoongezewa marupurupu yao, wale katika Hospitali Kuu ya Kenyatta hawakuongezewa. Maanake, mishahara yao pia hutolewa kutoka Hazina Kuu ya Serikali na hawakupata hayo marupurupu. Tangu mwaka jana hadi sasa hivi, hao wafanyakazi wameendelea kulilia hizo pesa lakini hakuna anayewasikiza. Kwa hivyo, yafaa wapatiwe marupurupu yao haraka iwezekanavyo ili waweze kufanya kazi kwa bidii, kama wenzao katika Wizara ya Afya.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kuhusu swala la UKIMWI, ugonjwa huu umetatiza kila mtu, si hapa Kenya pekee, lakini dunia nzima. Janga hili limetatiza kila mtu, na tusipokuwa waangalivu, tutazama katika janga hili sisi wenyewe. Kuna mvutano kwamba idara inayohusika na shughuli za UKIMWI ibaki katika Ofisi ya Rais. Kama ingewezekana, idara hiyo ingewekwa katika Wizara ya Afya ambako kuna madaktari na wataalamu wanaoweza kufanya kazi na kutumia pesa za kampeini kuhusu UKIMWI.

Bw. Naibu Spika, pia ningependa kugusia kuhusu swala la ufisadi. Ufisadi ni ugonjwa kama seratani na umetumaliza. Tukicheza, tutazama na huu ugonjwa. Ikiwezekana, kama tutaweza kufanya hiyo kazi vizuri--- Ndio sababu nikasema kwamba, ukisafisha kikombe ndani, kisafishe na nje pia. Kwa wale ambao wanafikiria kwamba kwa kugeza jina tu wamekuwa wasafi; ningewaomba wajiangalie sana, kabla hawajazungumza, waondoe hiyo tabia, halafu wazungumze kuhusu watu wengine. Kwa hivyo, ningependa ufisadi ung'olewe pamoja na mizizi yake.

Bw. Naibu Spika, tungependa Rais Mwai Kibaki awahusishe akina mama zaidi katika ujenzi wa taifa. Hii ni kwa sababu akina mama wakiwa mbele katika ujenzi wa taifa, nafikiri tutatutua matatizo mengi tulinayo. Ni kweli, Rais amejaribu sana kuweka akina mama katika nyadhifa za Wizara hapa na pale, lakini, si Bunge pekee ambalo liko na akina mama ambao wanaweza kufanya kazi; pia kule nje kuna akina mama wengi ambao wanaweza kufanya kazi na kusaidia nchi yetu.

Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa kuzungumzia kwa ufupi kuhusu eneo la Taveta. Taveta ni kwetu na ni pahali pazuri sana na pana ardhi nzuri sana na iliyo na rutuba nyingi. Lakini tuna shida sana! Asilimia 70 ya watu wa Taveta ni maskwota. Kama hatuishi katika ardhi za watu, pasi tunaishi katika ardhi ya Serikali! Tungependa swala la ardhi katika Taveta liangaliwe, ili tupate kutumia ardhi iliyoko kwetu kwa yale yatakayowezekana. Kwa hivyo, tungependa Serikali ya NARC iangalie swala la kununua ardhi ambayo iko na matatizo ili wakaazi wa Taveta waweze kupatiwa ardhi ya kuishi.

Bw. Naibu Spika, barabara hazifai katika eneo la Taveta. Barabara zetu ni mbovu, hakuna siku ambayo tumewahi kuona lami. Kwa miaka mingi, vyakula vimekuwa vikiharibikia mashambani, na kwa sababu hivi wafikii wateja katika masoko. Kwa hivyo, tungeomba Serikali itengeze barabara kutoka Mwatate hadi Taveta ambayo haijawahi kutiwa lami tangu Kenya ipate Uhuru. Isitoshe, tunapotaka kwenda Taveta, wakati mwingine inatubidi tupitie Arusha na Moshi huko Tanzania, ili tuweze kufika Taveta kwa sababu barabara zetu ni mbaya.

Bw. Naibu Spika, vile vile, ningependa kuzungumzia kuhusu tatizo la ndovu. Katika eneo la Taveta, ndovu wametusumbua sana. Ndovu mmoja anaweza kula na kuharibu mahindi hekari moja kwa masaa mawili tu. Kwa hivyo, kama ndovu 80 wakiachiliwa, hasara ambayo tutapata ni kubwa! Tungependa Shirika la Huduma kwa

Wanyama wa Pori; Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), liangalie hao wanyama na kuwazuia ili wasitusumbue na kuua wananchi wa Taveta.

Bw. Naibu Spika, shule za upili katika eneo la Taveta ni chache mno. Katika sekta ya elimu, tuko nyuma sana, na shule za upili ni tatu tu. Shule nyingi katika Kenya zimenjengwa kupitia kwa mwito wa Harambee. Wakati tunazungumzia kupiga marufuku mtindo huu wa Harambee, sijui kwetu Taveta tutafanya nini kwa sababu tuna shule tatu tu. Tungependa shule za upili ziongezwe, angalau ziwe nne au tano. Wakati wa kipindi hiki cha miaka mitano, tukiliangalia swala la Harambee, ninajua kwamba, labda kuna mambo mazuri ambayo Serikali imetutengea; ya kutuwezesha kufanya shughuli za wananchi katika eneo la Taveta. Ningependelea sana, ikiwezekana, tupatiwe shule nyingine mbili za upili, ili ziwe tano.

Bw. Naibu Spika, katika eneo la Taveta, hospitali zimezoroteka. Tuna shida ambazo zimefika kiwango kwamba, hata inatubidi kuwapeleka akina mama wajawazito kule Tanzania, ili kujifungua. Sasa, watoto wetu wakizaliwa huko Tanzania, hatujui tuwaite Watanzania au Wakenya, kwa sababu ya matatizo ya ukosefu wa hospitali. Tuna hospitali ndogo ya wilaya moja tu, na dispensari ndogo ambazo hazifanyi kazi kwa sababu, aghalabu hazina vifaa.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kwetu tuna maji ya chemchemi nyingi. Isipokuwa hatuna teknolojia za kufanya maji yawafikie wananchi, ili yatumiwe kikamilifu--

Bw. Naibu Spika, umeme uliletwa kwetu na kufikishwa mjini lakini haukufika vijijini. Kwa hivyo, wananchi katika vijiji wanasema kuwa, "kuna umeme Taveta, lakini haujawafikia wananchi." Zaidi ya hayo, sijui kama ni kusahaulika tu. Kwa mfano, kifaa kama cha runinga cha Shirika la Utangazaji la Kenya, hatuna mnara wa kutusaidia kupata mawasiliano ya runinga. Vile vile, hata simu za mkono hatuna; tunatumia simu za Tanzania! Tunaendeleza watu wa vodaphone wakati tuna Safaricom na Kencell. Lakini, ni kama tumesahulika. Tungependa hilo swala liangaliwe kwa sababu hizo pesa zinazoenda upande wa Tanzania, zingesaindia nchi yetu.

Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika, na ningependa kuunga mkono.

The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker for being elected. I also want to congratulate all hon. Members for being elected to this august House. You were all elected on a platform of reform; constitutional reform, legal reform, and transparency in the management of public affairs. There was a lot of unfinished business in the Eighth Parliament, like the constitutional review process, the various governance laws which deal with corruption, and so on. It is now your sacred and historic duty to ensure that these important Bills, including the new Constitution, are enacted by the Ninth Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the principal legal adviser to the Government, I was impressed by the Speech by His Excellency the President and the emphasis he made on the issues of the rule of law. He did state that the Government will adhere to the principles and practices of the rule of law. He did also state that the Government will make laws for the general good of the people. He did also state that the Government will restructure institutions so that they can be effective in the modern society, which is Kenya. As a principal legal advisor to the Government, I want to support the President in that regard and to restate that I will do my utmost to ensure that the Government does adhere to the principles of the rule of law, that the Government does enact laws which are good for the people of this country, and that the reform process proceeds in accordance with the law. The Government is already doing this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day, I saw that the appointment of the Acting Chief Justice by His Excellency the President was being challenged on the ground that the Acting Chief Justice can only be a High Court judge. I want to assure this House that His Excellency the President exercised his powers properly under the Constitution in appointing Justice Gicheru as the Acting Chief Justice. The mistake that those proponents were making was to read one section at the beginning of that chapter, which relates to the High Court, forgetting that towards the very end, there is a section which deals with the Court of Appeal, which in the Kenyan situation came far much later after our Independence. Prior to that, we had a Court of Appeal for East Africa and, therefore, it makes sense to say that the Acting Chief Justice of Kenya now can only be a judge of the High Court. But when the Community broke up, the Constitution was amended to provide for the Court of Appeal. In that section which deals with the Court of Appeal, it is stated very clearly that whatever applies to the judges of the High Court, also applies to the judges of the Court of Appeal. So, I just want to assure this House that the President has not only stated that he will adhere to the rule of law, and that he will act in accordance with the laws of the land, but in this particular case where there was some recent criticism, the President did act in accordance with the constitutional powers which were vested on him.

The President touched on the restructuring of the institutions. I want to state that in the creation of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, that was in itself a restructuring of the institution of Government. Prior to that, there was no Ministry of Justice, and the Attorney-General, who is an independent constitutional creature and the principal legal adviser to the Government, at times had to step in. Even in those situations

where the Attorney-General correctly interpreted the law because there was no Minister for Justice, it was said that he was politically motivated. Now, with the creation of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, which will focus on the political side and policy issues and so on, the Attorney-General is now liberated, as it were, to act that role which has been conferred on him under the Constitution; that of principal legal adviser to the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to state that---

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. In clarifying what the Attorney-General is saying, could he also confirm to this nation whether the Office of the Attorney-General falls under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Obwocha! Mr. Obwocha, you stood on a point of order. You are an experienced Member and you know that, that is not a point of order. If you want debate, that is another thing.

Proceed, Mr. Attorney-General! You can respond to that or ignore it.

The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I know that I do not have very much time left, so, I will ignore it.

I would like to state that the Office of the Attorney-General is an independent office under our Constitution, and we remain an independent office giving legal advice to the Government, and to all Ministries of Government, including the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President touched on all the programmes of the Ministries. The programmes will be underlaid by laws. For example, we have an environmental management and co-ordinating Bill as far as the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife is concerned, just as we have the Children's Act as far as the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned. On all these Ministries, we have relevant Bills which will be coming to this House for debate. We have already touched on the governance Bills.

On matters of HIV/AIDS, this House will be debating the HIV/AIDS Control Bill, which is the first of its type all over the world. We have talked about terrorism and this House will be debating the Suppression of Terrorism Bill. As far as the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development is concerned, we have a task force reviewing all laws relating to labour. As far as the Ministry of Lands and Settlement is concerned, we shall be bringing numerous Bills which touch on land, and which will consolidate the many laws that are there currently on land issues. On the Ministry of Transport and Communications, we shall be bringing the maritime law. On the Ministry of Co-operative Development, we shall be bringing the Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill. On the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife also, we shall be bringing the Forests Bill and so on. So, this House will have very many Bills to debate and enact.

In addition to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have noticed that very many hon. Members have a wish to bring Private Members' Bills to this House. There are a number of Motions asking for permission of this House to introduce a Bill. The Attorney-General's Office will be there to assist hon. Members who want to bring Private Members' Bills on any area on which, maybe, the Government has not touched. You should not just draft those Bills and send them straight to the Clerk of the National Assembly; please, bring them to my office and let us work together before they go to the Government Printer for publication. That is why, because of this large agenda on the reform issues, which will necessitate a number of reform Bills coming to this House, I am sitting even longer hours to enact all these legislations. Apart from these legislations, this House is going to be asked to debate at the National Constitutional Conference (NCC) the new Constitution. Therefore, the responsibility which is on you is heavy and we really need more time to study these Bills and enact them when they are brought to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of corruption, the Bills are coming and I hope that this House will enact them. But even before those Bills come, I can assure you that investigations and prosecutions are going on.

I can assure this House that those prosecutions are not selective, targeting only one tribe or another. The aim is to prosecute only those people against whom there is sufficient evidence to prosecute. Any file that comes on my desk to give consent in that regard, that consent will be given irrespective of status, tribe, *et cetera*.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Emuhaya (Mr. Marende): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution to this Motion. My name is Kenneth Marende. I represent Emuhaya Constituency in Vihiga District.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish start by felicitating His Excellency the President on his fairly exhaustive exposition of Government policy in his Speech that was delivered on 18th February, 2003.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you for being elected the Deputy Speaker, and the Speaker for being re-elected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the President's Speech, we see a lot of promise and determination to give to Kenyans what has been elusive for the past 39 years. What could not come looks like, at long last, is going to be given to Kenyans. In that Speech, we see good governance, transparency and accountability. From that Speech, it is apparent that the era of sycophancy is over and, indeed, it is my hope that what we saw from a senior citizen of this country; Mr. Chris Kirubi kneeling before His Excellency the President during the State opening ceremony of this House, is going to remain an isolated incident, and that Kenyans shall not kneel any more before their leaders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his Speech, the President gave appropriate emphasis to the subject of revival of the economy. There is need to revive Kenyans' fortunes and there is also need for us to reclaim our bartered reputation. It is my feeling that we will go a long way in reviving the economy if the Government puts in place the necessary machinery to ensure that those who received political favours from the old order are brought to book. In this regard, I have in mind persons who received the so called political loans that led to the collapse of a number of banks and financial institutions in this country, including the Trust Bank, the Post Credit, Agricultural Finance Corporation and almost brought the National Bank and the Kenya Commercial Bank to their knees. It is my feeling that those persons who were named in the "List of Shame" and in the list that Mr. Nyachae, when he was the Minister for Finance, tabled in this House must be made to pay those loans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President, in his Speech, gave deserved attention to the issue of land in this country. It is my view that the question of land in this country needs urgent attention. It is necessary that land as a resource is equitably and fairly exploited by all Kenyans. It bears no logic and no sense at all, in my view, if there is any land available to be allocated, for instance, Government land--- It beats all logic to have that land allocated to persons who already own large tracts of land. Why would, for example, the Government allocate 1,000 acres in Kaptagat Forest - if it is available - to an hon. Member to the expense of thousands of Kenyans who are landless? That should not happen.

An hon. Member: Name him!

The Member for Emuhaya (Mr. Marende): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member will be named at an appropriate time, but I think it is known who that hon. Member is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans are amongst the most taxed persons in the world. Kenyans pay Income Tax, VAT, Fuel Levy Tax and many other taxes, and yet, for the past 39 years, they have received very shoddy services. I suggest that the NARC Government, which I am proud to be part and parcel of, should move to a point where it rationalizes taxation. It is necessary that resources arising out of revenue collected from the public in the form of tax is appropriately allocated so that we move away from that position where we are spending public resources purchasing presidential jets at the expense of better roads in the sugar-growing areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President asserted in his Speech that the rule of law shall be respected by the new Government. When we talk about the rule of law, it might appear mysterious, but it is a very simple concept. It entails the understanding that the governed and the governors will all obey the law. And so, it is interesting to witness a situation where hon. Members in the Opposition who largely comprise KANU, are in a position where they are pointing fingers at the Government for not respecting the rule of law. But in their rush to point those accusing fingers, they themselves overlook the fact that they must also be governed by the law so that the rule of law prevails.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I witnessed a situation where an hon. Member of the Opposition, who is, in fact, said to be the *de facto* KANU spokesman in a programme aired on Kiss FM on 16th February, 2003, while contributing to a debate relating to acquisition of KICC, went out of his way to state that KANU will win the case. How does he know that KANU will win the case? It is important that if KANU is going to be talking about respect for the rule of law, it must also respect the rule of law. It is appropriate that institutions pertaining to the rule of law, including the Judiciary, are strengthened.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Emuhaya Constituency for electing me to be their hon. Member of Parliament. Although Emuhaya Constituency is not located in North Eastern Province, it is my feeling, as the new hon. Member of Parliament, that it has been largely been marginalised, and it needs to be given some attention.

