

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

**Tuesday, 14th October, 2003**

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

### CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, as you recall again, today is a Supply Day and, therefore, we will begin with Questions by Private Notice.

## QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

### TORTURE OF MR. SURUT BY SECURITY OFFICERS

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Surut, a charcoal dealer at Bibi wa Saafi, Mombasa, was arrested by security officers on Saturday, 31st May, 2003, and severely tortured before being dumped on Mombasa Road on Monday, 2nd June, 2003, and the matter 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?

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that a Mr. Mohammed Surut, a charcoal dealer at Guraya, Mombasa, reported to the Provincial CID Headquarters, Mombasa, that on 30th May, 2003, at about 2.00 p.m., three people arrested him and interrogated him on the allegation that he was involved in the Paradise Hotel bombing.

(b) Upon receipt of the complaint, the Provincial Criminal Investigations Officer, Coast, opened an inquiry file No.5/2003 and commenced investigations. No suspect has been arrested in connection with the incident.

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will seek the indulgence of the House on this matter because it

is a very important one, just for a minute.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is Question Time, Mr. Billow! The only indulgence I can give you is to ask questions.

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to explain a small background before putting the question. Mr. Surut---

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not debating time; put the question.

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to explain to him that the person who was arrested was subjected to torture, including electric shock, beating, denial of food and access to the toilet. He was held for two days and then dumped along Mombasa

Road. That interrogation was carried out by eight White men at the CID Headquarters. According to the affidavit signed by the person before a lawyer and before the Kenya Human Rights Commission, which I will be happy to table in this House, given that he was interrogated and subjected to that torture by those White men, believed to be FBI agents; under what law are they empowered to interrogate subjects in Kenya? How many FBI agents are in Kenya for that purpose?

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that Mr. Surut was interrogated by White men. But I want to hasten to say that I would be ready to liaise with the hon. Member to ensure that we investigate whether it is true that Mr. Surut was interrogated by White men.

**Mr. M'Mukindia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister saying that he does not know whether FBI agents are operating in this country? If, indeed, they have been used by the Kenyan Government to interrogate Kenyans, could he assure us categorically that no such thing is going on in this country?

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. M'Mukindia, that is a legitimate question. I called you to ask a question. You unlawfully called it a point of order. If it was a point of order, it would fall flat on its face. But it is a legitimate question. Would you answer that?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kenya is an independent country with its machinery of handling security matters. As I said, we shall investigate the allegations brought forward with a view to solving the problem.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! I think the Question raised by Mr. Billow and the concern of the Assistant Minister is something that I think the House may want to know more. Would it not be legitimate, therefore, at this stage to allow you to look further into this issue, particularly with regard to the affidavit tabled and maybe we revisit the Question next week?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that will be perfectly in order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you happy with that?

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be happy for more details on Thursday because next week, I will be away for three weeks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would it be okay with you, Mr. Tarus?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need appropriate time.

**Hon. Members:** Thursday!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, hon. Members! I think this issue is of interest to the House. It will not help if we postpone it today and we do not give the Assistant Minister the necessary time and then come again on Thursday when he is not ready. How long are you going to be away, Mr. Billow?

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be away out of the country for three weeks. I will appreciate if it can be answered on Thursday. I will give him the affidavit, the medical report of the doctors, and all that information. He should be able to follow up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do you have my permission to be away for three weeks, Mr. Billow?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will seek your permission in due course.

**Mr. Speaker:** This Question will be answered on Tuesday next week. There will be no permission until after this Question is answered.

*(Question deferred)*

Next Question, Mr. Muriungi!

BREAKDOWN OF ARMED FORCES RECRUITMENT EXERCISE COUNTRYWIDE

**Mr. Muriungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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 into the Armed Forces in the recently concluded recruitment exercise held in August, 2003?

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

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

(a) The recruitment into the Kenya Armed Forces; that is; the Kenya Navy and the Kenya Air Force, is done at the district level and not at the constituency level.

(b) In the interest of national security and the Official Secrets Act, Cap. 187 of the Laws of Kenya of 1968; an Act of Parliament which provides for the preservation of State secrets and State security; it is not tenable to give the breakdown of the recent military recruitment per constituency or district.

**Mr. Muriungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that answer is evasive, extremely unsatisfactory and borders on an insult on the intelligence of this House! It is a clear fact that, that recruitment was done in the most unsatisfactory manner. If the Assistant Minister does not have an answer; out of the 52 people recruited from Meru North District, only four came from Igembe Constituency; one from Ntonyiri Constituency, and the rest came from only one part of the constituency.

Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he is doing to ensure that there is equitable distribution of potential opportunities in the armed forces, as happens in the other Ministries? The other day---

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you taking all the time and other Members are interested?

**Mr. Muriungi:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he is doing, instead of hiding behind a general answer like this one, to satisfy all people in every part of the country? It is clear that recruiting officers recruited people from their own villages. They are creating fiefdoms!

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter came up in the House in the form of a Question by Mr. Muriungi. Other than his district, our Ministry has received information of dissatisfaction on the recruitment issues at the district level. I would like to say that we are investigating the malpractices in the recruitment that has just been concluded. We will take appropriate action where anomalies will be noted to have occurred.

**Mr. Twaha:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is misleading the House by hiding under the Official Secrets Act, when those jobs are advertised in the media and all the districts!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Could I ask the Assistant Minister! This is not the first time the House has wanted to know the distribution of recruits or personnel around the country. What is secret about how many people were taken from Igembe? If the Question was about how many members of the Kenya Armed Forces you have today in the country, I could agree with you! But when Parliament wants to know how the opportunities were granted countrywide, I think that is a legitimate Question!

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, recruitment into the Kenya Army is guided by regulations that have been established. We all know that we are not living in isolation as a country. Everything we do--- This Question had demanded a list per district. Our military has its own strategic aspects. If we were to give details of the numbers---

**An hon. Member:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir!

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I finish? They can ask questions later.

**Mr. Speaker:** You must all sit down! Please, take your seats. I have not told the Assistant Minister to sit down! He has not finished. He has the Floor!

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, this country does not operate in isolation. Our armed forces have military strategic systems. If we reveal the numbers we take annually, we will jeopardise our own military strategic systems.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is the lady on a point of order?

**Ms. Abdalla:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister in order to misinform the House? The strengths of all the world defence forces are reported weekly in the *Defence Journal*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! I think, on behalf of the House, I would like to ask the Assistant Minister: "How do you satisfy the House and the country on the worries raised by Mr. