

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 8th October, 2003

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, as usual on a Supply Day, we will begin with Questions by Private Notice.

### QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

#### TORTURE OF MR. SURUT BY SECURITY OFFICERS

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Surut, a charcoal dealer at Bibi wa Saafi, Mombasa, was arrested by security officers on 31st May, 2003 and severely tortured before being dumped on Mombasa Road on 2nd June, 2003, and that the matter was reported to the Provincial Criminal Investigations Officer, Mombasa?
- (b) Could the Minister explain what action has been taken to investigate and prosecute the officers involved?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is Mr. Billow not here? The Question is dropped.

*(Question dropped)*

Next Question!

#### CONDUCT OF FOREIGN ARMY PERSONNEL TRAINING IN KENYA

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

- (a) What are the terms and conditions of the agreement entered between the British Government and the Government of Kenya as regards military training in Samburu, Laikipia and other parts of the country?
- (b) How many women have lodged compensation claims against the British Government as a result of intimate relationships between their personnel and the women in both Laikipia and Samburu Districts?
- (c) What action is the Government taking to ensure that the British Government settles their claims and takes responsibility to educate the children whose fathers are British nationals?
- (d) What measures has the Government put in place to check on the conduct of foreign armed

personnel training in our country?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Tarus):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) There is an existing Memorandum of Understanding, periodically reviewed, that governs British forces training in Kenya. This is derived from historical ties between Kenya and the Government of Britain on individual and joint training. Britain has a long association with Kenya military on exchange programme and training assistance in several areas. Samburu and Laikipia are designated training areas for Kenyan military which are also extended to the British forces.

(b) No official complaints have been lodged by any women from Samburu and Laikipia Districts.

(c) It is a legal case between the complainants and the British Government. The Kenya Government has not been involved so far.

(d) Foreign troops training in Kenya operate under respective Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Kenya Government and other respective governments. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the conduct of foreign troops while training in Kenya and what measures to take in case of misconduct. Foreign troops are under mandatory obligation to obey and abide by the laws of Kenya while training in the country.

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have photographs here, of women and their mixed-race children who came into the streets of Nairobi, marching, alleging to have been raped over a 30-year period---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Who took those photographs? Are you the one who took them? This House must be treated seriously. Do not turn it into a market place. If you are not the one who took the photographs, do not refer to them. You will not table anything that is not acceptable.

Proceed!

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reason why I brought this Question forward is because this matter has already appeared in our Press. Our Government is aware of it and the British Government is already supporting this case. I would like to ask our Assistant Minister what the Kenya Government is doing about it, especially given that the matter is already receiving international recognition and putting our country into ridicule that we have over 650 cases of women having reported rape by the British Army.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Member to come up again with her question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I take it that the Assistant Minister wishes the hon. Member to repeat the question. Mr. Assistant Minister, I hope that is what you meant.

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a feeling that the hon. Assistant Minister is probably not even aware of this case. There is a case of over 650 allegations of rape by women over a 30-year period in Samburu and Laikipia; by the 3,000 British soldiers who come here every year. This case has already been lodged with the British Government. Is our Government aware of this case? It is already an international issue and if you are aware, what are you doing about this to make sure that the women and the children are compensated and supported?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, rape is a criminal act. Whenever it occurs, it has to be reported to the relevant authorities. If the cases have not been reported to the respective police stations for purposes of investigation, then the Government is put in a situation which is not very good. I do know that there has been a lot of outcry out there regarding the presence of the British forces and these allegations of rape. I am aware that these allegations have been taken up with the British High Commission in Nairobi. I am also aware that investigations are going on.

**Dr. Awiti:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting that there is this thing called the

Memorandum of Understanding.

*(Laughter)*

We were told that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would not be implemented but, in this case, we are told that the MOU is working. Could the Kenya Government tell us what are these conditions under which the British soldiers are training in Kenya? Why have they been left to go scot-free for over 30 years when they are committing this kind of crime?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the MOU clearly states the conduct of foreign troops in Kenya. One of them is to abide by the regulations and laws of Kenya. So, if they break the laws of Kenya, they are supposed to be subjected to the due process of law. As I said, we can only investigate and take the necessary action if the cases are reported.

**Mr. Nyachae:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, the Assistant Minister is misleading this House. The understanding between Kenya Government and the British Government is that British soldiers should work and practise together with the Kenyan soldiers. However, I am putting this point across to show that the Kenya Government has a responsibility to take care of the situation we are talking about. Secondly, we should not be talking about allegations of rape because there is enough evidence. Those coloured children have not been fathered by Africans. They do not have the African colour. They are white as the British Soldiers themselves. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what the Government is doing to deal with the problem of these *mamas* who are crying because they have got *chotaras*?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I take very seriously the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, I also wish to inform this House that this matter did not start in January 2003. It has been there for quite a long time. As I have already said, we are conducting investigation. If there is evidence, and some cases could have been voluntary, may I assure the House--

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

*(Hon. Ngoyoni walked into the House)*

Order! Next time you walk in when I am on my feet you will go back where you came from! There must be order in this House. Now, let us have orderly proceedings. If you cannot listen to the Assistant Minister, then there is no point in asking the Question. So, what were you saying, Mr. Tarus?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did say that the Government is investigating the issues raised. Our Ministry has even contacted the British High Commission in the country on the issues that have been brought up. However, as I said, the British soldiers have been coming to Kenya for well over three decades.

**Mr. Shaaban:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You heard the Assistant Minister say that some of the cases were voluntary. If the cases were voluntary and children were born out of these voluntary cases, the British soldiers have a duty to take care of those children. Is he in order to say that those children were born voluntarily?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Let us not get into unnecessary arguments. If there is a voluntary relationship between individuals, a male and a female, that is not a military agreement. Now,

let the Assistant Minister reply.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did say that the Ministry has taken up the issues with the British High Commission in Kenya and that investigations are going on.

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, rape is a very serious matter, but the Assistant Minister seems to be taking it lightly. I am aware that, out of the 650 allegations, about 60 resulted in mixed race children. All of them cannot be out of voluntary cases. Could the Assistant Minister tell us whether the Government is prepared to open an inquiry to actually prove what is correct? What measures are you taking to make sure foreign soldiers do not come into the country to perform sexual impropriety, rape and harass our women?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposals will be given due consideration.

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the NARC Government to be very serious about this issue. As you remember very well, when I raised the issue of compensation for landmine victims in my constituency, the then Government declined to respond. However, we won the case. The same soldiers who have been bogging my constituency are the same ones who rape and go scot-free. You and I know that---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I am in the Chair!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a taboo for our women to say or allege that they have been raped. That is very clear and the Government should know it. Is the Assistant Minister aware that they are allowing British soldiers to come and intimidate our women, when he is inquiring about the rape cases?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Government cannot allow misconduct by any person.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Question, Mr. Muriungi!

#### NATIONAL BREAKDOWN OF ARMED FORCES RECRUITMENT

**Mr. Muriungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I have not received a written answer, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) How many persons from Igembe Constituency were recruited to the Armed Forces in the recently concluded recruitment exercise held in August, 2003?

(b) Could the Minister give this House the total national recruitment breakdown by district?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Tarus):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I seek the indulgence of the House; I had received the answer to this Question, but there is no list tabled as required by the Question. So, I cannot give an incomplete answer here. I beg to request the House that I give this answer tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! What is it? **Dr. Ali:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Questioner did not ask the Assistant Minister to table the list. Could he give this House the total national recruitment programme?

**Hon. Members:** He did in part "c"!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, hon. Members! I think the Assistant Minister anticipated that he will be called upon to do that. But, Mr. Assistant Minister, are you truly in charge of the affairs of your

Ministry?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Tarus): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully in charge.

**Hon. Members:** No! No!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question is deferred to tomorrow afternoon.

*(Question deferred)*

Next Question, Mr. Kagwe!

GOVERNMENT POSITION  
ON DOHA AGENDA

**(Mr. Kagwe)** to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry:-

(a) Could the Minister inform the House what is the Government position on the key issues outstanding on the DOHA Agenda?

(b) Could he further inform the House on the situation regarding agricultural goods tariffs escalation which is holding back our agricultural based industrial development?

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Kagwe still not here?

*(Question dropped)*

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

*Question No.389*

REHABILITATION OF ROADS C90 AND D260

**Archbishop Ondiek** asked the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing:-

(a) if he is aware that Ugunja-Ukwala-Rwambwa (C90) and Nzoia-Yenga Segga (D260) roads are completely inaccessible; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what he is intending to do to rectify the situation.

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

(a) I am not aware that Ugenya-Ukwala-Rwambwa (C90) and Nzoia-Yenga Segga (D260) roads are completely inaccessible.

(b) The Ministry has been carrying out spot-gravelling along C90 and routine maintenance activities on the two roads.

**Archbishop Ondiek:** When will the Ministry start gravelling that road?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I happen to have inspected that road two months ago and it was graded in the year 2001/2002 under the District Roads Committee programme (DRC). The road has been prioritised by the DRC for grading during the current financial year. For Road C90, 750 cubic metres of gravel has been excavated near this road and will be used for spot-patching the road during the current financial year. The Ministry has allocated Kshs2 million for improvement of this particular road.

**Mr. Wanjala:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road goes through my constituency but it is impassable. It was even flooded. This road is more than 30 kilometres long. It is on black cotton soil, you cannot

grade it. You have to gravel it and this requires a lot of money. How much money has been allocated for this road?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the length of the road is 27 kilometres and not more than 30 kilometres. As I said, I inspected this road myself and there is a stack of gravel beside this road which is ready to be used by the District Works Officer (DWO), Siaya. The Kshs2 million will be used immediately for spot-patching and gravelling. Once the money is finished, we will look into whether we can make additional funding. But, as I said, the gravel is already there beside the road. All it needs is just to be used for gravel spotting.

**Mr. Leshore:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister not misleading this House because, as we understand the Question, the road is inaccessible? Did he inspect it from the air while flying? How did he inspect the road?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my answer to "a", I said the road is not inaccessible. It is accessible and I passed through that road myself.

**Archbishop Ondiek:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the Assistant Minister is talking about Kshs2 million. Could he tell the House how much money can be used to gravel the road per kilometre?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would seek the indulgence of hon. Members. When they hear an amount of Kshs2 million, or Kshs1 million, it is not a small amount of money. If they really participate in and find out what our engineers are doing on the ground, and make sure that they use the entire Kshs2 million to do the work they are supposed to do, they will find out that Kshs2 million is a lot of money for gravel-patching.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Any Member who persists in defiance of the Speaker calling the Member to order will face the wrath of the Chair. We must make progress. I have a lot of other Questions that must be answered and we will continue that way.

Next Question, Mr. Kombe!

*Question No.403*

BUILDING OF CULVERTS AT KWA KILALO

**Mr. Kombe** asked the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing:-

- (a) why the culverts at Kwa Kilalo near Maraga have not been built to date yet some Kshs4 million was allocated for their construction; and,
- (b) what measures he is taking to ensure that the culverts are constructed.

**The Assistant Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing** (Eng. Toro): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek the indulgence of the hon. Member and request that this Question be deferred to Tuesday next week.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why?

**The Assistant Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing** (Eng. Toro): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer I got has got some contradictions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! This is not a Question by Private Notice. This Question must have been with you for a long time. The House is getting a little concerned when every time a Minister stands up in the House to say he has an answer which he does not agree with. Presumably, therefore, you are telling the House that you never saw that answer until you came to the House. In which event, the House would like to know what you were doing in the office. I would make a plea to Ministers to do their work in their offices and come with proper answers. It does not give the Government a good name. I will ask the hon. Member to accede to the request but I think we had better be serious with the

business that comes before this House. Please, do your job there! Ordinarily, we have to be fair-handed to this Assistant Minister because that Ministry has been doing well in reply to their Questions. We have to be very honest about that. Will you accede to it, Mr. Kombe?

**Mr. Wanjala:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Members represent Kenyans. This is the highest office which Kenyans believe in. But they are getting disillusioned with this House because the Members of the Government who are supposed to work for the Government and for the people of this country are busy squabbling. We would like you to take serious action against these Ministers who are busy squabbling and they are not doing the work they are supposed to do for this country.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order! Order, hon. Members! Maybe you wish to know that the Chair will not allow this House, by whatever means, to get into disrepute and all of you must take note of that. This House must retain its integrity. It must be believable and remain the fountain of hope of the Kenyan people. I am determined to ensure that it does. For the time being,

[**Mr. Speaker**]

everybody should take note of that. What is your reaction, Mr. Kombe?

**Mr. Kombe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I will wait until Tuesday next week because the answer given here is totally on a different issue.

*Question No.398*

PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT TO  
NDHIWA HEALTH CENTRE

**Mr. Ogur** asked the Minister for Health:-

- (a) whether she is aware that Ndhiwa Health Centre has no ambulance and that the recently acquired X-ray equipment cannot be used due to shortage of radiographers; and,
- (b) what action she is taking to post radiographers and provide an ambulance for the hospital.

**Mr. Osundwa:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We know that the Member of Parliament for Ndhiwa is Mr. Ojode. Is Mr. Ogur, who is the Member of Parliament for Nyatike, in order to ask a Question touching on a project in Ndhiwa Constituency?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! That is frivolous! You must now leave! Mr. Osundwa, you must leave! That is wasting the time of the House. There is a stranger in the House!

*(Mr. Osundwa withdrew from the Chamber)*

Proceed!

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

(a) I am aware that Ndhiwa Health Centre has no ambulance, while the recently acquired X-ray equipment is already installed and fully operational.

(b) The Ministry has already posted a radiographer to Ndhiwa Health Centre. The centre will be provided with an ambulance during this financial year.

**Mr. Ogur:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were told that an ambulance will be provided to that health centre soon. Has "soon" not reached? I was told that a radiographer was to come at that time. But, up

to now, he has not come! I was there and the patients from Ndhiwa and Nyatike were not being attended to. The health centre is in the middle of the two constituencies. Nyatike residents go there for X-rays and nobody can operate the X-ray equipment. When will the radiographer arrive there to work? What is his name?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Konchella:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a radiographer by the name of Mr. Makombora was posted there two months ago. But he was redeployed to Homa Bay District Hospital because the equipment was not fully operational and there was no power. We have now posted two radiographers, Ms. Anne Sirian and Ms. Monica Chepchumba. They are now going to work at the health centre.

**Mr. Keter:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the Government's policy with regard to providing all the health centres throughout the country with ambulances?