Emuhaya Constituency is a highly populated area with the land holding capacity being half an acre per person. We are in a situation where there may be some Government land situated in Emuhaya Constituency which is located at Maseno; land which was previously used by the Government for veterinary purposes and farmers' training, but have ceased. It is my request to the NARC Government that if that land is going to remain idle and it were to be allocated, the people of Emuhaya should be given priority over that land.

It is also my view that the people of Emuhaya Constituency have been denied the use of clean running water when, in fact, the Maseno Water Supply is sourced from Emuhaya. The people of Emuhaya are demanding - and are going to be doing so a little more aggressively if this issue is not addressed - that, that water is also

supplied to the residents of Emuhaya Constituency. They deserve to consume that water. We will not see that water flow from Emuhaya and be consumed elsewhere.

Finally, for those in the Opposition, history is repeated in saying---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Marende, your time is up.

The Member for North Mugirango/Borabu (Mr. Masanya): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance. First of all, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mr. Godfrey Masanya from North Mugirango/Borabu. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God and the people of North Mugirango/Borabu who have enabled me to come to this great House. My journey has been quite long and I have at long last arrived.

First of all, I want to congratulate his Excellency the President for his election and his very comprehensive Speech which I appreciate because it has laid down all his Government's policies. I want to say something about education. On the issue of free education, as far as I am concerned, Kenyan parents today are more confused than before because they do not understand the kind of free education we are talking about. When we talk about free education, the ordinary parent of this country thinks of having classrooms put up by the Government. When you talk of free education and you invite parents to contribute money to put up classrooms, then the meaning of free education is lost. When you ask parents to contribute money towards purchase of desks, they wonder what you mean by saying you are providing free education.

Today the number of students in primary schools has increased and yet the number of teachers remains the same. This is very dangerous because these students can hurt themselves if left without supervision. If the Government wants to implement free education in this country, perhaps they can send some observers outside this country to see how free education is implemented in other countries because there is too much confusion in our education system. Perhaps it is only Prof. Saitoti who understands the concept of free education today in this country because when parents are asked to contribute some money, then they do not understand what we mean by free education. Parents are still being asked to pay some money in order for their children to be allowed to go to school. I am suggesting that since the parents of this country are patient, the NARC Government should not be in a hurry to implement free education. They can take their time because parents of this country have faith in them and are waiting for proper implementation of this free education. Otherwise, this will create more confusion than ever before.

A meeting should be held between parents and the implementers of the free education policy so that they can explain to parents exactly what part the Government is playing and what part the parents are supposed to continue playing in these schools. Parents have been told that everything is free and when their children are asked to go back and get money for school activity, they do not understand why this money is being required. I would like to suggest that even before we recommend free education, we should consider deploying more teachers to these schools before we sent the students there. It is dangerous to send students to schools where they will stay idle without a teacher; they might even hurt themselves. The NARC Government should consider employing more teachers to these schools before admitting more students.

I would also like to talk about the constitutional review process which has been taking place. However, it appears to have stalled. I understand that there was a recommendation that we reduce the number of commissioners. I wonder what criteria the Government will use to reduce the number of commissioners because they are equal, except the chairman of that commission. In order to avoid suspicion the Government should allow all the commissioners to continue serving the Commission until they complete that exercise. If this is not done, some people will think that there is some intention to manipulate the process. Therefore, the Commission should be left to continue as it is so that they can complete that exercise of producing that important document.

I also want to mention something about NGOs. We have heard of many NGOs offering some services in this country. If you travel all over Kenya today, you will find so many NGOs concentrated in some areas and none at all in some areas. I propose that these NGOs should be co-ordinated properly so that we share their services all over the country. Those people who are in charge of these NGOs normally provide services in their own areas, which is very unfair. Gusiiland is densely populated and yet there is no NGO providing any services there. I propose that these NGOs should be properly co-ordinated and their services shared all over the country.

I also want to talk about the co-operative movement. When the Ministries of Co-operative Development and Agriculture and Livestock Development were amalgamated, the Ministry of Co-operative Development, perhaps, collapsed in this merger. As a result, nearly all the co-operative societies in Gusiiland have collapsed. Even those which are functioning are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). I recommend that very serious measures be taken by the Ministry of Co-operative Development to find out why this Ministry almost collapsed when it was amalgamated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. For example, in my area, Sibauti Farm has been subdivided and sold to individuals. But the owners of Sibauti Farm---

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

The Minister for Gender, Sports and Social Services (Mr. Balala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to recognise the classic speech of His Excellency the President. I think this Speech is in a class of its own in the 21st Century because it touched on all aspects of Kenyans' lives. It also gave direction as to where we are going. I am very glad that Kenyans decided to initiate change by voting for the NARC Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Coast Province, which was known to be a KANU rubber stamp, shocked the entire nation when they voted 73 per cent for His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki. In this era, people who were thought to be sleeping have all woken up. Waswahili husema: "Ukimwamsha alalaye, utalala wewe." The people of Coast Province decided to have a real change.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the people of Mvita Constituency for deciding to change the man who led them to days of darkness for 28 years. Today, they have seen the difference because things are moving forward in Mombasa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his Speech, His Excellency the President raised so many issues. I want to discuss them point by point. First of all, I am glad that His Excellency the President said the fight against corruption must start from the top. The call for every Minister to declare his or her wealth is a welcome move. I am also encouraged by the changes taking place in the Government. The change to replace all the corrupt civil servants is a welcome move. I only expect to see more changes in our parastatals. Most of these parastatals are cash-cows, for example, the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) and the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) in Mombasa. The Government should also be addressing corruption in the Immigration Department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of transparency, I would urge the Government to strengthen its tendering procedures. It is not the best way to award a contract without proper tendering because parastatal heads collude with unscrupulous individuals to fleece the Government through over-quotation of a contract. We have to come up with good procurement and tendering procedures so that we save a lot of money for our Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a Minister, I discovered cheating as a form of corruption. I have taken appropriate action to stop that. We have sent powerful signals throughout the continent, and particularly to the KFF, that we will not condone corruption. I believe if we come up with such policies, we will succeed in eradicating corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the constitutional review process, I hope very soon we will conclude it. The Government should not extend the life of Commission because it is high time Kenyans were given a new Constitution. Every Kenyan must have the right to participate in all aspects of life in this country. The right of citizenship to all Kenyans should be equal. The previous regime discriminated against its own citizens, particularly when it comes to issuing of passports and identity cards to Muslims. I believe very strongly that this has stopped and we will not allow it any more in our new Government.