**Mr. Konchella:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the wish of the Government to provide every hospital and health centre in this country with an ambulance. But due to limited financial resources, we will only supply ambulances to the worst affected areas to help the people. We are providing one to Ndhiwa by the end of this month.

**Mr. Ngoyoni:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. During the debate on the Vote of the Ministry of Health, the Minister stood in this House and promised that each and every district and sub-district hospital will get an ambulance and a driver. When will that be fulfilled?

**Mr. Konchella:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true the Minister undertook to do that and that commitment still stands. We are receiving 40 ambulances by the end of this month and we shall distribute them to the most needy places while awaiting the procurement process to go on for this financial year.

**Mr. Ogur:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not hear when the two ladies assigned to Ndhiwa Health Centre will be arriving. Have they arrived? If not, when will they arrive to start working? Could you tell us the names and dates when they are arriving, so that we can receive them?

**Mr. Konchella:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the hon. Member to go and say "hello" to them because they are already there.

*Question No.405*

ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS IN SAMBURU EAST

**Mr. Leshore** asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

- (a) since the adjudication exercise for Lodogokwe, West Waso and West Wamba has already been completed, when he will issue the title deeds for the same; and,
- (b) when the following sections will be adjudicated: Ngilai East and West, Wamba East and Waso West.

**The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement** (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Title deeds for Lodogokwe, West Waso and West Wamba adjudication sections are ready at Nyahururu District Land Registry and may be collected after payment of the requisite fees.

(b) Preliminary work to prepare for adjudication process is in progress in respect of Ngilai East and West. For Wamba, the demarcation work is projected to commence during the month of February. Adjudication work in Waso East section is already in progress and is under demarcation and survey stage.

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for that honest



answer. But I appeal to the Assistant Minister to see if he could do something about the fees payment because in East Wamba, we have got 75,000 acres. If you multiply that by Kshs250,000 it is going to be about Kshs13 million shillings. My people are very poor and cannot raise that money. Could the Assistant Minister consider waiving the entire fees requirement?

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only thing the Ministry can do is to stagger the payment for those people, so that they can find it easier to pay. But I cannot waive the fees because they belong to the Government.

**Mr. Khamisi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has just said that title deeds will be provided as soon as the people have paid all the necessary fees. Is the Assistant Minister aware that there are thousands of people in this country who have actually paid all the fees, and they have not been provided with title deeds?

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of that.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you heard the Assistant Minister say that the only thing the Government can do to assist the people of Samburu East is to stagger the payment of Kshs13 million. But the Samburus have never received any benefits. Recently, we wrote off Kshs10 billion in the sugar industry. We also wrote off Kshs4.6 billion owed to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). Why can the Government not write off that small amount of money for the people of Samburu?

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned earlier, that is money meant for the Treasury. Those are taxes that are being collected and there is nothing I can do about that. As a matter of fact, the Questioner can put a proposal to the Treasury. If the Treasury is willing to do something, they can act on it.

**Mr. Muite:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am standing on a point of order to draw your attention to the fact that hon. Angwenyi has actually removed his shoes. Even when he went round, he did not have his shoes on. I was checking to see whether the socks have any holes.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! How does the hon. Member for Kabete expect me to see the shoes of Mr. Angwenyi?

*(Laughter)*

Nevertheless, I am going to be serious again. Mr. Muite, unless it is a serious matter on a point of order, let us do the business of the House. I will take drastic action against frivolous points of order.

**An hon. Member:** Throw him out!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! How do I know whether he is frivolous?

Order! I cannot see his legs. By the way, if by any chance, Mr. Angwenyi, you are sitting without your shoes in the House, that is total disrespect to the House and it should not happen.

*(Mr. Angwenyi displayed his  
legs to the Speaker)*

*(Laughter)*

Order! Now I am satisfied that you are properly dressed.

Proceed, Mr. Ethuro!

**Mr. Ethuro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is whether the Assistant Minister is fully aware that, in most of the pastoralist areas, the ones that were considered as trustlands, the adjudication

process has not taken off. This has become a big problem to people who would like to acquire title deeds for purposes of investments and borrowing. Could the Minister assure this House when he is going to do adjudication in all the areas of this Republic, particularly in the ASAL areas?

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me assure this House that for areas which have not received any title deeds, we are going to have a crash programme under which adjudication cases will be expedited. We will make sure, as a Ministry that those areas, where adjudication cases are still pending, will receive their title deeds once the survey and adjudication work is over.

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether this Assistant Minister applies double standards in the issuance of title deeds to Kenyans. Just the other day, his Minister was giving free title deeds in a Meru district.

**Mr. Speaker:** What was he doing?

**Mr. Leshore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was giving free title deeds in a Meru district!

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know what happened as I was in the Minister's trip. What normally happens is that once the requisite amounts have been paid, we go and give out title deeds. I wish to inform Mr. Leshore that even tomorrow I will be at Kapenguria giving out title deeds to those who have paid for them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. Next Question by Mr. Mbai.

*Question No. 362*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR  
MASINGA CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is Mr. Mbai? Well, the Question is dropped.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** What is it?

**Mr. Sirma:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question has appeared on the Order Paper several times and, therefore, you should reconsider your decision. This is because it is the fourth time that Mr. Mbai was going to ask this Question. If you drop it, it will be very unfair to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, I will drop it completely if it is the fourth time he has not come to the House. This Question will not come here again!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Sirma:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not been here. Mr. Mbai has been here three times and this is the fourth time---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Have you got a brief to defend Mr. Mbai? Every time a Minister is absent, the Back Bench complains and you do not seem to be doing the same when your colleagues are absent. There must be fair treatment of all. If hon. Ministers must bear the blame for not attending to answer Questions, hon. Members, who fail to come to the House without any reasonable excuse to ask their Questions, must also bear the same blame. That is fair, and it is so ordered by the Chair. The Question is dropped!

*(Question dropped)*

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

**Mr. Speaker:** What is it, Mr. Keter?

**Mr. Keter:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe, Mr. Mbai is not here because I cannot see the two Ministers here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! There is also another growing habit that must now die. There is a growing habit that must be stamped out and very quickly. Every time the Speaker has made an order, some hon. Member must stand up and try to overturn it. This must also end. Do you understand? You are new to the House and, for that reason, I will forgive you today. However, listen to my sentiments.

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

Order! There is only one speaker on the Floor at a time, and this must be respected. If you do not respect the decisions of the Chair, this House will be chaotic and it had better not be. So, please, Mr. Keter, you now understand that I do not know which Minister sits where. Even if they were not here, that is no excuse for Mr. Mbai not to be there.

Next Question!

*Question No.384*

INDEBTEDNESS OF PROGRESSIVE  
FARMERS SOCIETY

**Mr. Kipchumba** asked the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing:-

(a) whether he is aware that Progressive Farmers Co-operative Society borrowed Kshs2.5 million in 1994 from the Co-operative Bank of Kenya and has to date paid kshs4.47 million and the loan now stands at Kshs7.5 million; and,

(b) if he could assist the farmers to have the loan balance waived.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, Mr. Minister!

**Hon. Members:** He is not there!

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing?

**Mr. Muiruri:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to seek your guidance. Everybody knows that the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing is away in the USA with His Excellency the President. However, I did not stand to defend anybody.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Could I hear him first? Hon. Members, let us understand the following. Unless this House is to very quickly return to a position of order, we are very likely to degenerate into an unmanageable place. Now, you must sit and listen like hon. Members. This hon. Member has been given the Floor, let me hear what he has to say.

**Mr. Muiruri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. That is why I normally say that you are *unbwogable*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Muiruri, just do your job!

**Mr. Muiruri:** I am seeking your guidance in a situation like this one, where the hon. Questioner and the Minister are not in the House. In another instance, a Questioner is in the House but the Minister is not. Would it not be fair then to defer these two Questions because both sides are at fault?

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Muiruri, I can very clearly see Mr. Kipchumba. If you do not know who he is by any chance, he is sitting next to you. That is Mr. Kipchumba. He is present. The person who is not present is the Minister, his Assistant or any other Minister who can answer on their behalf. Is there any Minister present here to answer that Question? Mr. Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, are you prepared to do this job?

**The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs** (Mr. Awori): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware that the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing is accompanying His Excellency the President on a visit to the United States of America. As to the whereabouts of his Assistant Minister, I will have to try and find out.

Finally, I have not got copies of the replies to the Questions. I am going to make sure that I have copies of all the replies in my office, so that whenever any of my colleagues is not available, I will oblige.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*(Applause)*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

#### RESTORATION OF INTEGRITY OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well, we thank His Excellency the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, but the position is as follows.

If a Minister is going abroad, several things can be done to ensure that the business of the House continues. One, fully, instruct your Assistant Minister and leave him or her in place to attend to those matters. If that is not possible, because either the Assistant Minister is not there, then get your colleagues to do it. If you really do not think that there is any colleague who wants to help you out, then arrange with the Chair and the hon. Questioner for that Question to be deferred in good time.

Hon. Members, this morning, as I was listening to the proceedings of the House from my Chambers, again, I heard this matter raised; where Mr. Angwenyi was complaining that all the many, many threats emanating from the Chair will actually reduce the value and the authority of the Chair. Now, I do not wish that to be the case. As I said today, I think all of you, together with me, must return the integrity of this House to its rightful place. So, I hope it will not be necessary for any hon. Member to rise on a point of order, asking the Speaker what he will do to a Minister who has refused or neglected to come to the House to answer a Question.

I hope that will not be the case again. I also hope that the hon. Members who have filed Questions in their names will in future take the business of the House seriously and either instruct their colleagues to ask the Questions on their behalf, if they are ordinary Questions, or liaise with the Chair to have those Questions pushed to another appropriate date. I want the integrity and respect of this House to return, and to return immediately. And return, it will!

Let us proceed.

### POINT OF ORDER

ELECTION OF MR. SPEAKER  
TO IPU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Mr. Obwocha:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This House wishes to congratulate the Chair for being elected to the International Executive Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Musila:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Sadly, my friend, Mr. Obwocha, has almost pre-empted me in what I want to say.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in my capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the IPU, Kenya National Group, to inform this honourable House that during the 109th General Assembly of the IPU held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1st to 5th October, 2003, the hon. Francis ole Kaparo, MP; Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, was among the four representatives from the African geo-political region elected unanimously to the Executive Council of the IPU for a period of five years. More details on this will be the subject of a detailed Ministerial Statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that the Members of this honourable House will join me in congratulating you, Sir, for the honour that you have brought to this House and to Kenya in general. We wish you the best in your five-year term in the service as a world parliamentarian.

Than you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you. You can do that tomorrow. No, no! Not you again tomorrow. I think that is already too much. The Chair does not want to get all this; it might get too much. So, we can have the Ministerial Statement tomorrow, just for the information of the House. I am sure that Mr. Ligale will do that tomorrow; that, we will host an international conference. I will ask him to do that. I do not want all of them to come together; it will derail us.

So, we will now proceed, but I wish to say that I do appreciate the House congratulating me. Thank you very much. So, can we proceed?

**Mr. Kipchumba:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have not made a ruling regarding my Question!

**Mr. Speaker:** Oh, I am sorry. You know, I now have no alternative but to defer it. But more important, the Leader of Government Business must find out where the Assistant Minister is. He knows that the Minister is away in New York, and that there is a Question before the House. He should have come to answer it. So, can you, please, find out?

Let us proceed to the next Order.

*(Question deferred)*

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read being  
the Fifteenth Allotted Day)*

## MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW  
LEAVE THE CHAIR

## Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, the Ministry's most critical challenge is the attainment of food security, particularly for 14 million Kenyans who are absolutely poor in the rural areas. In fact, without addressing the food security situation among these poor rural populations---

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, hon. Members! Those hon. Members withdrawing from the Chamber, please, do so quietly.

Proceed, Mr. Minister!

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the major challenge is now to make agriculture more competitive within a liberalised global environment. In order to face these challenges, we must move away from the traditional ways of doing business by adopting a more market-oriented approach. The idea is to transform agriculture from subsistence to commercial enterprise, a policy direction into which we intend to move. We will have little State participation in agro-business with more regulatory roles to provide an enabling environment for the private sector.

My Ministry, jointly with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development has initiated the development of the Ten-Year Agricultural Strategy. Specific measures under projects required to achieve a market-oriented private sector-led agriculture will be clearly spelt out. The strategy will address all issues, inclusive of crop, livestock and fisheries. The vision is, therefore, to have a commercial agriculture which is sustainably competitive and self-propelling. The mission is to be a catalyst of the process by providing the policy, regulatory and legal environment to allow the private sector to take the lead. The two Ministries will continue to provide the services, which cannot be best provided by the private sector, such as pests and disease control, while at the same time making entry plans to the private sector to ultimately take over the provision of services such as research, extension, artificial insemination, meat and fish inspection.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Manifesto highlights a number of critical issues which must be addressed, if the Kenyan economy is to be revived. It lays emphasis on the revival of the agricultural sector, which has been ailing over the years but supports 80 per cent of the rural population. It has been recognised that the poor performance of this sector has had a direct impact on soaring poverty, with some districts registering 80 per cent absolute poverty levels.

In addition, the recently launched Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation, 2003/2007, also gives agriculture a high priority. Some of the main constraints facing the agricultural sector have been identified in that strategy as poor governance, lack of comprehensive legal framework, institutional failure due to lack of capacity by the private sector to take over functions previously performed by the State, lack of markets and weak marketing systems, poor access to farm credit, low levels of public funding and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, specific solutions have been listed in that document. My Ministry has been allocated Kshs3,271,152,430 for Recurrent Expenditure and Kshs1,765,133,728 for Development Expenditure during the 2003/2004 Financial Year, to facilitate its contribution to economic recovery. Before expounding on the Ministry's intention to utilize those funds, I would like to update Members on a number of issues.

The agricultural sector experienced a down-turn performance, dropping from a growth rate of 1.3 per cent in 2001 to 0.7 per cent in 2002, thus partly contributing to the drop performance of the

overall economy from 1.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent over the same period. That decline in performance was attributed to unfavourable weather conditions in some parts of the country, that resulted in some sub-sectors recording decreases in production. However, some important sub-sectors registered positive growth over the same period. Those include cotton, sugar and horticulture, which achieved remarkable growth with the volume of fresh horticultural exports increasing by 22.4 per cent, from about 99,000 tonnes in 2001 to 121,000 tonnes in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now wish to turn to some specific programmes that my Ministry has planned to implement in the current financial year. During the last financial year, the Ministry, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, developed a specific programme for food security that is aimed at addressing the problem of food security in a more wholesome participatory and innovative way. I am happy to report that implementation has already commenced and it has started providing a timely community-based and farmer-centred response to fighting hunger on a large scale in various parts of the country. So far, the programme is covering 18 districts. It is planned that the coverage will be gradually increased to ensure that all districts benefit from it. During this financial year, Kshs73 million has been allocated for the programme, with Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) contributing Kshs23 million, while the Government will provide the balance.

In order to improve food security, the Ministry will strengthen its effort towards reduction of post-harvest losses, as well as strengthening early warning systems. It will not only emphasize on food production, but also on farm and off-farm income generation that will enable households to have access to adequate food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the extension service has been an eye-sore in the programmes of my Ministry. It is an aspect that has been discussed by members of the public, and has been a matter of serious concern among Members of Parliament. We, at the Ministry, are trying the best we can to ensure that the extension service with 7,000 staff members and a farmer population of 4 million will be enabled. It is also useful to inform the House that each frontline extension worker, therefore, serves between 500 and 1,700 farmers and covers a radius of five to 25 kilometres in a working unit. In recent times, the extension services have faced a number of challenges. One of the challenges has been staff strength as the Ministry has not recruited new technical assistants and diploma holders since 1989, while the agricultural officers were last recruited in 1997.

The second issue that affects that extension programme is that, due to the retirement and death of frontline staff - what we call the natural attrition process - some sub-locations in this country have had to do without technical staff, or one had to cover from divisional headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other problem is that the frontline officers have no operational base and many of them operate from behind the shops. Some of the divisional headquarters have about three to four officers with no proper mode of transport.

Finally, as far as those problems are concerned, there is the question of collapse of strategic support institutions such as the Co-operative Movement, Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) that used to do some work for the farmers.

In order to address some of those challenges, my Ministry has developed and adopted the National Agricultural Extension Policy. Key activities include the following:-

- (i) Organising farmers into common interest groups.
- (ii) Adopting focal area development group system.
- (iii) Re-training staff to be more focused and acquainted with current issues such as sanitary issues, international trade agreements and market requirements.
- (iv) Work plans and activities based on budgets.
- (v) Strengthen monitoring and evaluation activities being implemented.
- (vi) Participatory preparation of work plans and work schedules, so that farmers can know when to expect the field staff.

(vii) Establishment of a revolving fund for purchase of bicycles by frontline staff to facilitate staff mobility.

(viii) Collaboration with the extension providers in a number of programmes.

In order to extend extension service delivery, the Ministry is considering providing technical staff with uniforms, so that they can easily be identified by the members of public.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has been allocated Kshs346,154,842 through the Recurrent Budget and Kshs220 million in the Development Budget under the NALEP/SIDA Project to carry out extension and project monitoring evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers training centres play a vital role in dissemination of extension messages to the farmers, seed bulking and also livestock multiplication. There are 26 farmers' training centres spread across the country. Unfortunately, some of them are being under-utilised due to poor conditions occasioned by poor funding. My Ministry is, therefore, planning to improve these facilities so that they can continue performing their stipulated functions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, agricultural shows continue to be important venues for farmers to learn more agricultural technologies. During this calendar year, 15 Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) shows have been planned and the Ministry has allocated Kshs8,871,536 to enable it participate in these shows. One of the mandates of my Ministry is to develop simple appropriate technology for the farmers that is later passed on to the informal sector for commercial production. Currently, there are nine rural technology development centres that carry out this particular task.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one the functions of the Ministry also is the issue of soil and water conservation. To perform this function, my Ministry has 23 Agricultural Mechanisation Stations (AMSs) spread throughout the country equipped with necessary personnel and machinery. It is unfortunate that some of this machinery is not in operational condition, but, over the period, during the last financial year, these services generated revenue amounting to Kshs40 million from a gross expenditure of Kshs27 million. It is envisaged that revenue collection will rise to Kshs45 million during this financial year and we are geared towards providing better services to the people of this country by revitalising the AMSs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as legislation and policy reviews are concerned, the Kenya Rural Development Strategy was developed by my Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders in the financial year 2001/2002. This provides a road map for development of rural economy. However, my Ministry will collaborate with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development and other stakeholders to develop an agricultural policy to guide development in the agriculture sector. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders will be clearly specified and defined.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, there are more than 60 statutes governing the sector. Most of these have been rendered obsolete following policy changes over the years. Some of the Acts have successfully been reviewed such as the Tea Act while the review of the others has been initiated.

The review of each individual statute is time-consuming and even if we were to take three per year, given the calendar of Parliament, we will need 20 years to complete the review. We, at the Ministry, therefore, find it necessary in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to explore the possibility of consolidating and harmonising the pieces of legislation which address common issues with the aim of reducing the number, at the same time avoiding duplication and ambiguities. It should



be understood that such review is a continuous process and will be done from time to time according to the economic environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on food security, the existing national food policy was developed prior to full liberalisation of food marketing. Review of this policy has commenced and so far, four provincial stakeholders workshops have been held. However, further consultations are still necessary with various stakeholders and also sister Ministries. My Ministry will continue with this exercise to its completion and come up with a revised national food policy which will be in line with economic recovery strategy of the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as seasonal credit is concerned, the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMRs) used to give a lot of useful work to the farmers. The programme used to provide farmers with credit and acted as an insurance against the vagaries of weather and other calamities. However, it collapsed in the 1970s due to misuse thereby leaving farmers with no alternative or insurance programme. Consequently, there has been below average production of maize and wheat that used to benefit from this programme thereby necessitating various food imports to this country. It is for this reason that the Government has decided to re-establish the GMRs to the farmers of this country. My Ministry has already constituted a task force to explore possibilities and work out modalities for re-introducing GMRs. The Ministry has also teamed up with the relevant stakeholders and credit providers to develop an agricultural credit policy. These are expected to enhance production and save the country the much needed foreign exchange.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry currently has staff in three missions namely London, Rome and Pretoria. These missions are important in facilitating trade in agricultural commodities and as a source of information to various stakeholders. They also represent the Ministry in international organisations such as the Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and also the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) among others. Given the importance attached to the promotion of agricultural products in the international market, it may be necessary that other missions be opened, such as in Brussels, to handle European Union (EU) matters and World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues, Islamabad in Pakistan for tea and Washington DC for issues relating to African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and other markets as the Ministry may deem necessary. The roles of these attaches will also be redefined to ensure that they do proper marketing intelligence gathering for Kenyan products and market Kenyan products abroad.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, among the commodities, I will specifically talk about the issue of maize. During this year, the long rains season, it is estimated that 26 million bags of maize will be harvested and an additional 5 million bags are expected during the short rains in the course of the year. Currently, the Government has 600,000 bags for strategic grain reserves and for famine operations. I will hasten to add here that the Government intends to purchase between 3 to 4.5 million bags of maize in the high potential areas to cater for strategic grain reserves and also to ensure that farmers have money to go back to planting season. As I have said it before, we intend to purchase that maize at the price of Kshs1,010 per 90 kilogramme bag. I would like to assure the farmers that we are going to be prompt in purchases and also quick in making payments to the farmers. I have instructed clearly the officers of the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) to ensure that the farmers are not subjected to unnecessary frustration in the queues because that has been a very serious problem as far as that commodity is concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now beg to move the Ministry's Vote for the 2003/2004 financial year as follows: (A) Recurrent Vote R10, Kshs3,271,152,430 will finance the following activities: Sub-Vote, General Administration and Planning, Kshs326,503,446; Regulatory Management of Inputs and Outputs in Agriculture, Kshs112,899,329; Facilitation and Supply of Agricultural Extension Services and Research, Kshs1,571,221,085.

Information management for the agriculture sector, Kshs991,892,150; monitoring and management of food security, Kshs120,692; crop disease and pest control, Kshs51,352, 235; protection of natural resource based for agriculture, Kshs215,163,593; total, Kshs3,271,152,430.

Development Vote D10 has Kshs1,765,133,728 allocated this year, and will finance the following activities: Sub-Vote: General Administration and Planning, Kshs73,600,000; Promotion of Agricultural Sector Development, Kshs171,996,321; Facilitation and Supply of Agriculture Extension Services and Research, Kshs250,082,848; Information Management for Agricultural Sector, Kshs862,154,559; Monitoring and Management of Food Security, Kshs4,300,000; Protection of Natural Base for Agriculture, Kshs5 million; total, Kshs1,765,133,728.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would now like to request the House to approve an amount of Kshs5,036,286,158, to meet both the Recurrent and Development Expenditures of my Ministry for the year ending 30th June, 2004.

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

*(Applause)*

**The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development** (Mr. Munyao): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to proudly support the Minister for Agriculture, but before I proceed, let me clarify one thing you asked me in silence: "Are you still an appendage of the Ministry of Agriculture?" My answer is: I am because the strength and the breath that I have emanates from there. Therefore, I now beg to confess to you.

I will begin by thanking the Head of State for separating these two Ministries. While congratulating the Minister for Agriculture for his own performance in the last nine months, I am also accepting the echo we are receiving from all over the country that it was a good idea to separate the agriculture docket from the livestock and fisheries development docket so that performance in both Ministries can be gauged. I appreciate the way the Minister has shown commitment to his work. We have said, in this House and elsewhere in the country, that agriculture and livestock development in this country are the backbone of the economy of this country. If that is the truth, then, in the budgeting process, that has to be reflected as such.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be appealing to hon. Members of Parliament today to support this Vote. I am happy to note that the shadow Minister for Agriculture is an able person as far as agriculture is concerned because he has served as the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources for many years. When the Minister was talking I could see him clap, probably because he knows that he can never have a better Minister than the one who was speaking.

*(Laughter)*

I would like the House to support the Minister *in toto* and also request that when preparing future Budgets, he reflects the right perspectives as it were. If it is true that agriculture is the backbone of this country, then, budgetwise, we must reflect the same. If you look at the Estimate books, the Budget allocation globally is hardly 10 per cent of the national budget. It is about 3.3 per cent. That is a very, very small figure to make any change. I am saying this with clear information gained from meetings that have been held both in the country and globally, on issues affecting food security. Recently, we had the Rome I, Rome II and Johannesburg meetings which culminated into the NEPAD summit which was attended by the Heads of State. Every other person during those meetings, was comparing the African States with the European States in terms of who could afford subsidies to be able to market their products and support their farmers across the whole world. This is a genuine

thing and I am aware that our own income is too small, but at least, relatively, I would request this House, and particularly the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, to support the idea that more funding should be given to the Ministry of Agriculture, so that the right results are achieved. Even if it is not possible to provide everything, but 15 to 20 per cent of budget allocation would show a very big difference.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about extension services. Currently, these services are very important. In fact, the more junior you are in this Ministry, the more effective you are because we are talking about reaching people at the grassroots. That is where the farmer is, and he needs the extension services. It is shocking to learn that just the other year, we experienced a bad economy and we could not recruit more people to help those who are already there. We forgot about those who were being replaced. It is crucial that we have proper and qualified personnel in the rural areas to assist farmers. I have in mind animal husbandry officers who are trained in the Animal Health Institute of Technology and Insemination (AHITI). The trained persons cannot be employed and they are just roaming around. It is up to us to request for more funding so that these trainees are absorbed, to be able to help farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate the current management of Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). This is a very important organisation in offering assistance to the farmers because without clear financing, there would be no way the forgotten farmer could afford credit. What we are now saying is that AFC must now work ahead of the programme. For instance, the rains will be coming in a month's time or so. AFC should be ready by now to assist farmers because of the bureaucracy facing farmers between the time they apply for loans and the time they get the finances.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the good work that the AFC is doing, we should appreciate one thing, that AFC cannot be a bottomless pit. So, when farmers get finances from it, they must pay it back so that this money can circulate to other people. We are fairly happy that at the moment, with all the constraints, AFC is still lending loans below the commercial interest rates. So, we are appealing to the beneficiaries to come up and pay back their loans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I once again congratulate the Minister for introducing uniforms for the agricultural field officers. We all remember that during our time, agricultural officers used to wear uniforms which carried the initials "AD" for agricultural officer, and "VS" for veterinary officer. But these days when they all look alike, you can never distinguish between a matatu tout, an agricultural officer or a veterinary officer. So, the step that you have taken is a very good one. We want farmers to make use of these extension officers. Chiefs should work hand in hand with extension officers in the villages so that people can benefit from their services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked about the representatives in foreign missions. These officers are doing very well, but I would also like to request them to sell Kenya more. We want more countries to understand Kenya better and overcome the fear they have of this country. While at this point, I must thank the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia for openly telling the world that Kenya produces disease-free meat. He encouraged the world to come forth and buy our animals. I would like to thank him for that good gesture. The Minister for Agriculture ought to communicate with Kenyan representatives abroad so that they continue marketing Kenya.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to shower the Minister for Agriculture with praise, particularly now that he is determined to revive cotton farming. Cotton is the best crop for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). Two-thirds of this country is ASAL area, where certain types of maize would not grow, but cotton can thrive there. Let us go out as leaders in this House and promote the growing of cotton.

With those few remarks, I beg to support the Minister in his request for a double allocation in the Budget.

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Sambu:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to support the allocation for this Ministry in the Budget. I understand that, in fact, the total amount of Kshs5 billion is not enough for both Ministries which support over 80 per cent of our population. In the future, this Government should increase this allocation from the present 3 or 4 per cent of the total Government expenditure, to about 10 to 15 per cent. Having said that, we want to acknowledge that, in fact, all our industries; nearly 90 per cent of them, are agro-based, if they are truly indigenous. Those that purport to be non-agricultural totally depend on pre-fabricated materials in terms of origin, and what we want to do in this country is just to assemble them. So, the industry of agriculture and livestock development is the one that Kenyans must develop. There is no way that we are going to tell ourselves that we will develop heavy commercial industries like the manufacture of vehicles or high-tech industries. First of all, if we wanted to establish the heavy steel industries, it would not be possible because we lack adequate deposits of natural resources like steel or coal. But in this country, we have land and labour, what is lacking is the capital. Those officers sitting there know that there are three requisites or requirements for developing agriculture; that is, land, labour and capital. We have two in abundance; land and labour.

Although we say that there are certain districts in Kenya where population pressure is so high, we can expand our agricultural land base by creating irrigation schemes. The irrigation schemes that hitherto existed have been allowed to degenerate and many of them have been closed. I heard in the Budget Speech that the Government has plans for resuscitating our irrigation schemes. That is where the future of land expansion lies. We will have to develop irrigation schemes which are purely for producing crops for sale, not for subsistence. What we are doing at the moment in the majority of areas is subsistence farming. We have to change this if what the Minister said about the programmes they have in the pipeline are to materialize. The base of our agriculture must be more inclined towards cash crops like cotton and horticultural produce, among many others.