The constitutional review process which is in its final stage will address the issue of the Kadhis' Courts. It is not a new issue because it is addressed in the current Constitution. I wonder why some people are making noise about it. Every person has a right, especially the minority, to freedom of worship. Muslims are the largest minority and they have the right to have Kadhis' Courts in the Constitution. Our religion is very clear regarding this, and we will not compromise on this issue because somebody wants Kadhis' Courts removed from the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole world is fighting terrorism. Muslims do not support terrorism. Islam is a peaceful religion that does not support terrorism. Today, the whole world brands anybody who is a Muslim as a terrorist. We commend the Government for establishing an anti-terrorist unit headed by a police officer. However, we are concerned about the arbitrary arrests of Muslims by foreign intelligence agencies. These arrests are not being made by Kenyan authorities. I condemn those arrests. It is much better for somebody to be arrested by the Kenyan police officers and not a foreign intelligence agency. The issue of terrorism in Coast Province, particularly in Lamu, should be handled very carefully. We do not want to imitate what is happening globally, where every Muslim is branded a terrorist. Kenyans should be careful not to segregate their own citizens and avoid branding them as terrorists. I believe this will stop very soon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of education, I am glad that the Government has offered free and compulsory education. We are going through the teething problems and I know, very soon, this sector will be stable. It is only Coast Province that does not have a university. That is why some of our leaders say that coastal people are not qualified to take up key positions in Government. I want to assure you that despite the fact that there is no university in Coast Province, our people are highly intelligent and they are qualified to take up positions in Government. I look forward to the time when the Government will establish a university in Coast Province. It is a prerequisite that we have a university in that province before the next general election so that we can be proud that the NARC Government is action-oriented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of the economy is very sensitive to the coastal people. Most of our industries collapsed because of hungry individuals who could not fill their stomachs with whatever they have grabbed from Coast Province. They have killed our cashewnuts industry, fishing industry, sugar industry, among others. They also started tribal clashes in Likoni so that they could kill the tourism industry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tourism is among the major industries in Coast Province. The tourism sector can provide employment and help to improve our economy only if we give its players an incentive by reducing taxation, particularly Value Added Tax (VAT), to 10 per cent. The issue here is not to increase taxation, but rather ensure compliance by hoteliers to pay tax as per the number of tourists who check into their hotels; they should be encouraged not to evade remitting to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) the little tax that is supposed to be paid by them.

A major contributor to this country's economy is the Port of Mombasa. If we could come up with a strategy to create a free port in Mombasa, Kenya could become the Dubai of Africa. Traders from quite a number of African countries fly to Dubai, from where they import several items to their respective countries. So, why do we not transform the Port of Mombasa into a free port and generate the much needed revenue for this country?

Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency the President for appointing me the Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services as well as acting Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development. My Ministry, which is in charge of sports, has taken action against the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) and avoided being disqualified by the FIFA, which has asked the KFF to seek a fresh mandate; the FIFA Secretariat will visit the country in July for that purpose. The Gender and Development Bill is today being printed by the Government Printer, and will be tabled here for debate very soon. Being printed is also the Disability Bill, which will also be tabled very soon.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services (Mrs. Chelaite): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my names are Alicen Chelaite. I am the Member of Parliament for Rongai Constituency. I am privileged to be a

[The Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services]

Member of Parliament of a former President. I would like to assure the citizens that we are living very well. He is co-operative, and I also co-operate with him. He is one of our elders. He has assured us that he is ready to co-operate with us in terms of consultations. As an elder, he is also ready to give us advice whenever we need it.

An hon. Member: You had better be careful with him!

The Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services (Mrs. Chelaite): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know his gimmicks very well.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rongai Constituency is a hardship area. As you travel through Salgaa and Rongai Town on your way from Nairobi to Western Province, you may think that Rongai is a very wealthy constituency. When you pass by some very beautiful buildings, with electric lighting in Rongai and Ngata Locations, which used to be a State farm, you tend to think that Rongai Constituents are well off. To the contrary, most parts of Rongai Constituency comprise of semi-arid land. So, a lot of development effort needs to be put into Rongai. For the last 40 years, the constituency has been neglected. It is only the areas that I have mentioned which seem to have been developed. Poverty is our main problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I proceed to say more about my constituency, I would like to thank His Excellency the President for having delivered a very wonderful Address, which I support. All the areas that need attention in Rongai Constituency have been covered in the Presidential Address to this House. Especially, the President was keen to address the very basic needs of ordinary Kenyans. I would like to particularly thank him for having recognised the marginalised groups of this country, especially the pastoralists. As I said, my constituency is a semi-arid area. Three-quarters of my constituents are pastoralists. So, we fall in the marginalised category of this country's people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rongai constituents have been experiencing a severe water shortage. The only people who have water in that constituency are those who mattered in the previous Government. They diverted all the water, which was meant for the people of Rongai, to their homes at the expense of the ordinary mwananchi. Rongai Constituency draws its water from Koibatek District. However, when the water reached the constituency, it used to be directed to only one home.

Hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

The Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services (Mrs. Chelaite): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of the water for Rongai Constituency is drawn from as far as the Aberdares Range, in Ol Kalou. However, when it reached the constituency, all of it used to be drawn into big dams belonging to one person, or a few farmers, especially the rich ones. They would then use it to irrigate their flowers and water their cattle. All of it is directed to members of one family. I am, therefore, calling upon the Minister for Water Resources Management and Development to ensure that water in Rongai Constituency is distributed to all the people. Every citizen has a right to have water. Water is life; it is a basic need. We are calling for the construction of more dams and the sinking of extra boreholes because we do not have sufficient rivers in Rongai. The rivers that we have are very few, and the water in them has been taken by a few individuals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rongai Constituency borders Nakuru Town and Koibatek District, which are urban areas. If you come there, you will see a few beautiful primary and secondary schools. However, these institutions belong to individuals. Most of the good schools in that area are privately-owned. Where the physical infrastructure of public schools is constructed using stone, you will find that classrooms are without windows, doors or desks. During the 24 years of former President Moi's regime, Rongai Constituency had been declared a Kenya African National Union (KANU) zone, where nobody believed that anybody from the Opposition could be elected the Member of Parliament. I thank God that those who were previously referred to as Opposition Members are now in the Government.

I want to say that I am so happy to be associated with the Ninth Parliament. I tried to come to the Eighth Parliament but I pray to my God that I did not make it. But now, I am in the right place. Somebody might ask why, but I do not have to explain; it is known by many.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on health issues, I am happy because the NARC Government and, particularly the President, appointed a lady as the Minister for Health. That is because women and children experience lack of health facilities in this country. I am sure the able Minister will enable Rongai to have clinics and health centres which are lacking. The ones that we have are just there as mere structures. They have no medicine and staff. They are empty because of lack of water. You cannot run clinics, health centres or hospitals without water. I am also happy that the Minister for Water Resources Management and Development is a lady. She knows how women have been trekking to get water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to address the issue of infrastructure in Rongai. If we do not have water---

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Kajiado Central (Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for enabling a peaceful transition to take place in our country. As you all know, we live in a region where Africans do not understand peaceful transition. That is because quite a number of people do not know about security. We are in a situation which is very insecure.

But first, let me introduce myself. This is my maiden speech and I would appreciate it if Members do not interrupt me. My names are honourable Major-General Nkaisserry, Member of Parliament for Kajiado Central.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all hon. Members for winning the elections, and also Mr. Speaker and Mr. Deputy Speaker for being elected to lead this House. I would also like to thank the President for a focused speech which touched on many issues that affect the pastoralists. I would like to mention the highlights of the Presidential Speech as security, corruption, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, industrialisation, tourism, water and land. I would like to start with security.

We live in a very insecure environment. In fact, we call it "vuca" environment; which means a situation which is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. That is the situation that we live in. As I said earlier, we thank our God for enabling a peaceful transition to take place in our nation. We would like the NARC Government to take security seriously and avoid blaming the past. You have been given the mandate by the people of Kenya to ensure that all Kenyans and their property are secure. Forget about the past misdeeds of KANU and get on with the job that was given to you by the Kenyan people.