At the moment, we have the two factors of production, that is land and labour. Many people who are of the working age are unemployed. The major area which can absorb our labour is in agriculture. The only factor that is missing is capital. We have to bring capital to our people through loans which carry low interest rates. The current loans that are available charge prohibitive interest rates. At the moment, Government borrowing attracts 1 or 2 per cent interest rate at the banks, with a maximum of 2 per cent, yet the banks are charging our people 18 to 25 per cent, and these are foreign banks! I do not care; they can always pack up and go and we will remain with our land and people. The countries which have developed have done so by using their indigenous people. No country ever developed using foreigners who purport to come and invest in our country. They come, invest, and then repatriate all their profits. Most of the foreign shopkeeper,s you know the race they belong to. While the husband is selling in the shop, the wife is in the bank transmitting money abroad. I come from a town called Eldoret where the biggest industries there owned by that race have closed down because they have opened many industries in Canada and some in Great Britain. That is a fact! If I am challenged, I will produce proof of what I am saying. So, we have to get capital for our own people to develop because an indigenous African Kenyan would not go anywhere. If he was born here, he will live here, although a few will go out because they cannot secure jobs, but the majority will remain here.

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is Mr. Sambu in order to insinuate that Kenyans cannot leave this country when we know that we have indigenous Kenyans who have stashed money outside this country?

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a waste of my time. In fact, I agree that Kenyans are free to leave the country, but I did not talk about the money. The Government should

apprehend those who have stashed money out of this country to bring it back. I want that money. So, the hon. Member should not challenge me on that issue. If he knows who those people are, he should table the list of their names, and the money should be brought back. In fact, that money will come and decrease our interest rates.

We should revive the AFC, so that it can start giving seasonal loans to the farmers through the Guaranteed Minimum Return (GMR). Many of us here understand what GMR stands for. So, we have to pump more money into the agricultural sector. Instead of asking foreign donors to give us aid, we should be looking for foreign loans, which we should then loan to our people through the AFC. If we can get foreign loans at an interest of 3 to 5 per cent and loan it to our people at an interest rate of 10 per cent, we should be able to develop our agricultural sector. The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Finance should strongly work towards reviving the AFC.

In the last Parliament, we agreed that the GMR and the seasonal loans, which have caused a big problem, should be written off. I am saddened by the fact that when I go to Kapsabet, I hear of cases of people struggling to repay the seasonal loans. Even today, a widow from my constituency came to see me because her land is being threatened with auctioning. Her late husband had taken a GMR seasonal loan and it has not been written off. The two Ministers should abide by what the House passed last year, and ask the AFC to write off the loans which are supposed to be written off. I want to conclude by saying that capital is the only major thing lacking in Kenya. If we are to create the 500,000 jobs - I know it is difficult to do that - then we have to provide capital for people to start producing cash crops.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I see the kind of fertilizers we use on our farms, I pity our people. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) does not, in my view, check the standard of the fertilizers in the market. I do not know whether it checks fertilizer samples and at what rate. A lot of fertilizer comes in, in bulk and then it is packed in Mombasa. Do we check on the chemical composition of our fertilizer? For example, when we get the NPK Fertilizer, are we sure that the percentages given as 23:23, are nitrogen 23 per cent, and phosphorous 23 per cent? We have to check on the source of our fertilizer, and we have to have our own people even go there before the fertilizer is shipped here. A lot of fertilizer exporters take people for a ride. We can even get people selling us slack, which is a bi-product of fertilizer. They granulate it and sell it to us. That is a fact. At one time, we took a sample of slack in Eldoret. During the period between December and May, which is the season for selling fertilizers in the Highlands West of the Rift, which are the main areas for producing maize and wheat, people from a certain community float into open fertilizer shops and then they disappear because they make so much money. Does fertiliser still attract Value Added Tax (VAT)? Does it still attract duty? If it does not, why are the prices of fertilizer, for example, NPK 18460 and NPK 11520, still so high?

In fertilizer producing countries, fertilizer costs one-tenth of that price. Ninety per cent of the price added here cannot be the cost of bringing the fertilizer here from the Eastern European countries, which are the main fertilizer producers. Most of the purported fertilizer exporters do not manufacture it in their countries. They get it from Eastern Europe on contract because they fear the effects of the emission of gases in their countries. Why can we not source the fertilizer direct from Eastern Europe? Why do we have to source it through people who will con us and not give us the right thing?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many of our districts are having problems with food insecurity. Even high potential districts, including my district Nandi, are in certain months of the year faced with heavy food insecurity; lack of food. That is caused by mainly two issues. One, the over-dependency on maize, both as a food crop and a cash crop. I would like to request the two Ministers to encourage our farmers to diversify from growing food crops only. Even in the sugar-cane growing areas, people are totally reliant on one crop. In the maize growing areas, this is a very dangerous situation because the farmer plants the maize, waits for nine months, and by the time the maize is ready, his family is

over-burdened with debts. The propensity to spend is so high. Therefore, they will sell all the maize without due regard to what they will eat. The father will tell the mother and the children that he knows, and they will make it somehow. Right now, if you go to areas near Turbo, you will find that they are selling two kilograms of maize at Kshs20, and yet, a few months ago, they were buying it at Kshs50. The Government must address this situation. It is a question of diversifying because the heavy fluctuation is caused by the sale of all the available food crop, the maize, for cash. To support farmers in the high-potential areas, we have to diversify. We have to plant other crops or produce other livestock products. This brings me to milk.

I thank the Government for having repossessed the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) from those who had bought it. But simply repossessing it without making it operational serves no purpose. I want to ask the Government to remove the directors it has put at the KCC and allow the livestock farmers to elect their own directors.

Records of KCC shareholders are readily available in Kiganjo, Nyahururu, Naivasha, Sotik, Eldoret, Kitale and other parts of the country. We should allow shareholders to elect directors of their own choice so that they would be answerable to them. This is the only way we will revive milk plants in this country. If we do not revive milk plants, dairy farmers will continue to experience problems of marketing their milk. As a result, milk prices will continue to fluctuate.

For example, during the low season in the high milk producing areas, the price of a litre of milk is always less than Kshs10. I do not blame the businessmen because they are out to make profit. When they process that one litre of milk, they get two half-litres which they sell at Kshs20. Sometimes even this milk is not as UHT milk, but as pasteurised milk, but is still sold at Kshs20 per half-litre. Therefore, from that one litre of milk they bought from a farmer, they get a profit of about Kshs40. It is a sad situation that they pay a farmer a meagre of Kshs10. Although processing and packaging of milk is expensive, that profit margin is too wide. Therefore, the Ministry of Livestock Development and the Ministry for Co-operative Development and Marketing should allow dairy farmers to elect their own directors. Most of the current KCC directors do not even own a cow. Since they do not own a cow, they are less concerned even if a litre of milk is sold at less than Kshs10.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is asking this House to approve Kshs5 billion. Out of this amount, Kshs1.76 billion will be channelled to the Development Vote. I listened to the Minister very carefully, but I did not hear him mention of any specific project they intend to undertake in this financial year. It is sad that a substantial amount of this money will be spent on hosting seminars and workshops. I urge the Minister to think of investing. He did not even talk of reviving a single cotton ginnery or an irrigation scheme. We have to put aside money for development. They should come up with actual projects. For example, in the Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL), we could build dams and cattle dips.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was one time the German Government bought acaricides. This was the time when we were changing to use acaricide. The board went directly to buy the acaricide and it was very effective. We do not know what happens when these funds are given to some people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what happened to the fertilizer that the Japanese Government used to donate to the Kenyan Government. Is it still being donated? Maybe, when the Minister is responding, he will inform us of the current position. If that fertilizer is still forthcoming, it should help in stabilizing prices of fertilizer in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the forecast for this year's harvest is about 26 million bags of maize. We thank God because we have sufficient rains and good weather. From the short rains, we expect to harvest five million bags of maize. The Government, through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), I believe, will purchase three to four million bags. Currently, the purchasing price of a 90-kilogramme bag of maize is Kshs1,010. It is far below the production cost. That was the price of

a 90-kilogram bag of maize 10 years ago when the price of diesel was Kshs25 per litre. The price of diesel now is Kshs50 per litre. The cost of the tractor spares is also so high. Therefore, the price of maize must be reviewed. When milling maize, there is usually no waste. The maize germ is converted into the non-cholesterol oil. The inner husks of maize make bran. Therefore, 100 per cent of maize is converted into one product or another. I have worked out costs, because I am a practical person, to recover not only the Kshs1,000 they paid the farmer, but they make a profit of about Kshs3,000 from 90-kilogramme bag of maize. I can see the Minister is smiling because whatever I am saying is a fact, particularly in the high potential areas such as Eldoret and Kisumu. Therefore, the producer price of a bag of maize should be reviewed from the current Kshs1,010 to Kshs1,500 per 90-kilogramme bag. I know that if the Government subsidizes farmers, we will get problems with the World Trade Organization (WTO). I wish to thank those Kenyans who protested at the Cancun Conference. If we do not protest, as I said earlier, no outsider will develop this country; it is the indigenous people who have a duty to develop this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have seen farmers in other countries demonstrating and blocking roads with their tractors when their prices are not subsidized by their governments. However, if I were to tell farmers in Eldoret to protest and block roads with their tractors, the General Service Unit (GSU) will be deployed to shoot them down. Let us help our farmers develop.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should also develop the cotton industry in this country. We have allowed this industry to deteriorate. The previous Government allowed cotton farming to go to waste. The ginneries which were built by the farmers out of their own contributions, through their co-operatives, have all been sold off. I would have expected that part of this money would be allocated to development. I urge this Government to allocate a substantial amount of money to this industry to enable farmers grow cotton and revive cotton ginneries. In fact, cotton is a major source of employment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fishing industry also needs to be looked into. The ice plants should be developed. There is one ice plant in Lamu. This plant was constructed many years ago. To date, it has never been completed. The ice plants around the lake are selling ice at unaffordable prices. Let us have ice plants so that our people who depend on fish can make money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, why do we allow foreigners to continue occupying most of our land in this country? Why do the British who conquered us by the force of gun still own large chunks of lands in Kericho, Limuru and Nandi districts? Why should we go to the British Government to beg for development aid and yet from this country, through their tea companies, they take out billions of shillings? I have asked previous governments, and I am now asking the current Government, not to allow the British to continue acquiring those farms because they did not acquire them constitutionally. They acquired them by the force of the gun. My constituents died because of the land. What are they doing here?

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

**Mr. Syongoh:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to support this Motion. The eminence of the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries cannot be over emphasised. Today, these sectors are the biggest employer of our people. They provide food security for all of us. They are the biggest earner of foreign exchange for our economy. They are suppliers of raw materials for some of our biggest manufacturing industries. We, therefore, must take them seriously. In this respect, I support the sentiments that have been expressed already, that the budget allocated for this Ministry is totally inadequate.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker]*

*(Mr. Ethuro) took the Chair]*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to commend the Ministry for ensuring that the key farm inputs, including agricultural machinery and equipment, are zero-rated. I would like to appeal to the two Ministers to work together and ensure that the inputs, both the fishing nets as well as the engines that fishermen use to earn this country considerable foreign exchange are also included in those items that are zero-rated for purposes of duty as well as VAT.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, obviously the budget is grossly inadequate, but we must be realistic. I doubt very much, if in the next two or three years, there can be any significant change in the amount of money collected by the Kenya Revenue Authority which would enable a substantial increase in allocations for these Ministries. In the circumstances, I would like to make my humble submission and suggestion to the Ministry, that we must encourage off-loading of some of the services that are only secondary to the core functions of the Ministry, to the private sector. I have in mind a service like the extension services. In many countries, the private sector provides extension services and the Ministry provides policy guidelines as well as the budget. We know that they can be more efficient. In this country, in particular, we have enough qualified personnel. Every single year, we graduate several young men and women from various agricultural institutes who can be organised into groups to provide extension services specific to districts and crops. I would like, therefore, to encourage the Ministry to off-load the extension services to those young men and women who are currently unemployed, but highly skilled and trained to provide those services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second suggestion I would like to make to the Minister is that they must change the focus of their policies. They should move towards linking the farmer and manufacturer of a specific commodity. Contract farming is an established and proven method of encouraging and promoting agricultural output, not only in this country, but also in the world. Let us look at the greatest successes. The greatest successful agricultural sectors include tea production which is done through contract farming. There is the manufacturing sector linked to the farmer who also provides extension services and credit to those farmers, so that the burden of providing credit and extension will be moved away from the Government and given to the manufacturing sector, who will not only provide it, but also guarantee a market for the farmers' produce.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at sugar-cane production, it is again another example of successful contract farming. Of course, there is the nucleus estate, but there are also out-growers who produce and deliver to specific manufacturing units. The extension services and the credit line is provided by the manufacturing sector. So, the creation of partnerships between manufacturing organizations and primary producers in the form of farmers must be the next strategy that the Ministries must look at very seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe, and I am convinced that with the examples that I have given, maize can be produced efficiently and consistently if we linked maize millers to farmers in a particular region. I believe this can be done the same way. I believe the production of cashew nuts can also be done the same way. This can also be done to bixa production which is now dead, but was a highly profitable crop for Kwale. If we encouraged investors in the cotton processing sector, and linked them to the farmers, on the same model as the Kenya Tea Development Agency, we would be talking a different story. It should also be on the same model that the sugar-cane mills were linked to the sugar-cane farmers. If we did that, we would be talking a different story for the farmers of this country and the millions of unemployed Kenyans who are loafing on the streets. They are loafing on the streets not because they like it, but because we have not given them a chance to work. I know they are willing and ready to work.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to challenge the question of the Ministry



maintaining the *status quo*. As of now, what are we really talking about? We are talking about maintaining the current maize and wheat production, fishing from the lake and talking a little bit about cotton, but not being very clear minded as to what we ought to do. It is necessary for us to maintain the existing crops or product mix that we have in this country, but we must move to the next stage of developing new products. I would like to commend Mr. Sambu for emphasising this fact. We must start to develop new crops. Nobody says that the arid and semi-arid lands cannot grow a crop. The yoyoba crop whose world market is enormous can grow in arid and semi arid areas. Nobody can satisfy the demand for the Neem tree; *Mwarobaine*. There are hundreds and millions of dollars outside there only waiting for somebody to supply this product. Why are we not developing new products and giving our farmers a chance to be productive, in order to make money, to be wealthy and to live a decent lifestyle?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Aloe Vera plant is now being commercially produced in South Africa. It can grow in semi arid areas, and in fact, near desert conditions. But what is KARI doing? They are going round in circles trying to develop maize varieties. The technology for production of British maize has grown further because of genetic modification (GM). What are we doing to embrace the GM technology? Is KARI focusing on GM technology? Are we incorporating GM in our research institutions and passing it on to farmers? Without GM we cannot compete in the world market. I am informed that through traditional methods, you can only produce a tenth of the amount of cotton you can produce through GM technology. So, how are you going to compete with a country that uses or has embraced the GM technology? We cannot. We should not be shy because every single day we are eating one food item or another which has been produced through GM technology, and they are found in our supermarkets. I would like to challenge the Minister to consider seriously looking into the absolute necessity, the imperativeness of bringing in GM technology to our farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the world has changed. I commend the Government of Kenya for accepting and realizing that the role of Government must be to create the enabling environment for the private sector. When we talk of the private sector, there is a tendency to think of some big foreign conglomerate, but the definition includes the simple local farmer in our neighbourhood. I would like the Government to confine itself to research, disease control, new product development - I have just given some examples - developing external markets for our crops and farm produce, and policy development. I am convinced that Kenyans have the capacity and the willingness to work. What they need is an incentive and an enabling environment to do so.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Kipchumba:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to support the Vote of this very important Ministry. It is important especially to those of us who come from agricultural areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you went to school those days with many of us, you will recall that there was a theory called the cobweb theory of the vicious cycle of poverty. To me, it was not a theory. It was practical, and especially for farmers. If there are any businessmen who have lived in poverty year in, year out, it is the farmers. It is very easy to bring out this farmer from the cobweb theory. If you look at the inputs in agriculture, the Roads Maintenance Levy which is payable when you purchase fuel and which is about Kshs5.80 for diesel, it is payable by everybody including the farmer whose tractor is in the fields. It does not make a lot of sense for a man who lives in the rural areas and does not use our roads and even carries diesel in his car to pay Ksh5.8 revenue for a road that he does not use. By subjecting him to this, we contribute to the poverty of the farmer as a Government and as people of this country.