Turning to corruption, it is an element that has eaten into our society. It is something which, as we all know, affects each and every one of us. Take an example of water. There is water which is being stolen from the Maasai community, from Nol Turesh all the way to Nairobi. I would call that corruption and the NARC Government should stop wasting time. It should address the issue of Nol Turesh water and take it back to the Maasai people.

I would like to talk about tourism which, in fact, brings a lot of foreign currency and helps the economy of this country. Most of the wildlife is found in the pastoralist areas, but little of the money that is realised from tourism is ploughed back to help those communities. For example, when you come to the employment of people

in the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other managers do not come from the community which take care of the wild animals. It is the responsibility of the NARC Government--- It is not a favour! It is the right of the communities which are taking care of those animals to be given 50 per cent of the employment in those sectors. Equally important are the resources accruing from the national parks and other places that generate money from tourism, of which 50 per cent should be ploughed back to assist those communities. The NARC Government is mandated by the people of Kenya to do exactly that.

Turning to health, I am glad the honourable Minister is here! I would like the Minister to address the health issues in the pastoralist areas. In particular, she should address the dispensaries where we have a lot of health problems. There is lack of electricity and there are no fridges to keep vaccines for inoculation. We would like the Minister to address those issues in the pastoralist areas.

With regard to agriculture, the NARC Government needs to address the issue of livestock, especially on marketing. We have many animals coming from Ethiopia and Somalia. Because of lack of security, our borders are porous and anybody can come through. So, we would like controls along the borders, so that we could market our livestock and have good prices for livestock farmers.

With regard to infrastructure, I am sure the majority of NARC Government Ministers do not know a place called Olosei, which is on the border of Kenya and Tanzania. It is very important that such outlets are accessible, so that the people who live in those areas could transport their livestock, goods and bring their children to hospitals and schools. So, I would like to urge the NARC Government to address the issue of the infrastructure, especially the roads in the pastoralist areas.

When it comes to land issues, even the Government is corrupt. For example, the boundary between Kajiado and Machakos Districts is the railway line. Therefore, all the industries within the Athi River Export Processing Zones (EPZs), the Kenya Portland Ltd and the Kenya Meat Commission are supposed to pay taxes to Ol Kejuado County Council and not to Masaku County Council.

I would like the Government - I am glad the Vice-President and the Minister for National Reconstruction is present in this House - to address this issue very critically. The Maasais are demanding what is theirs. We are here to ensure that the people get what belongs to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a new hon. Member of this House. I am surprised to see many Kenyans idling outside Parliament Buildings. Is this because hon. Members do not go back to their constituencies to address the problems of their constituents? We are paid a travelling allowance every week so that we can visit our constituencies. It would be very important that the problems of the people are addressed by hon. Members, because hon. Members are employees of the people. Democracy is the power from the people. Therefore, the people employ us, and we should address their problems. It pains me when I come out of my office in Continental House to come to this House, and I see very desperate Kenyans trying to catch the eyes of their hon. Members of Parliament. We should address this issue seriously.

I want to talk about the military forces. Members of the military forces need to be paid well. The military is the insurance that covers our nation. A committee to review salaries for the members of the military forces recommended a pay rise for the armed forces in July last year. I am wondering what the NARC Government is doing after being in office for three months without addressing this issue. I would also like to touch on the teachers' salary increment. There are 250,000 teachers in the country. If every teacher brought ten people to vote for the NARC Government, this added up to 2.5 million votes. Why has the NARC Government not implemented the teachers salary increment?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the debate on the Presidential Address.

Just before I make my remarks, I would like to remind Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry that the NARC Government has been in power for only two months and three days, to be precise. The former KANU Government was in power for 40 years and the NARC Government has inherited messed-up institutions from it. However, we are confident that we will clean up the mess that the former KANU Government left in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to laud the Presidential Address that was delivered by our President two weeks ago. It was an all-round Address, and I am surprised that it has been supported by the whole House except for two hon. Members in the Opposition, namely, Mr. M. Kilonzo and Mr. Achuka. This means it was a great Address and we are on the right path. As an hon. Member of the NARC Government, I am scared of what is likely to happen to this country. We have a very weak Opposition, which means that we have nobody to check on our excesses. I believe our own hon. Members of Parliament will check on what we are doing. But I have a proposal to make, namely that the civil society that has been working very hard; political parties and faith-based organisations should fill in this gap and actually check on what the Government is

doing. We do not want to be what KANU used to call itself, "father and mother", and yet its actions did not prove this. The former President Moi always said what he wanted to do, but he never kept any of his pledges that he made. I do not see any legacy that Mr. Moi has left behind from the last 24 years that he was the President of Kenya.

Mr. Haji: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order to attack somebody who cannot defend himself in the House?

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not attacking Mr. Moi. However, it is my prayer that every Kenyan will give us an opportunity so that we can show former President Moi that people can work in offices without being supervised the way he supervised his Ministers. All we needed was an empowered Cabinet, a Cabinet which had an opportunity to serve the people. This is what we are doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans today are breathing political air of freedom. Over the last few years, Kenyans were demanding freedom. This is what we have today. We also elected a President who is a man of action, in the sense that as he was making his Presidential Address in this House, we were already implementing what he had promised Kenyans. The universal free and compulsory primary education programme is a case in point. Affordable health care, and even free health care, is also a case in point.

The Opposition leaders are saying that they will work with the NARC Government. I would like to ask them to join us fully so that we could implement our policies and programmes. You have admitted that there is no need to have an Opposition in this House, and we welcome that idea. One thing that we will not do, as a Government, is to ask hon. Members of the Opposition to defect to the ruling party. There is no need to do that. We have no money to spend on by-elections as was the case after defections in the past. Hon. Members of the Opposition were "bought" to support the former Government. We will not do that, but we will work with the hon. Members of the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at Independence, Kenyans were promised human basic needs. As a Government, we are saying that we are back on course. At Independence, Kenyans were promised free education and free health care services. They were told that everything was going to be done to alleviate poverty. Unfortunately, Kenyans have suffered under the former KANU Government and none of these promises was fulfilled. We are happy that today, we are back on course, led by a well-focused President, who means to do what he says.

I am happy that I was appointed the Minister for Health by His Excellency the President. This is a Ministry that is loaded with problems, which I believe can be tackled. Kenya is not a poor country. We have resources that can cater for the poor. Fifty-six per cent of Kenyans are living below the poverty line. These are the people whose problems must be tackled in and outside this House. I believe strongly that the resources we have in Kenya, if properly mobilised, co-ordinated and utilised, without being wasted and stolen by the people who have learnt the art of stealing, could improve the lives of Kenyans.

Some corrupt Government officials who served in the former regime have resigned after we mentioned their names. I am happy to know that other corrupt Government officials will follow suit. If you know that you have stolen from the poor Kenyans, please, tell us how you will pay this money back to the poor Kenyans, or to the institutions from which you stole.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am glad the Minister is proud that some people have resigned. We would like her to implement resignation in her Ministry. Does she know---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Angwenyi, you know that, that is not a point of order. I am sorry if you just want to make a contribution.

Continue, Mrs. Ngilu!

The Minister for Health (Mrs. Ngilu): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am happy that this trend is taking root because this is the only way we can safeguard the interest of the poor.