AFC is said to have written off loans for many farmers. The Minister for Agriculture should recall that I have visited his office with one of the prominent farmers from my constituency because he

has been threatened many times. He cannot have a good night's sleep or stay with his family in peace because AFC officers visit him almost every month, wanting to take his property just because of a seasonal crop loan that he took sometime back, yet we are made to understand that the loans have been written off. I would like the Minister to give us guidelines on what loans were written off because, if seasonal crop loans were written off, then why is it that our farmers are still being victimised?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the re-introduction of GMR. While I support the liberalisation of the sector, we have a problem of the developing countries imposing high subsidies on their products. I do not know how our farmers would compete with the farmers from America whose crops are highly subsidised. Our farmers are very hardworking people. Sometimes I wonder why we say that Kenya should be a working nation! We have been working since Independence. That is not the problem we have in this country. The problem farmers have in this country is a market for their products. If we were to assist the farmers in terms of marketing, then, that would solve half of their problems. Farmers are frustrated that every year they grow crops, yet, they do not know where to sell them. That brings me to the same problem of the corporate theory.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when their crops are ready for sale, many of the farmers in my constituency take their crops to the National Cereals and Produce Board depots. They have to queue there and keep on going back for years and months just to sell the few bags they have harvested. I was encouraged by the Minister today that the farmers this time round will not be frustrated by those officers. We hope that the Minister will go round and ensure that does not happen. Why is it that the Government cannot ensure that the UNHCR, which buys maize for refugees, buys it from this country? Why should UNHCR import maize from America, which, in fact, is yellow maize and is not supposed to be eaten by our people? Because of the problems, we have no choice. The yellow maize is meant for cattle and other animals in America but Kenyans have no choice but to eat it. We should encourage policies which would ensure that the big multinational agencies buy food within the country.

The other issue is on land carrying capacity. I support what Mr. Sambu said, that land is owned by foreigners. Sometimes it is better if they own it because the few that own it in Uasin Gishu District make good use of it. They practise the best known technologies that we have. If we reduce our own land carrying capacity to what we have now, we may not be able to produce anything in the future. We may not even be able to produce anything to sell in the future but for our own consumption only. The Ministry of Agriculture should provide a lead as to what the current carrying capacity of our land is.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to extension officers, I am surprised that we are talking about them because they do not exist in my constituency; either they were sacked, are dead, or have retired. The Minister knows better. We talk of training institutions in this country. I admit that they are many. I have one in my constituency called Chebororua FTC which used to do very well. Currently, I do not know if it still exists. I do not even know who runs it because it is not run from Uasin Gishu District. It is not run from my constituency, and I do not know the head or tail. Probably, it is run by a private individual and I am not aware.

The problems of farmers are so many, such that if we were to start doing calculations to see if they make any profits, we would stop the farming. However, we have been encouraged by the Minister who has said that a bag of maize will cost Ksh1,010. Personally, I know that the price is low but it is not that low. If you look at the competition the Government faces, it is sometimes left with no option.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Uganda is selling maize and some of the schools in my constituency are buying it at Ksh900 per bag. If the Government can give us that Ksh1,010, then it is commendable. When you tell us that we have six million bags still in reserve and we are also now

harvesting maize while others are importing from Uganda, then our planning is very poor. We have people starving at the Coast Province and we have six million bags of maize in our stores. Why is it that we cannot give them? It seems to me that there is no co-ordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Office of the President. What is the policy on our seeds, pesticides, and herbicides?

We know that some years ago, farmers bought maize seed, planted it, and at the end harvested nothing because the seed did not even germinate. Our farmers had borrowed loans and they still had to pay back and had even spent the money to buy seeds. Why can the Government not introduce very stiff penalties on companies that sell seeds that never germinate? At times we punish the farmers for the wrong reasons.

Many of the farmers in my constituency do not pay their AFC loans because when KCC collapsed, they lost their money. We are still told to take our milk to KCC and the company still does not pay promptly. We buy milk from the shop on a cash basis; we do not buy on loan. However, KCC would like to buy our milk and pay us after 30 days, yet, the company is buying at very low prices. Why can it not be a few shillings for a litre of milk? Why can the Government not provide that facility?

When the National Bank of Kenya collapsed, what did the Government do? They injected Kshs4 billion into it because they said the collapse of the bank would affect the banking sector. What happened when the KCC collapsed? Did that not affect the agricultural sector? Some of our priorities in this country are upside down. When the Ministry of Agriculture gets Kshs5 million and the Office of the President which has *askaris* who do nothing gets more than Kshs20 billion, you wonder whether our priorities are the other way round. We are cheating ourselves that this is the backbone of the country called Kenya. Is the military the backbone of this country or the agricultural sector?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we used to say that KANU is doing things the other way round. What is the difference? This Government has inherited the same problems that we had during the previous system. There is no change at all. If we are to have a meaningful change, we should not be chasing farmers when they are selling their milk. Farmers here sell raw vegetables in Nairobi, whereas when farmers in Uasin Gishu sell raw milk, they are chased as if they are thieves. They have not stolen the milk. The Dairy Board, I do not even know why it is there in the first place, should not harass our farmers. One of these days, we will tell the farmers to be defiant. If the KCC and the other institutions cannot buy the milk, where do they sell it? Whoever wants to buy it, can buy it on the roadside.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Wambora:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture, which has been described as the backbone of the economy of this country. Indeed, it is, both in terms of revenue, employment, national survival and top prioritisation. There was a time when *wananchi* were asked to decide which was the most critical sector in the country, and they chose agriculture and more particularly, crop production. It is quite in order for the Ministry to get enough funding so as to support that very critical sector.

I wish to join my colleagues in congratulating the Minister and his staff for the way they have started working in that sector, but there is still more to be done. There are four areas which require a lot of attention. One of them is the area of inputs. The fertilizers and pesticides which are getting into Kenya are still very expensive. The more expensive they are, the more expensive are the products that the farmers are producing. I want to give an example of fertilizer. We get free fertilizer from Japan which is distributed through traders. I find that very painful because by the time it reaches the farmer, it is very expensive. That free grant from Japan is not helping the farmer at all. We must be helped by the Ministry to get that fertilizer, which has been given to Kenya free of charge, to reach the farmers in a subsidized manner. We are aware that the most progressive countries in the world like the USA and

many European Union countries, subsidise their farmers. We should not be an exception if we also want to be progressive.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a second area where I think the Minister should take a lot of care is the marketing promotion. I concur with my colleague, Mr. Syongo, about the Ministry not getting involved in the day-to-day affairs of some activities and even implementation of projects. Marketing promotion is so critical and that is why in the area where I come from, Runyenjes which is a tea and coffee growing area, my farmers are still very poor. They are poor because we are selling our coffee and tea without adding any value. They are getting Kshs8 per kilogram. I know they can get Kshs40 overnight, which is US\$0.5, if only we sold our coffee and tea as a speciality. That time I know the farmers will get value for their produce.

We need market-based production. If you look at the market out there in Europe and America, you will find that there is demand for these products and we should encourage farmers to grow them. A third area in marketing is transparency and competitiveness. I am very shocked to hear that we continue encouraging a very closed auction system of coffee here; that is the coffee auction. We should open up completely. I am aware that Colombia has 47 marketing agents for their coffee. I am aware that Costa Rica has 38 marketing agents. We must have many marketing agents in this country to market our tea and coffee so that these can be sold in a more transparent and competitive manner.

A fourth area is that the Government has no business getting involved in programmes. The KANU Government started the Nyayo Tea Zones, but it did not do well. I cannot understand why the NARC Government is continuing implementing that project. Those tea zones should be sold to the tea factories which are nearby. I have talked to farmers in my area and they are ready to buy the tea zones so that people who can handle the job will do it properly instead of involving the Government in an area they should not be getting involved in. The Government should be involved in the area of policy, promotion and marketing.

Another area which I think the Ministry should look at is the marginal areas. Very recently, when the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture was in the Ministry of Planning, they conducted a seminar for us in the Kenya School of Monetary Studies and they told us very convincingly that the highest marginal productivity is in the marginal areas and not in the high productive areas where there is plenty of land, good soil but no water. So, we are talking of irrigation. I am not referring to expensive irrigation, but low cost irrigation where we can use run off water and rain water. Give us simple dams in the lower parts of Embu, Mbeere and all the other areas and we shall do well. Finally, I wish to emphasise that if these areas are taken care of, value adding market-based production and transparency in marketing, then our farmers will be doing a good job.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Dr. Galgalo:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to support this very important Ministry's budget. I would like to add my voice to those who have said that this Ministry has not been given the amount of money that it deserves so as to be able to feed this country better and make us self-sufficient in food supply. I would also like to thank and congratulate the President for having had the wisdom to separate what I would call the "Siamese twins" of agriculture and livestock. I am sure that in the able hands of these very good Ministers, whom I have known for the last six years, these Ministries will perform very well. I know they have good technical staff behind them who will help them.

When you talk of agriculture, people, without thinking, classify our country into high potential and low potential. There is no area in this country which is low potential. There are areas which have good rainfall and good soil and, therefore, are able to produce more or less throughout the year. There are other areas like the ASAL areas which have very good soils and are productive, but because of lack of tapping that potential, they are classified as low potential areas. They are not. There is a lot of

potential in those areas. In fact, I can predict here that in the future, those are the areas which this country will depend on because they are vast areas and there is a lot of potential in them. All that has been lacking has been water. This Ministry should strengthen the department that deals with irrigation and water. All it needs to do is to tap run-off water during the rainy seasons. There are huge seasonal rivers all over northern Kenya. When it rains, this water goes to waste. It drains into the Indian Ocean while part of it percolates into the sand. If the Ministry will put up huge dams to tap this water and use it for irrigation, then we will turn the Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASAL) into greenland; areas which will be granaries of this country. So, I would request the Ministry to look very seriously at that potential, with a view to exploiting it.

I know with research, drought resistant crops can be grown in ASAL areas. The story of people from ASAL areas having to depend on famine relief or yellow maize which has just been despised here will come to an end. I have heard people say that the yellow maize is preserved with some chemicals that have some serious health hazards and cause cancer. Throat cancer is so common in ASAL areas where people depend on famine relief, especially the yellow maize. So, if we can tap and exploit this potential in ASAL areas, the story of famine relief will end and ASAL areas will be a granary for the rest of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on livestock production, we all know that more than 50 per cent of the livestock population of this country come from ASAL areas. However, it is as if livestock farmers in these areas are surviving on their own, without literally any support from any quarter, in terms of production and marketing. The poor livestock farmers are there working and struggling using traditional methods of production. They produce over 50 per cent of the livestock population in this country. So, if they are supported, the lives of those people in northern Kenya will change. What does livestock production need? It needs a very basic thing, water. Life cannot be there without water. Just like human beings, livestock need water. If you go to all pastoral areas, no area has enough water for livestock. During the drought, the livestock population that we have been herding for many years perish. So, this Ministry needs to liaise with the Ministry of Water Resource Management and Development and other development partners to provide water for our livestock.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on disease control, we know that we have not been training many veterinary doctors for a while. We have a serious shortage. We struggle so hard to train medical doctors at high costs. Their salaries were even increased by about 300 per cent two years ago. Some doctors now earn more than Kshs100,000. If we take human life so seriously---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ethuro): We are discussing the Ministry of Agriculture only.

**Dr. Galgalo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to be corrected because we consulted the Government side and were told that we could discuss both Ministries.

However, in areas where we have good rainfall and good agricultural soils, hon. Members have lamented that poor farmers work so hard to produce crops for their consumption and to feed the rest of the country, but the Government does not provide them with subsidies. I want this Ministry to put the interest of the poor farmers first. It is a pity that a 90-kilogramme bag of maize costs Kshs1,000. I have worked in maize growing areas of Western Kenya, Bomet and Kericho districts, and I know they sell their maize for Kshs500 to rich middlemen. Some of those middlemen are senior civil servants. They buy a 90-kilogramme bag of maize at Kshs500. They later sell it at two or three times. We should strengthen the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). I would suggest that the directors of NCPB be elected by farmers. They will be answerable to the farmers, and hence not take the farmers for granted. If they are crooked people who will be playing middlemen and stealing from the farmers, then this board will protect the farmers and give them 80 or 90 per cent of the profit that is accrued from those sales.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr. M. Kariuki:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to support the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. At the outset, I would like to say that for the NARC Government, in its attempt to turn the economy around, the tall order lies with the Ministry of Agriculture. Our strategy for poverty eradication all turns around this Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would only like to say that, perhaps, the first line of defence for the Minister, in terms of reviving the economy, might have to start at the legislative level. I see the Minister is quite alive to the fact that we need a new legal framework. If one were to look at the relevant law on agriculture, you would probably find it in about 30 pieces of legislation. I think that it is important to have a comprehensive legal framework regulating agriculture so that it is much easier to refer to the law and we know how we can move forward. We also need, in my observation, to have a second law 40 years after Independence. We need a Sessional Paper on agriculture because much has taken place in the world today, the world of globalization and international trade. We need to have a Sessional Paper to spell the way forward for this nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, three months ago, I was amazed to read about a country called Thailand. The farmers and the Government were celebrating disengagement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It was an interesting story to read why a country had to celebrate its disengagement with these international financial institutions. It is very crucial. Sometimes, when I watch on the television and I see riots taking place in Cancun and Doha, I wonder how many of our farmers are alive to the fact that the struggle out there is not about the Western farmer. The struggle out there is that those who are rioting and going on strike are pleading for the poor African farmer or the developing country farmer.

There is a new outlet today in the international trade through the name of World Trade Organization (WTO) to colonise the developing countries afresh. I think that our farmers should also be alive to this. It is not that we are lazy. We probably work longest. We work many hours to struggle with life, to try and produce and earn a livelihood, but we remain poor because we do not control the prices of our commodities. They are regulated by forces beyond us. I think it is time also we had a Sessional Paper on this, whether our Government can continue to negotiate and bind this country about the WTO and other related organizations without reference to Parliament, which has to approve the decisions that they have to make. Thailand realised rather belatedly that as long as you are doing business with the World Bank and the IMF, you must play to their tune. They engaged themselves with IMF in 1997 and they were asked to enact 21 pieces of legislation to bind themselves to the terms and conditions. The celebrations in July this year were, when Parliament revoked those pieces of legislation, they were able to pay up their loans and said, never again are we going to engage ourselves in a situation where we do not have the freedom of contract to get money to produce for ourselves.

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

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

So, it is ironical that at this point in time of our economy, we are very busy negotiating with the World Bank. We are going to where others are coming from. Where others have seen the danger, we are trying to endear ourselves to these international institutions without realising the danger ahead that we are going to enslave ourselves and our farmers will remain poor for a long time to come. It is time we re-think and re-examine our strategy towards the WTO and other related organizations that lend money and engage in trade.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about food strategy. But let me say

there is nothing more important to a country than to be self-sufficient in food. You can have an army of one million soldiers but as long as you are not self-sufficient in food, you are a very weak nation. I think the American nation realises this and anyone visiting America would see the flow of food in a supermarket, the strategic reserve that they keep for a long time. To be a superpower, you have to be superpower in your ability to produce food and be self-sufficient. To be respected today as a nation among the community of nations, we should be self-sufficient in food.

It is disturbing to learn that we are now looking forward to importing three million bags of maize because of the shortfall. It is my view that if the prices of maize were raised to a reasonable level of about Kshs1,800 per bag, we would be able to meet the shortfall. A farmer considers the opportunity cost and says, "I cannot produce maize any more because it is a loss. All I have to do is produce maize for my subsistence." But if he gets some incentive to realise that he can make a livelihood out of an enhanced price of maize, I am sure many farmers will be able to produce much more than they are producing today. We have to stabilise the prices of maize because it is an essential crop. If we can raise the price to that reasonable margin, we will be able to meet the shortfall without having to import.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while we are still on this area of legal framework, I was disturbed the other day when the Minister appointed the Board of Directors of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya. I have closely looked at the Act and there are six slots that are supposed to be filled by the pyrethrum growers themselves. They are supposed to elect representatives to the Board. We are in an era where we are talking about improved governance in the management of our public affairs. Nakuru District produces about 50 per cent of the pyrethrum in the whole country. It is very unfortunate that the farmers were never given an opportunity to elect their representatives to the Board. I hope that in the fullness of time, the Minister will see the need to engage farmers in elections so that they can pick, of the six slots, people who should represent them in the Board. But a situation where the Government imposes directors, I think, is an era gone.

While we talk about a new legal framework, one might have to think about the legislation dealing with statutory management; that in statutory bodies, the Government has to pick chief executives, which is in conflict with other statutes. I think it is time we empowered the stakeholders, whether in production of whatever crop, for the farmers and the growers to elect their representatives in the respective boards. That is the only way they can ensure that their interests are protected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that now, we have an increasing trend where agricultural areas are being subdivided without any control. We are running into a danger where we shall be unable to produce anything other than for subsistence. It is time the Government put in place control mechanisms to ensure that there are no unnecessary subdivisions of agricultural land. In other countries, they have a minimum. They have put a minimum of about three or five acres to ensure that you cannot subdivide three acres to lesser pieces of land. We shall guarantee ourselves a reliable source of subsistence or production of our crops. That is a legislation that requires to be looked into.

In terms of competitiveness, you will find that despite the research that comes out of our research stations, very little gets to the farmer. I do hope that with the re-introduction of extension workers, as the Minister proposes, expertise from the research stations will now reach the farmers, so that they could utilise the latest farming technology. As things stand now, so much has happened and the farmers have no access to the benefit of that research. I hope and support the re-introduction of extension workers, so that we can be able to access research work.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Wario:** Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii ili niweze kuchangia Hoja iliyo mbele yetu. Nasimama kuunga mkono Hoja hii kwa sababu kilimo ndicho uti wa mgongo wa uchumi wa nchi yetu. Uchumi wa nchi hii unategemea kilimo. Kilimo hutoa chakula kwa

idadi kubwa ya jamii maskini katika nchi hii. Kilimo hutoa nafasi nyingi zaidi za uajiri katika nchi hii. Hizo ndizo baadhi ya sababu zilizotishurutisha kuunga mkono Hoja hii.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, natumai nyote mnashuhudia upande niliyosimama. Nina wajibu mkubwa wa kukosoa Serikali ikiwa mambo hayaendi sawa. Fikra za wataalamu na Wizara inayohusika zinalenga zaidi mashamba makubwa katika nchi hii. Haziangalii mashamba madogo madogo. Wakati tunapozungumzia umaskini katika nchi, ni lazima tujue jinsi ya kutatua tatizo hilo. Lazima tulenge mashamba madogo madogo ili watu waweze kujimudu kwa chakula.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, natoka katika sehemu yenye mito mikubwa katika nchi ya Kenya. Mito hiyo inaguzwa sehemu mbili za wilaya ninayotoka. Lakini juhudi na sera za Serikali zinalenga mashamba makubwa na kusahau mashamba madogo madogo. Hali hiyo imezidisha kiwango cha umaskini katika sehemu ninayotoka. Naomba Waziri anayehusika alenge mashamba madogo madogo ili utoaji wa chakula uwe sawa.

Mhe. Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, singependa kuyasahau mashamba makubwa pia. Kwenye sehemu ninayotoka kuna miradi mikubwa ya kilimo kama vile Bura Irrigation Settlement Project na Hola Irrigational Settlement Project. Miradi hii miwili ndiyo iliyokuwa tegemeo la wakaaji wa sehemu ninayotoka. Kuna mito, ardhi na hata wakulima, lakini yale mashamba tuliyokuwa tukiyategemea katika wilaya hiyo, leo ni kama picha tu. Sijui ni miaka mingapi ambayo hatujaweza kuvuna pamba. Mara nyingi nimepata fursa na nimezungumza katika Bunge hili. Ingawa kuna juhudi inayoonekana sasa, bado sijasikia ni kiwango gani cha pesa kimetengwa kuhusiana na ufufuzi wa miradi ya Bura na Hola. Tusipofufua miradi hii, ni nini tutategemea kutoka kwa Serikali hii kuhusiana na kupunguzwa kwa umasikini unaowakumba watu wetu?

Ningependa kumkumbusha Waziri anayehusika kwamba hivi maajuzi, pesa fulani zilitolewa kwa Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). Sikitiko langu ni kwamba hakuna hata hela moja iliyokwenda kwa sehemu kame katika nchi ya Kenya. Pia sisi tuna ofisi za AFC, ingawa ofisi hizo hazikalengeni wakulima wa mimea bali wakulima wa mifugo. Sasa, zile pesa zilizotolewa zimeenda kwa ukulima wa mimea. Siku ile tulipolifungua Bunge hili Rais wa taifa alizungumza kwa ufasaha kuhusu jinsi ya kuboresha hali katika sehemu kame nchini. Rais anapozungumza hivyo na wakati pesa zinapogawanywa hamna hata sumni inayokwenda kwa hizo sehemu kame, mimi hushangaa. Je, maneno ya Rais yanalenga wapi?

Kwa hivyo, ombi langu kwa waziri anayehusika ni kwamba pesa za AFC zinapogawanywa, zilenge sehemu kame. Hii ni kwa sababu tuna mifugo, ambayo ni changio kubwa kwa uchumi wa nchi. Tusipoboresha uzalishaji wa mifugo, basi mategemeo yetu katika maisha hayatafikiwa.

Ningependa kumjulisha Waziri kwamba sehemu kame ni sehemu zinazokumbwa na majanga ya kiasli mara kwa mara, yakiwemo mafuriko, maradhi ya mifugo na majanga mengine ya aina mbali mbali. Hali hii imewadhoofisha wakulima wengi. Katika hali kama hii, ningependa yale mashamba yanayodaiwa na AFC yasamehewe mikopo.

Nimefurahia Waziri alipotenga kiasi kikubwa cha pesa kwa sababu ya utafiti. Ninatoka katika wilaya ambapo fungu la maembe hunuliwa kwa peni. Miembe haiwezi kuwanufaisha watu wa Tana River kwa sababu hakuna utafiti uliofanyiwa mmea huu. Ningemwomba Waziri aunyooshee mkono mmea huu, ambao unaleta pato kubwa kwa nchi hii, ufanyiwe utafiti ili tuweze kulenga masoko ya nje.

Ningependa kugusia huduma ya nyanjani. Hii ni huduma kubwa katika uzalishaji wa mimea katika nchi. Lakini, leo huduma hii haipo. Tunaonyeshwa tu mfano wake. Huduma hii haipo tena. Wafanyikazi waliokuwepo zamani katika tarafa nzima leo wana mwakilishi mmoja pekee, ingawa tarafa inaweza kuwa na kata mbili au tatu. Yule mwakilishi yuko pale na hana vifaa vinavyomwezesha kuifanya kazi yake. Hana gari wala pikipiki. Divisional Agricultural Officer anafanya kazi gani ikiwa hana kifaa chochote?

*(Applause)*



Sisi tunachezewa shere tu. Tuna ofisa katika ofisi ya Serikali. Ofisi ni kubwa lakini haina kazi. Sehemu anayohudumiwa ofisa mmoja inaweza kuwa zaidi ya kilometa 20 kutoka ile ofisi yake. Atakwenda huko kwa njia gani, au atahudumia mashamba mangapi? Hizi ni huduma picha tu! Ningemwomba Waziri aingilie kati ili atuwezeshe sisi kupata manufaa kutokana na huduma za nyanjani. Ijapokuwa maofisa hawa ni wachache, kama wangukuwa na vifaa ambavyo vingewawezesha kufanya kazi yao, bila shaka, uzalishaji katika nchi hii ungeimarika. Jinsi mambo yalivyo kwa sasa, yanasikitisha. Hali si kama ilivyo hapa Nairobi. Kule mashinani, kuna masikitiko makubwa. Kwa hivyo, ninamwomba Waziri azingatie maslahi ya watu katika sehemu za mashinani ili waweze kufanya kazi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nikitamatisa mchango wangu kwa Hoja hii, ningependa kumfahamisha Waziri kwamba ufisadi umetanda katika kiwango cha mashinani. Nimeeleza kwamba maofisa wa kilimo nyanjani hawana vifaa. Hata hivyo, ukitaka ofisa wa kilimo akutembelee shambani kwako ili akupe ushauri fulani, ni lazima umpe hongo. Usipofanya hivyo, hatakutembelea shambani kwako. Sisi tuko hapa kwa ajili ya wananchi waliotuteua. Kila kuchwapo, wananchi hawa hutaka kujua tumewafanyia kazi kwa namna gani. Kwa hivyo, ningependa Waziri aboreshe huduma hiyo kwa kuingilia kati na kukomesha ufisadi mkubwa unaoendelea.

Mwisho kabisa, ningependa kulifahamisha Bunge hili kwamba, ninazungumza nikiwa na wasiwasi mkubwa, kwa sababu wakati Waziri wa Fedha alipowakilisha Makadirio ya Mapato na Matumizi ya Serikali, hakukuweco na Wizara ya Mifugo. Waziri wa Kilimo alipokuwa akianzisha Hoja, nilipitia karibu naye na kumuuliza kuhusu maslahi ya sekta ya ufugaji, na akaniambia: "Usiwe na wasiwasi; imetengewa fedha katika bajeti ya Wizara ya Kilimo." Lakini, nilishangaa baadaye kumsikia akisema kwamba sekta ya ufugaji imetengewa fedha katika Wizara ya Mifugo. Kwa hivyo, sina mwongozo kamili kuhusu swala hili. Kwa hivyo, ningependa kujua iwapo fedha zinazotegemewa na Wizara ya Mifugo ni zile zilizotengwa katika bajeti ya Wizara ya Kilimo ama Wizara hiyo ina bajeti yake.

Ahsante, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. **Dr. Kibunguchy:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to join my colleagues in expressing my disappointment with regard to the amount of money that has been set aside for this very important Ministry.

Having said that, I would like to add my voice in saying that, considering that Kenya is basically an agricultural country, time has come for the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce a number of things that are going to be of benefit to our farmers. In this regard, I am thinking about the following.

Rather than relying on our primary agricultural crops, we should now set up micro agro-based industries or factories, even in the rural areas, so as to add value to whatever we produce. Also, time has come for us to take the bold step of stopping the importation of whatever is produced in this country. In this regard, I am thinking about maize, sugar, wheat and milk. If we can stop the importation of these things and pay our farmers well enough, we can produce enough for ourselves and have surplus for exportation. So, time has come for us to take that bold step rather than every year, moving back and forth and saying that we cannot do that because we have the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) or whatever.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order for us to be competitive on the world market, maybe, we should also introduce subsidy to our farmers. In this regard, I am looking at the price Kshs1,010 per bag of maize that the Minister has announced will be going to our farmers. I am saying that, that is not good enough for our maize farmers. We should appreciate the amount of work involved in maize production. Although the Kshs1,010 price announced by the Minister is slightly better than the previous figure, it is still not good enough.