HIV/AIDS scourge is taking a high toll on the lives of Kenyans. I would like to say that 90 per cent of Kenyans are HIV-negative. It should be the duty of every Kenyan to ensure that those who are HIV-negative are not infected. We should support the 10 per cent of Kenyans who are infected with this disease. We should not leave women alone to take care of those suffering from HIV/AIDS. I am saying this because I have visited most of our hospitals and found that in every bed which is occupied by an HIV-positive victim, a woman sits next to it to support the victim. If it is a man suffering from that disease or any other illness, a woman sits next to that bed to take care of him. If it is also a child who is in a hospital bed, a woman sits next to that bed to take care of it. I would like to say that we are losing a lot not only through those who are infected, but also through those who are taking care of the infected persons. Therefore, I would like to ask hon. Members of Parliament to take full charge and create HIV/AIDS awareness. Hon. Members should campaign seriously to eradicate this disease. All of us

are aware that in 1999, this House established the Constituency AIDS Committees. These committees did not last long before the then Office of the President "killed" them. I will bring a Motion to this House to request it to support that we put in place a Parliamentary Committee to deal with HIV/AIDS.

(Applause)

On the Constitution, we promised Kenyans, and all Kenyans are waiting to see us start writing the new Constitution. We were in the forefront and I still believe that we are in the forefront to support constitutional reforms, to give a new Constitution to Kenyans. So, nobody should think that we are renegeing on our promise to Kenyans. We are straightforward people; we are focused and know that we will have a new Constitution in place soon.

I will support anybody who will be calling for the formation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in this country. Many Kenyans have suffered in the hands of a bad Government. Whenever this is mentioned, the guilty think that we want to get at them. I think we want to get the truth. Obviously, if you know that you are one of those people who have committed atrocity to any Kenyan, you might as well come out and say it early. You should say it loud and clear. We know that most of the children who have now gone to school are those who were affected by tribal clashes which were witnessed in 1992 and 1997. All these took place because there were some people who wanted to remain in power. These people are not in power and we are not after them. However, we want to dig deep and find out the truth. We want to know nothing but the truth.

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

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Speech which was eloquently made by our new President.

I would like to take this opportunity, first, to thank Kenyans for voting out KANU and voting in "Rainbow". The reason for thanking Kenyans is that they did it in a very peaceful way, unanimously and without harming anybody.

Mr. Shaaban: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Did you hear the hon. Minister say that Kenyans voted in "Rainbow", when, in fact, Kenyans voted in NARC? So, which is which? We are confused.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Shaaban, you do not need to interrupt the hon. Member for the sake of it.

Continue, Mr. Minister!

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I also want to express gratitude to the people of Rongo for electing me again to Parliament. They did so and disregarded money which was given to them to vote for KANU. They also disregarded other promises which were being made by KANU. They knew that the country had spoken in one voice and that it wanted change, which was only to be provided by "Rainbow".

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Kenyans from Gusiiland were going to have change through FORD(P). So, the Government should---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Angwenyi, the most active Member of Parliament, you know that, that is not a point of order.

Continue, Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko!

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Angwenyi has intimated to me that he wishes to join "Rainbow" and he is welcome any time.

(Applause)

Even Mr. Shaaban intimated to me last week that he would be glad to be associated with "Rainbow".

I would like to thank the President for appointing me to the very important Ministry of Energy. This is an important Ministry because it is one Ministry which Kenyans look up to for purposes of production. The accounts we get in this Ministry are sad ones. First, what the former regime did was to make sure that all the state corporations under the Ministry of Energy were exempted from scrutiny. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has never been scrutinised by Parliament because a blanket exemption was given to them. You know that the high tariffs which are paid by Kenyans when they purchase power arise largely from the inefficiency which afflicts the KPLC. This inefficiency was kept away from Parliament, perhaps, because the then regime wanted to "eat" from the KPLC. I know when people are eating, they close the door to the dining room, feast by themselves and do not want disturbance. So, basically what the former regime did was to stop the public from

scrutinising the activities of the KPLC. Now the KPLC is on the red and if it is not rescued by citizens of this country through the Ministry of Energy, we are unlikely to have electricity for a very long time.

The KPLC is in the red because a lot of emphasis was placed by the then management on procurement where they knew they would get *kitu kidogo*. They did not emphasise on strengthening the transmission lines to prevent losses which arise from power losses. You will find a situation where the KPLC would purchase 100 units of power from a source and by the time it transmits the same to its destination, it can only transmit 79 units out of 100 units. The new Government has given the first priority to ensuring that every affair of state corporation under all Ministries is conducted transparently and fairly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, lately, you have read or heard in the news that the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) is on the spot. This corporation was also exempted from scrutiny. The Auditor-General (Corporations) was not allowed to look at the accounts of the KPC. It is sad to report that when that was done, the KPC was made to purchase a forest which had not been degazetted. This forest was issued with a title deed by the former Government and the KPC was told to purchase it using taxpayers' money. They have lost a forest and secondly they have lost their money. So, you can see why it is very good blessings that Kenyans, in one very loud voice, sent KANU home and elected NARC. I think if that did not happen, then I doubt whether we would still be having services in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you move downstream and look at another state corporation called the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK), you will find that the managing directors who were put there in the past were given a brief to be purchasing land from well-connected individuals in this country at exorbitant rates. You would find purchase of land at nearly Kshs30 million. So, what basically NOCK did was to spend its money on non-core issues and spend it in the wrong manner, and it has ended up being in the red.

The new policy that the new Government has come up with is that no state corporation is going to be exempted from scrutiny by Parliament. Those who are also associated with corrupt practices will, perhaps, be watching television in jail if the proposal by hon. Awori goes through, because they must go to jail. Some of these malpractices have really hurt this country. A lot of money has been spent in trying to provide services to the public. These services have never reached the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the part of this country that is electrified, you will be sad to note that after 40 years, we are talking of only 13 per cent of Kenyans enjoying light from electricity. If you look at the prices or the cost of implementing rural electrification - and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know you really need it in your constituency - you will find that the cost is so high. I do not know what is wrong with this country but these are problems we inherited from the former Government and what we, as a new Government intend to do, is to rectify them and offer services to Kenyans at an affordable rate, particularly electricity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what our friends on the other side, now the former ruling party, KANU, which is now the Official Opposition, can do to us if they are really patriotic--- There are certain individuals on that side of the House who wrongly acquired public property. If these individuals were patriotic and sympathetic to Kenyans, they should return this property without much fuss. If these individuals were patriotic and they loved Kenyans, they should also bring back the monies they are keeping in their accounts abroad. I am sure if it is about potholes, they suffer in respect of them the same way we suffer on this side. It is dishonesty or incorrect on the part of Members of the Official Opposition to point an accusing finger at the Government for the wrongdoings that they did.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was in this House last week and I heard a Senior Counsel, who is a member of the other side, accusing the President of having violated the law in appointing the current Acting Chief Justice. Whereas I do not want to say that I have practised law as long as that Member has done, but I think he has not read the Constitution well. The appointment of an Acting Chief Justice can be done even from the Court of Appeal, if you look at the rights of judges that arose from members of the Court of Appeal and I do not know how he missed this part of the law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, you will appreciate that the NARC Government has never used force against its citizens. The NARC Government has never sanctioned torture against the public. The NARC Government has never used force against anybody. So, we know very well that in law and in jurisprudence, it is the Government that monopolises violence. You heard one Member last week trying to say that there was force used to acquire KICC. That may appear wrong in law, but I do not want to debate it because it is a matter that is in court. However, I am glad to observe that the only mere use of force by this Government is to try and redress a wrong that was committed against the public. If the NARC Government is guilty of using any force, then it has used that force for the good of the people.

The Member for Kuresoi (Mr. Cheboi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion on the Presidential Speech. My names are Moses

Kipkemboi Kapkwang' Cheboi and, I represent Kuresoi Constituency, Nakuru District.