I would also like the Minister to announce the prices at which the Government will be buying

maize, wheat, *et cetera*, at the beginning of the planting season, so that the farmer can decide whether to plant wheat or maize, depending on the prices of these commodities. Let us not wait until the farmer has toiled away and then when it reaches the time of harvesting, we announce a figure like this one. If the prices of the commodities were announced at the beginning of the planting season, maybe, some farmers could have opted to plant wheat rather than maize. So, I would like to ask the Minister to be announcing the prices for these commodities at the beginning of the planting season.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) needs to re-establish the cereals buying centres that used to be at all the small markets in the rural areas. I remember that as I was growing up, we used to sell our maize at the nearest market place. So, we need to re-establish these buying centres in order to eliminate the middlemen we are always worried about. We also used to have measurements which were very clear, and which would be checked at the beginning of the buying season. Right now, we have a measure which is very arbitrary. In my Constituency, we call it *gorogoro*. But what is *gorogoro*? Is it standardised or our farmers are ripped off their produce? I think we need to revert to the previous measure, which was standardised by the Ministry.

I would also like to talk about what we call "strategic food reserves". In this country, we have a system which is like a *yoyo*. When the production of maize is very high, its price falls to a very low level. When the production is very low, we start importing maize. I think the Ministry and, by extension, the Government, needs to be very serious, so that we improve our strategic food reserves. We should aim at having enough strategic reserves to last as long as ten years, in case of crop failure for that long; just like it happens in other countries. This idea of keeping strategic reserves that cannot last us for even one year is not good enough. So, I would like to ask the Minister to look into this issue very seriously.

Finally, I would like to talk about the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). The change of management at the AFC and the newly adopted lending rates are welcome.

*(A mobile phone rang)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Somebody's mobile phone has rung. Whose is it? The particular hon. Member is seated on the Government side. Could he own up?

Hon. Members are supposed to be trustworthy. Somebody's phone on the Government side rang. I would like that hon. Member to own up!

**Mr. G.G. Kariuki**: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was my phone.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. G.G. Kariuki, you had better switch off your phone.

**Mr. G.G. Kariuki**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I forgot to switch it off as I entered into the Chamber.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): I will forgive you. Proceed, Dr. Kibunguchy.

**Dr. Kibunguchy**: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember that when there was a change of management at the AFC last time, the Minister was heard by everybody saying that the previous management would refund the money it had looted from the Corporation. I think the figure stood at KShs4 billion. He said that the previous chief executive of the AFC should refund that money. So, I would like the Minister to be very clear and tell us how much money has been refunded so far and explain to Kenyans what he will do if the particular former chief executive does not refund that money.

The farmer is being pursued day and night to repay the AFC loans but, we are not being told what is being done about the previous management, which squandered this money. Other people who

engaged in corruption were taken to court and prosecuted. Why has the previous chief executive been left to go scot-free and only asked to re-pay the money he had looted? How much money has he repaid so far? What is going to happen if he does not repay? Is he repaying with interest or he is just repaying the money that was looted? We want the Minister to come out very clearly! Otherwise, we will say that this Government, which I belong to, is applying double standards to what is going on.

I would also like the Minister to explain to this country what happened to the Kenya Seed Company. Some years back, we knew that the Kenya Seed Company was a subsidiary of the Government, and the Government had controlling shares in it. I remember that the present Chief Executive of the company is the most hated by farmers from my area. During our campaigns, we promised that if we took over the Government, he was going to be fired! But as we sit here, that Chief Executive is still in that office and I am made to understand that he is even getting stronger. We would like the Minister to tell us what happened to the shares and, if possible, whether they could be reverted back to the Government?

Finally, I think time has come for the Government to own up to the fact that the responsibility of marketing crops in this country lies squarely with it. Being an agricultural country, we should do away with liberalisation in the agricultural sector. As a Government, I am sure we can do that. Just imagine a farmer who produces two or ten bags of maize and is sent to the open market, or *soko huru* as it is called in my place. How is that farmer going to market the ten bags of maize? Is he not going to fall prey to the middle men who are all over the market?

The Ministry needs to be cognisant of the fact that we cannot rely on liberalisation because of the way our farmers produce crops. The Government needs to come in strongly--- There, I see the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) playing a very crucial role in advising the farmers in whatever they do.

With those few remarks, I beg support.

**Mr. Maore:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Vote. There is something just as a by-the-way! We had the Kirwa Committee which proposed that we have live coverage of the proceedings of this House. This is a very important Vote and if the public knew the number of Members in this House, they would be shocked!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Maore, what do you mean?

**Mr. Maore:** I mean that, if we had live coverage, we would be having many Members in this House representing the interests of the public on this important Vote.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): And so what?

**Mr. Maore:** We need the live coverage quickly, so that Members could be here, and the public can see what they are doing.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Khamasi): Please, proceed!

**Mr. Maore:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture contributes immensely to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of this country's economy and we need enhanced attention from the Ministry so that we can be able to move forward into industrialisation as projected in the Strategy for Renewed Growth Policy Paper that was launched some time in July.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need the Minister to put in a specific timetable when we can call on all the donors who had pulled out ten years ago during the period of economic embargo, these include USAID, NORAD, CIDA and all the others so that we can have a specific period when they can support us because we do not want to be dependent on foreign countries or donations to sustain a key industry like agriculture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also want to take note of the other institutions that were mentioned by President Bush three days ago when our President was in Washington and specifically the agricultural sector. When we need to import equipment whether it is for processing agricultural produce or whatever, it will be easier because all of us heard the President saying:- "I am

expecting the institutions to have taken note of the changes in Kenya." So, we would also welcome the positive note of that nature.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, pre-1963 Kenya was a colonial Kenya. It was a colony primarily because it was meant to produce raw materials for the industries of Her Majesty the Queen and His Majesty the King before her. After 40 years of Independence, we should be focusing on finished products and how to add value to our produce. Coffee should not be exported in its raw form. The same applies to hides and skins, cashewnuts, macadamia and other products. It is only flowers, fruits and vegetables which we should be exporting in their raw form because they are supposed to be fresh on the table. However, when you export coffee to Germany and the US where it is blended, nobody can say it is Kenyan coffee on the table the way the Colombian coffee, for example, is popular because its marketing and processing is superior. If the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture teamed up together, they would encourage investors who would open up those kind of industries to make sure we export finished products and not to become raw material resource for England and Germany, 40 years after Independence.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like the Minister and his officers to get out of their offices and start looking for the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) land that was dished out as political gifts. We want to hear the Minister calling in the surveyors and the Minister for Lands and Settlement going and repossessing the land for research. We will need this land 2,000 years from now to feed the country's population. We should not forget what Jesus said about the poor. If you want to dish out KARI land to friends as a way of eliminating poverty among you, remember what Jesus said: "The poor will always be with us." So, we should not forget that any time we will always need the land for research and the poor will always be with us. We can never get enough. So, the Minister for Agriculture needs to go and do rounds starting with Limuru, Kitale and the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) farms and repossess them for posterity because politicians come and go the way you have seen it in the last 12 months. It is very easy to change a regime, but people and the country will always be there. So, we want to plead with the Minister to wear some gum boots or some nice rough jacket and walk around the countryside and reclaim these stolen lands.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue that we should emphasise on is the issue of research and the extension services. If you go to some of our supermarkets, you will find agricultural products from Israel and we should be ashamed of importing agricultural produce from Israel. We should be exporting things to Israel, Cyprus and to other countries that are in the Middle East and not us actually importing from there. So, we need to use the reports done by our agricultural departments in the universities and agricultural professionals in the Ministry instead of allowing those reports to gather dust in the shelves because as many of my predecessors have said, you will find agricultural officers or the extension officers actually idle in the field and loitering in the urban areas instead of visiting farms and advising farmers because they are not being facilitated to do their work. If they are facilitated they are not being supervised. So, we need to have clear-cut intentions by the Ministry to re-awaken the giant called Kenya agriculturally. It cannot be re-awakened by complacency, laziness and politics. It can be re-awakened by research and extension services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue that I would like to urge the Minister to

check on is some politics in the coffee sector. The coffee cartels need to be dismantled. If we do not do it, it will be very sad for this country and for that industry. They are there. They are known. They are our friends. We should be able to face them and tell them to get lost so that we can be able to save the coffee industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue that we should be very careful about is the issue of dumping of agricultural produce into our markets. Europe, US and Japan, are the biggest advocates of free markets and liberal economies, but they selfishly protect their industries without any reservations. Let anybody try to export cotton or tea to India and he will see what will happen to them. Let anybody try to freely export cotton, tea or anything to Europe without proper specifications, he will find a problem there. So, we appeal to the Minister to liaise with the other agencies in the Government to make sure that we restrict the importation of agricultural produce into our markets so that we do not kill our industries. We had a problem with the sisal industry in the 1980s when some crazy characters decided to go and import gunny bags and we had to close our own cottage industries in Thika.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, lastly, I would like to talk about this Nyayo Tea Zones Project. Originally, it was meant as a barrier from encroaching on the forests. Its intention was that people who live near the forests are going to be good citizens and they would go and re-plant trees or do the reforestation. We would wish the Minister for Agriculture to plead with the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife to take back the Nyayo Tea Zones to forests. We will need the forest many thousands of years to come. We do not need the tea from those forests.

*(Applause)*

With those points, I wish to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife** (Prof. Maathai): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to strongly support this Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture which, in its operation, is very closely related to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife. I am unlikely to say anything that has not been said by my hon. colleagues now or in the past, but it is important for us to emphasise these points to the Minister in the hope that they will be addressed.

I want to mention something about poor governance, especially in the management of co-operatives. This is an issue that is well known and it has done a lot of disservice to our people, especially in the coffee, tea and dairy industries. We know that the same poor governance which has facilitated and promoted corruption has been largely responsible for the impoverishment of our people whereby a few people have enriched themselves at the expense of poor farmers. I know that the Minister is addressing this issue and we want to encourage him, as others have urged him, to really deal with this issue so that we can improve the economy of our people by putting money into their pockets.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although, sometimes we talk about the low production of our farms, we know that, as others have said, that our people work very hard. They wake up early in the morning, work all day long and go to bed late in the night. When you look at the rural folk, you will see how hard they work. Sometimes they are overworked and underfed yet they do not get anything for their labour. We need to help them. It is not just due to the weather, it is also due to soil degradation, poor extension services and lack of reward for the hard work they do.

I would like to call upon the Minister to, really for once, take care of the riparian reserves. In this country it is virtually impossible to see a river whose river bank has not been cultivated all the way down to the water. On Monday I passed over the Tana River bridge when I was going to Nyeri. I could not help, but stop to watch the soil being washed away because farmers are literally cultivating

near the river. We must stop this once and for all. The rivers are given a certain allowance of land on either side. This must be covered with trees and vegetation and protect them from the constant erosion. Down the road we are going to discuss the Vote for the Ministry of Energy and we shall be talking about the silting of our dams. This results directly from encroachment onto the riverine. So, our rivers need to be protected. But this cannot happen without the extension services and even the help of our chiefs, who used to have powers to stop people from cultivating close to the river-bed. Now, it seems like everyone abandoned that service and the rivers are left at the mercy of people who cultivate the riverine.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to encourage the Minister to improve roads. There are some areas where crops are planted, but farmers do not access the market yet on the other side there are people who are starving. I am particularly thinking about the Nyeri and Kinangop areas. Kinangop farmers produce a lot of food while Nyeri people do not because they have invested heavily in cash crops and yet the food in Kinangop goes to waste. All we need is a murrum road connecting Nyeri and Kinangop because that would open up a big market for the people of Kinangop so that they can be encouraged to continue producing more food.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of soil erosion that takes place along the rivers, and quite often it is directed to farms. Many farmers suffer as a result of this. There ought to be a co-ordination between my Ministry, the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development and the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing in order to control the flow of water along the roads. The man-made rivers along the highways sometimes sweep off people and fields and create huge gulleys, sometimes even cutting through the tarmac. This causes a lot of damage to the land downstream. We really need to do very little to manage this flow of water, if the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development, and the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife.

I do not need to emphasize the importance of genetic engineering and Genetically Manufactured Organisms (GMOs). This has already been mentioned before. I would only say that it is very important for us as we embrace genetic engineering to protect our people. I have never really been against GMOs, but I have always said that our people have too often been used as guinea pigs. People would give us GMOs in the form of food aid, yet they themselves would not give the same food to their own people. If the Government can assure us, especially through this Ministry, that our people would not be used as guinea pigs, then we cannot but embrace GMOs because it is a form of advanced technology and nobody can be against the technology.

I also want to address myself to agro-chemicals. We need to prepare ourselves for organic farming, especially for food that we export, be it cash crops or horticulture. We are quickly moving into areas where we need organic farming. Very soon we might be unable to access some markets that are not interested in agro-chemicals. This is already being felt in the flower market, in horticulture, and in some areas, in tea and coffee markets. This is especially so in the coffee market. Some people are already very conscious of the fact that sometimes we use agro-chemicals that are banned in other countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the Minister for Agriculture to look into the possibility of utilizing the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) for tree growing. We ought to develop trees as cash crops. We also ought to develop the capacity to develop tree plantations, especially of exotic species in our ASALs so that our people can become tree farmers in areas where they cannot grow crops. This will encourage people to get out of forests. People have been trained to believe that you can only grow these trees in the forests. Personally, I really do not think that we can have our tree plantations, especially of the exotic species, and at the same time protect the water catchment areas. Therefore, between the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Natural

Resources and Wildlife and the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development, we really need to be innovative and encourage our people especially those who live in the forests and those who are landless to become tree farmers. It is a good investment and I am quite sure that if it is encouraged it can help engage a lot of our people who otherwise think that they have no land to cultivate just because they cannot grow maize or potatoes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to pay attention to the fact that in this country more than 80 per cent of our people's livelihoods depend on agriculture. Because of this, we need to pay attention to our land and to all aspects of this Ministry. Even though 80 per cent of our people's livelihoods depend on land and they practise agriculture, 66 per cent of them are so poor that they earn less than a dollar a day. That means that we are really not making much use of this land. We farm, but farming is not making us rich. But we also know that this country is extremely rich. It is just that the resources that are available to us are not being utilized for the benefit of our people. So, I would like to call upon the Minister to look for ways and means of helping our indigenous people to benefit from agriculture, and to put money into their hands.

With these few words I beg to support.