I take this opportunity, first and foremost, to thank God for enabling me to come to this Parliament. I also thank the electorate of Kuresoi Constituency. Before I go on, I would like to dispel the notion that hon. Members from the other side have on hon. Members from this side. I am a very proud Member of the Opposition because I know I am here on this side to serve this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the difference between the current Opposition and the previous Opposition, as I know it, is that the previous Opposition, for ten years, were doing nothing but just one thing; to paint the Government so dark that it cannot be seen. The new Opposition is one which paints the Government so bright that we can be able to look at the dark side of it.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Opposition is a very important component of any House. I have always heard from family circles that behind every successful man is a very strong woman. Behind every successful Parliament, I believe, there should be a very strong Opposition, which I think we have.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are always two sides to every story. I am very sure that this side of the House is just to say opposite of the other side. What the President did during the State Opening of Parliament, in his Presidential Address, is something that I cannot say much about. But what I can say is that I have a second side of the story.

Let me start with the issue of land. The Presidential Speech talked about a problem that has been created by over 20 legislations governing land. Yes, that is one side of the story. The other side of the story is that, when the settlement programmes were started in 1961, it took cognizance of only problems of settling those people who were in the white settlers' land. There were also others who were living in other areas which were not settled by the white people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a case story of Kuresoi Constituency, where I come from, and which is inhabited by a community called Ogiek; that is, the Ndorobo community. The Ogiek community have lived and utilized the forest for the past 150 years. The Ogiek community have been in the forest and they been forcibly evicted many times, both by the colonial Government, the early independent Government and, even by the previous Government. This is a community which is the best conservator of forests in Kenya at the moment, yet they are mistreated and do not have any title deed to their land.

(Applause)

That is why I am saying that, we might be looking at the problem of 20 legislations, but I believe that is a problem to lawyers and the land registrar. But to the common man, it is a problem because the Government has not been able to address the plight of the minority communities in this country.

With regard to agriculture, it is true that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. But the Presidential Speech did not make a deliberate and very strong attempt to address various issues affecting the agricultural sector. For example, in the pyrethrum sector, which has been bedevilled by many problems, farmers have not been paid for over ten months, yet the Government has done very little to improve on it. My suggestion would be that, first and foremost, the pyrethrum sector and pyrethrum industry should be liberalised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the Kenya Pyrethrum Board, farmers should be allowed to elect their own directors unlike in the past where they were appointed by the Government. There is also a fund which is very commonly known in the agricultural sector as STABEX Fund. It is affecting almost every other agricultural industry apart from pyrethrum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on the issue of public service. I have heard many times that there are members who have been recycled and it is true. I would like to suggest to the Government that there should be a new policy that whenever somebody is sacked or dies as a head of a corporation, the vacancy should be filled by the immediate deputy. The reason why I am saying that is, however much we may talk of brilliant accountants like, for example, I have heard about one in the Treasury; we cannot know that there could be any other better unless we try and utilise the services of the deputies. I would like to give the example of the "Dream Team" as it used to be called in the previous Government. The "Dream Team" consisted of very brilliant brains but, unfortunately, when you bring somebody who was not in the system, it would take him more than a

year or even two to adapt to the system. The unfortunate bit is that the "Dream Team" was disbanded before it could even know the systems well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about on the economy. According to the Presidential Speech, we are told that our economy will grow at 7 per cent. But the other side of the story is that, like a good student, the Government should be put in a situation whereby it is able to meet targets. I believe 7 per cent is rather too high and that is a hypothetical situation. I say that because the economy is based on so many factors, including the world economy which is now not doing very well. I want to remind the Government, and I will give an example of the French Revolution--- During the French Revolution, there were two gentlemen, one known as George Danton and a second one by the name of Maximilian Robespierre. Undoubtedly, these two gentlemen were the greatest proponents of the reign of terror and they were very popular during their time; that was in 1789. Five years down the line, the two gentlemen were to suffer the effects of the guillotine which they so strongly espoused in their time.

I am trying to tell the other side of the House that this is the beginning of 2003 and the Government may be very popular. Five years down the line, unless they start getting level-headed, we shall be having the problems Maximilian Robespierre and George Danton had at the end of five years. It was precisely five years! Why I am saying that is because as I observe, the Ministers and their assistants are overzealous at the moment trying to do things left and right without even looking at the law. If this goes on - five years is as short as it was in 1789 during the French Revolution - there will be nothing more to be offered and the people will cry for bread and there will no bread. People will cry for free health care and there will be none; people will cry for free education and those in the dry areas will have seen none. Unfortunately, so shortly, I think this other side will be forced to cross over to the other side to take care of things.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Members on the opposite side of the House should realise is that we are here simply to keep them on their toes and to wait for them to make the mistakes that they are making now and to see mistakes which were done in the past repeated, where you see a Minister who has got no qualifications being appointed one. You see a Minister who goes round making statements by the roadside and even discussing matters related to Ministries which are not under their domain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, I only have five minutes before I call upon the Mover to reply. I really regret that I could not give a chance to all of you. I will give the five minutes to the gracious lady, Prof. Maathai.

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Prof. Maathai): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to congratulate the President for his excellent Speech. I would also like to thank Kenyans for having facilitated such wonderful elections and all hon. Members of Parliament for having made it to this august House. I am particularly very grateful to the people of Tetu Constituency for having elected me and brought me here at this time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened with admiration as the President recapitulated all the promises that we had made during our campaigns. Without enumerating them, most of those who have spoken have already articulated how well much of the needs of Kenyans were captured in that Speech.

In the last few months that we have been trying to do our work, we have visited various forests--- Since I do not have the ten minutes, let me go straight to my point because it is very dear to me. Let me associate the issue of health with the forest and the fact that in the forest we have found bhang growing. This has been a great concern to us because of the damage that this medicinal plant does to our children. I know that our Ministry is trying very hard to get to the bottom of this issue because we know that in the past, it was not possible to have bhang growing in the forest without the knowledge of foresters and the Government. We are trying very hard and some research is being done. Investigations are being done to get to the bottom of this issue.

I would also like to say that we found that there was a lot of charcoal burning. This is particularly important as an energy issue, because as we know, 60 per cent of our people are poor, and especially in the urban centres, where they use charcoal. So, the demand for charcoal is very high. While the demand for charcoal is very high in Kenya, we really must prevent any charcoal being exported outside this country because it is a great threat to our forests. In this connection, I would like to call upon all Kenyans, especially through the hon. Members of Parliament, to establish tree nurseries, because we will need millions of trees to try to get back to the level of afforestation that we had in this country. As our Minister has said several times, we only have 1.7 per cent of our country covered by forest, and yet the experts recommend about 10 per cent of our country be covered by forest. Therefore, you can see that we are in a danger zone. This is going to have a great impact not only on agriculture

but also on our capacity to provide our people with water and energy, because some 70 per cent of our energy is derived from hydro power.

So, deforestation or the loss of forest cover in this country is an extremely serious issue, and it is for that reason that you see us concerned about the *Shamba* System as it has been practised in the last few years; it has become a very corrupt system and continues to encroach in areas where we need catchment areas covered by forests. It is also for that reason that you see us very concerned about the protection of such forests as Karura Forest, and I would like to confirm to Kenyans that, indeed, Karura Forest is out of bounds. Nobody will be allowed to develop anything in that forest. Our Ministry will try to find ways of having Karura Forest declared a national heritage so that no eyes will look towards Karura again for development.

We welcome investors in this country and we want to create jobs. We want investors to bring their capital, but we cannot sacrifice our forests or some of our valuable natural resources, such as our coastline, coral reefs and other valuable tourist attractions, just because we want to allow a few investors to come and create jobs. We can actually create jobs---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Professor! Your five minutes are up.

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Prof. Maathai): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to support.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the Mover who is the Vice President, to reply.

The Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction (Mr. Wamalwa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have noticed the tremendous wish by Members on both sides of the House to contribute to the Presidential Speech. I would like, with your permission, to donate some of my time to some of the hon. Members to speak for five minutes only. Starting with the loyal Opposition side, I would like to donate my five minutes to hon. Dahir. I will then donate five minutes each to hon. Oparanya and hon. Mbau.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. It is agreed.

The Member for Lagdera (Mr. Dahir): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. My name is Abdulahi Dahir, Member for Lagdera Constituency in Garissa District. I wish to begin my remarks by sincerely thanking the people of Lagdera Constituency for electing me to this august House. I wish to assure them that I will speak candidly about their fears, frustrations, hopes and aspirations.

I come from the neglected North Eastern Province that has been seriously afflicted by what I consider to be a triple tragedy. The first tragedy occurred at Independence time nearly 40 years ago, when some of our people chose to go against the Government of the day and flirt with the dream of the "Greater Somalia". The consequences of this are still being felt today. We paid the price for that and we should never allow a repeat of such a misguided and plainly weird scheme. The second tragedy was an attempt by the previous Government to bring the North Eastern Province back into the national fold. Unfortunately, this revolved around only appointing a few people to key jobs. It is this period that saw the continued humiliation and alienation of my people. We were required to carry additional identification, besides the national identity card which every Kenyan possesses. During this period we saw little in terms of resources being mobilised and channelled into an effort to improve the lives of our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the third tragedy is that, on 27th December, 2002, our people chose to vote for the then ruling party almost to a man. As a result, we have been largely left out of the NARC Government. However, the spirit of my fellow leaders and our people has been immensely lifted by the remarks made by His Excellency the President in his Speech during the State Opening of Parliament on 18th February, 2003. It was really heart-warming to hear the President saying that his administration intends to look into the needs of the entire country, irrespective of whether or not people voted for the NARC Government. This is the stuff of which statesmanship is made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I personally welcome the NARC Government's resolve to show zero-tolerance to corruption. This is the cancer that has continued to eat into the social fabric of our good nation. Corruption has earned our country a bad name among the civilized nations of the world. The previous state that our country had sunk into is a great shame. We must climb out of it now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another positive distinction of the thrust of the new administration is the introduction of free and compulsory primary education. It is gratifying that our country is now following in the steps of other nations which have committed themselves to the concept of Universal Primary Education (UPE). But as has been argued time and again, the 8-4-4 education system is not the vehicle through which the UPE can be achieved. There is need for educational reforms. We are not talking about re-inventing the aircraft. The basis of this reform can be found in the very comprehensive Koech Report on education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be failing my people if I do not mention a matter of serious concern to

them. My people welcomed the Somali refugees who fled civil strife and bloodletting in their country, but they are now suffering from adverse consequences of this. The refugees are largely to blame for the environmental degradation that has occurred in the recent times.

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

The Member for Butere (Mr. Oparanya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my names are Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Member for Butere, in Butere/Mumias District. Through you, I would like to thank the Vice-President for having donated some of his time to me to make my maiden speech. I have been standing here for the last five sittings to catch your eye, but unfortunately, I have not got an opportunity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the people of Butere for giving me a chance to serve them as an hon. Member in this historic Ninth Parliament.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all hon. Members for their success during the last general election. I may not have sufficient time to comment in detail on the Presidential Address. I will, therefore, comment on a few issues which affect my constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Butere Constituency has been neglected. If you move around the constituency, you will realise that there is a lot of poverty. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the few non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in that area for their development efforts, and request them to continue supporting the people.

Butere Constituency does not have a single inch of tarmac road. My constituents voted for the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) enmass. So, I hope that the Government will reciprocate by tarmacking at least two roads in that area during the current Parliament. The railway line which used to support my constituents has collapsed. I hope that the Ministry concerned will revive the Kenya Railway Corporation, so that it can serve the people of Butere. As a constituency, Butere has no electricity despite the fact that this country has been enjoying its Independence for the last 40 years.

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

The Member for Bobasi (Manoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction for giving me two of his minutes to contribute to the Presidential Address. Since debate on the Presidential Address started, I have been trying to catch the eye of the Chair without success. My names are Stephen Manoti from Bobasi Constituency.

The Presidential Address was very focused. Before I proceed, I would like to congratulate Kenyans for voting the Kenya African National Union (KANU) out of power. Kenyans had lost hope in life. They now have hope in the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government. Kenyans are now free to form associations and engage in trading and other businesses freely.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we expect the NARC Government to achieve so much. Ministers have started so well. We hope that they will visit all parts of the country and see what is happening out there. They should not just speak from their offices and on the roadsides. They have to honour the promises they made to Kenyans during the electioneering period.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Member for Maragwa (Mr. Mbau): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my names are Elias Mbau. I represent the great and peaceful people of Maragwa Constituency. Since the beginning of this debate, I have been trying to catch the eye of the Chair. I now realise that it is not easy for a Member of Parliament, especially a new one, to catch the eye of the Chair. I would, therefore, like to, through the Chair, thank the Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction for donating part of his precious time to some of us, so that we can also have the grand opportunity to speak in this august House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to applaud the Presidential Address. It was a master stroke, especially on the question of free primary education. The people of Maragwa Constituency, as well as the teachers, fully support the policy of free primary education. This, I have been told to register with this House.

Medical care is a thorny issue throughout the country. This country has experienced many deaths which could have been avoided. We have very many outlets dealing in expensive medicines. To me, the pricing of medicines by these outlets appears not to have been controlled, and they require to be controlled for better health and security of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support.

The Vice-President and Minister for National Reconstruction (Mr. Wamalwa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The rationale behind my donating most of my time to reply was that, that was, indeed, a great Speech as evidenced by the tremendous desire for everybody to contribute. Of all those who contributed, only two people attacked the Presidential Speech. One was Mr. Mutula Kilonzo, and that was simply because he is eccentric or, maybe, should I say egocentric, and the other one was Mr. Achuka, whom I cannot blame very

much because the standard was a bit too high!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to reassure the House that the NARC Government is up and running, and we have taken note of those shortcomings that have been voiced by hon. Members, particularly from across the Floor. We shall pay very special attention to them. That is because the NARC Government is committed to serving the whole country. Just like it was evidenced in the Speech, areas like North Eastern Province shall have special consideration. That will also go for most of the other areas that have not been given due attention in the past. The NARC Government will do what it takes to achieve a level of parity throughout the country in terms of development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I noticed that the standard of presentation in the House is extremely high. I think the Chair will have to be extremely alert. The Ninth Parliament seems to have attracted the best that Kenya has to offer. We have army generals here who can speak very eloquently about economics and about the needs of the army. Major-General Nkaisserry talked about the need to pay soldiers well. We have noted that important point. Not only shall we endeavour to pay the soldiers well, but we shall also endeavour to arm them well, so that they are fit to defend our country at any time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, very soon, we will be moving on to substantial debate and we welcome all Members to make their contributions. I would like to remind Members that, you do not have to oppose purely because you are in the Opposition. This is one country and this is one Government. In fact, the true definition of a government is the ruling party and the opposition parties. That is what constitutes a government. We, on our part, will do our best to consult with the people in the Opposition on most matters that affect the livelihood of Kenyans, and the direction of our Government. So, if anybody has come here with the hope of carrying a big stick and hitting the NARC Government, they may find that the NARC Government will probably be on their side long before they are ready to hit it!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we shall soon be tabling Committees of the House. Every Member has been put on a Committee and he or she will get a chance to work through the Committees. Even those who may not get a chance to speak on the Floor of the House will get a chance to express their views in the Committees. We intend to make the Committee System extremely strong. Most of the work will be done in the Committees and will only be brought to the House for enactment.

With those few words, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of the day. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 5th March, 2003, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.