**Ms. Mbarire:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute and support this very important Motion. For me, agriculture is very critical because I am a beneficiary of having been educated through coffee proceeds. Therefore, agriculture is very critical for the people back home where I come from. Right now, they are unable to pay school fees because cash cropping is no longer profitable like it used to be. I would want to see many other children educated through cash cropping like I was. I want to say that one of the biggest problems that we have in our agricultural sector is the fact that the Government has not looked into ways of ensuring that there is proper governance of the agricultural institutions. In the past, we have witnessed people taking advantage of the farmers and not paying them for their labour. We have seen a lot of corruption in agricultural institutions and nothing is being done about it.

It was a most welcome idea for the Government to write-off the loans owed by farmers to the AFC, but I think we are likely to find ourselves in the same problem if we do not deal with governance and the running of the agricultural institutions. One of the ways of improving that is to ensure that farmers have a say in the way the agricultural institutions are run. We need to see more farmers getting involved directly in policy making decisions, by electing directors who have a say in the way the institutions are run or in whatever policy decisions are made within the institutions. We should borrow a leaf from the tea sector. Since tea farmers started electing their own directors, they now have a sense of ownership over the institutions within the tea sector. The other major problem is inefficiency. There have not been proper and effective ways of running the institutions, and farmers are not even aware of the Act that guides the running of the institutions. We need to make the farmers more aware and do away with the ignorance around the laws that guide the running of the agricultural institutions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other major problem within our institutions has to do with farm inputs. Right now, the prices of our farm inputs are too high for the farmer to afford. When farmers get the farm inputs, even on credit, they pay heavily for them. We need to find out how we can subsidize farm inputs for the farmers, so that their produce can compete effectively with produce from other countries. One of the things we need to ask ourselves is why eggs imported all the way from South Africa are cheaper than our locally produced eggs. What is it that the South Africans have done that we cannot do? Is it our infrastructure? Is it subsidies that we have not taken care of, so that the farmer benefits? Why do we not even try to protect the farmers from competition with products from other countries that are cheaper? Even at that cheap price, farmers in other countries still make immense profits. We need to ask ourselves where we have gone wrong. Are our policies and priorities right? Why do we even allow such products to be imported into our country? I understand the World Trade Organisation factors, but we also need to understand that, first of all, we are a country before

we even get into the region or even go further to the world. We need to do that which other countries have done to support our farmers.

The other problem has to do with the marketing of the farm inputs. One of the biggest problems we have right now is that we have not empowered the farmer to be able to determine the markets of their outputs. For example, in the coffee sector, we have so many middle men who go for the auction, sell the coffee and the farmer will never know at what price they sold that coffee. Secondly, we know that some of them are not very straight forward traders. They go and mix different grades of coffee and by the time it gets to the world market, it is a poorer quality coffee. We need to empower the farmers, so that they can sell their coffee directly to the market; where they get the highest price. We should not have the middle men who are there to only use the farmer and nothing comes back in return for the farmer.

The other thing that we need to look into is the agricultural extension services. Our extension services have not been up to date. One of the problems is that we have a large number of extension workers, who are not aware of exactly what they are supposed to do. We do not see them working. There is no regular capacity building of the extension workers to improve the technologies they knew of ten years ago and bring in new ones. You will find that the technology the extension workers learnt in college many years ago are the same ones they keeping selling to the farmers year in, year out. At the end of the day, farmers do not benefit from new technologies. We need to ensure that there is regular capacity building and retraining of the extension workers. There should also be some form of policing to ensure that they are actually doing what they are supposed to be doing. They should not just think that farmers are men only just because they are the ones who own the land. Extension services must reach the women because we know that 80 per cent of the agricultural labour is provided by women. They plant, weed and harvest, and at the end of the day, it is the men who are called for training by the extension workers. They are the ones who go for the barazas. We need to change our policies, so that they are more gender sensitive. Our extension services should look into the gender disparity that is there. If you do not target women in the extension services, and yet they are the ones who provide labour, then you are wasting time. The Minister for Agriculture needs to look into the gender aspect of our farm extension services.

Further, I want to talk about research. There can never be growth in the agricultural sector if there are not enough resources and a lot of effort put into research. At the moment, the same quality of seed that was there ten years ago is the same one that we are planting up to now. There is not much effort in terms of research. That is why we do not have better quality seeds. Farmers buy seeds which do not bear fruits at all. We need to find out what exactly the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) is doing. How much effort is being put to ensure that there is a lot of work going on within KARI that can help the farmer? We should also find out how the research, in return, benefits the farmer. Is there a clear top/bottom approach, to ensure that the information eventually reaches the farmer? That is why research and extension services cannot be separated. They go hand in hand. We need to ensure that more effort is put towards research and there are new products that we can now talk about. If coffee prices in the world market go down, what alternative are we giving to our farmers? Are we saying that Kenya cannot, for example, plant vanilla, like it is the case in Uganda, which is right now a success story all over the world? Farmers in Uganda are now selling vanilla at Kshs4,000 per kilogramme. That is how useful the plant is. Is it that we cannot do the same here in Kenya, or we just think that coffee, tea and cotton is all there is for Kenya? I have also heard a fellow hon. Member talk about Aloe Vera. Why are we not planting it here in Kenya? Why is it that we want to be so conservative, that we want to continue planting the same crops over and over again and never want to look into new areas where we can start moving on?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to also address the whole issue of access to credit facilities to farmers. The savings and credit co-operative societies back home give credit to



farmers at very high interest rates. First of all, my concern is; where do they get this money that they lend to farmers at such a high interest? Who controls that interest rate? How do they determine it? For example, tea farmers in my district have access to credit facilities, but, at the end of the year, all the money they earn is taken away again to pay loans. Therefore, theirs is a vicious cycle of poverty where they borrow and pay loans. They do have enough money to save.

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

**Mr. Obwocha:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make very brief comments about this very important Ministry. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the team that went to Cancun, Mexico, particularly the team from the Ministry of Agriculture. Our voice in Cancun and in the World Trade Organization (WTO), is that we would like to see our agricultural produce bought at prices that our farmers will enjoy. This country must continue seeking for better prices from the world markets. We must insist that we add value to our agricultural products, particularly tea, coffee and sugar. If you consider tea, for example, at the auction market in Mombasa, we are paid US\$1.5, equivalent to about UK£0.5 per kilogramme. That is what the farmer gets from that auction. One kilogramme of tea in the United Kingdom (UK) is sold at £18. What kind of pricing is that?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, the total world production of coffee fetched about US\$70 billion. Can you imagine that, out of that US\$70 billion, farmers in the whole world got only US\$5 billion. The rest of the US\$65 billion went to its processing and the middleman. When will our farmers get fair prices if that kind of percentage is given to these middlemen and processing facilities?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country must continue to say in the world organizations that, subsidies that are given to farmers must be wiped out. In the dairy industry in France, a cow is allocated US\$6 per day. It can as well stay at the Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of sugar, we have been told a lot about competition. I would like you to take note of these figures.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Australia produces sugar at US cents 11 per tonne because of domestic support. Brazil produces at US\$6, and Sudan US\$27 while Kenya produces at US\$400 per tonne. Now, how can you compete effectively with that kind of support that is being given by other countries to their farmers *vis-a-vis* what our farmers are incurring in producing sugar? It is outrageous. So, the technical staff in this Ministry must zero-in on World Trade Organization (WTO). We understand there is a follow-up meeting that is going to be in Geneva. We would like the Ministry to follow up that issue. I do not want to belabour on this issue, I think we are on the right track and we would like the Ministry to take it up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about tea, because this is the crop that is grown in my constituency. Now, liberalization came and it has been mismanaged. We need to rethink how we proceed from here. I would like to ask the Ministry of Agriculture not to sleep. They should take up their advisory role. We went to Kibirigo Tea Factory, the other day for an annual general meeting which aborted. The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) promised that they were going to call an extra-ordinary general meeting in August but as I am talking now, KTDA has not called that extra-ordinary general meeting for the farmers to confirm their accounts and elect new directors. Now, what is the supervisory role of the Ministry if KTDA can run down our factories? The guidelines that are supposed to be given to new factories like Rianjore Tea Factory have not been adhered to, and yet the Ministry is supposed to be checking this. We are running down our own agricultural sector. The Ministry should take up these issues and supervise the parastatals that are under their Ministry to be run properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya has not paid farmers up to now. They have been saying: "Look, let us come together as farmers and elect our directors in this

manner". The Minister should bring up legislation to streamline the provisions in the Pyrethrum Board Act, so that the farmers can elect their own directors. I know the Minister has already suspended or sacked the Managing Director of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya, but what kind of stock do they have? Now, why is the Minister not asking them what marketing provisions they have provided or come up with as a board, so that farmers can get their money?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is competent and that is why we are telling him to tell those officers what is happening in the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya, the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Coffee Board of Kenya. These are parastatals which are all under his Ministry. This sector is the survival of our people in this country, and unless we do that, we are going to collapse.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in that area where I come from, I have talked about the rehabilitation of the tea industry, but we also need the rehabilitation of the coffee industry. The rural electrification programmes that were supposed to be undertaken in that area should be checked. We need a new passion fruit industry. We need to develop a processing industry in that area for bananas. These are the raw materials that we have, that we should use as a country to produce juices and so on. We really want the Ministry to do something about it. There was even a horticultural industry that was supposed to come up in Nyamakoroto in Kitutu Masaba. It had been approved, but up to now, there is no follow up. Let us find out what is happening.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude my contribution by saying the following: That this country cannot grow or progress unless the Ministry of Agriculture is strengthened. The Ministry of Agriculture should find out where the previous Government went wrong. We want to correct the mistakes of the previous Government. For example, the Minister said that he is going to re-open the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). We do not want to see animals being transported from North Eastern Province all through to Athi River, because you will not have solved the problem. By the time they reach there, those animals will be finished. The Ministry should construct abattoirs in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and so on, so that we can produce products that compete in the World market.

I would also like to request the Minister to streamline the AFC issue. Those loans that Parliament passed should be written off, should be correctly written off, but not for the benefit of those who wanted to evade paying their loans. That issue should be looked into. I believe the new management is a good one. Let them look into this issue so that our farmers can benefit. The Minister should encourage agricultural production in this country.

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

**The Minister for Water Resources Development and Management** (Ms. Karua): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion and to acknowledge the efforts this Ministry is taking to revive the agricultural sector which is vital to our economy.

I listened to the Minister's speech, and it captures most of the issues that are now being raised here. For that reason, I appreciate it even more. Agriculture cannot be successful without water and irrigation. My Ministry will play the complimentary role that it should to support agriculture. Irrigation is now within my Ministry's docket, and we are ready to provide the infrastructure and, farmers will be advised on the suitable crops by the Ministry of Agriculture, and on marketing trends, the Ministry of Co-operative Development will advise them. It is true that as government Ministries we have to work together where our mandates overlap to ensure the success of our programmes. We are ready to play our part. As we play our part, we would like to assure hon. Members that we already have inter-Ministerial committees that are helping to link us in the areas where we overlap.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that we cannot succeed without rainfed agriculture, and we have to depend on irrigation. For that reason, we have plans, and we are liaising with all the other Government agencies to expand our storage capacity throughout the country; to

build dams in the arid and semi arid areas and also to store rain water so that we can turn floods to a resource, instead of being a menace and use this water for irrigation and for other purposes during the dry season. We also, are going to work very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce efficiency in the use of water so that our scarce water resources can be adequate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking from my background, coming from an area where there is demand for irrigation water. Our farmers have resorted to horticultural farming ever since the coffee industry stopped performing well, since the farmers were not getting their dues. Most of the farmers are now paying their childrens' school fees through earnings from horticultural produce.

Those who have not been able to sell their produce, their children are dropping out of school. As a result, there is a high demand for water for irrigation. The water in the rivers is getting less down. As a result, those who are downstream sometimes cannot get water when it is dry season. We therefore need to maximise on the efficiency of use of water to enable the scarce resource reach everybody.

Mr. Temporary Deputy, Speaker, Sir, we will be working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and that of Co-operative Development, to ensure that we introduce modern irrigation methods which use less water. I support those who have called for the streamlining of the farmers' organisations. I listened to my colleague talk of KTDA. I think that the liberalisation of the parastatal has brought the Ministry of Agriculture into a dilemma. In the tea sector, all the tea factories are now companies. That means that the Ministry has no direct control on the operations of the companies. Meetings cannot be called by the Ministry. Those are companies therefore, company law applies. Meetings can only be called by the directors. This is the kind of capacity building that the Ministry of Agriculture must undertake to be able to educate the farmers and create awareness of the role of the companies like who should call for a meeting and how the farmers can question the directors.

When KTDA was a parastatal under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Minister then could remove the top executives when they were not performing. The Minister no longer enjoys that privilege. It is now an executive report to the company board of KTDA. As we know, KTDA is owned by the 53 or so tea companies. Unless we educate our constituents, who are the directors of these companies, to use company law to rein in the bad behaviour of the executives of these companies, they will keep on relying on the Ministry without getting any results. For instance, my colleague who spoke before me asked why KTDA is not calling a meeting. Under company law, KTDA cannot call a meeting of any of the factories. KTDA has a role to manage the factories as an agent. The directors and the shareholders of that company must call a meeting.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is an area where the Ministry of Agriculture and the legislators must sit down and decide on where we can link up to ensure that the Ministry maintains a supervisory role. Our farmers are being fleeced. We also must encourage our farmers to scrutinise the accounts and demand full audit reports from the agencies like KTDA, check where the deductions are coming from and dispute where it is necessary. They should also check on the spending of the directors because this is where we are losing money. It reminds me of the Coffee Board of Kenya which up to-date has not paid farmers some Ksh641 million. As an agent of the farmers, the directors had no business utilising that money for their own purposes or for the purposes of the board. It is regrettable that so far, maybe no action was taken against the former directors who had been appointed by the previous Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to think about it because the farmers are languishing in poverty and the Ministry has now been left with the burden of re-paying farmers money that was squandered by the previous directors. The Ministry of Agriculture has a lot of work to do. I am encouraging them to continue looking into how we can amend the rules that are there to ensure that the Ministry maintains some supervisory role where it can intervene and save farmers the

problems they are going through.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am looking forward to see the Ministry overhaul the Coffee Board of Kenya. Apart from the Ksh641 million they owe to the farmers, they continue to be burdened with awards made through the Courts which are questionable and are going to saddle them with further debts. These suits are through collusion of the employees of the Board. We need to look into these issues to save our farmers and, to make sure that the efforts by the Ministry to revive the agricultural sector do not go to nought.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 9th October, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.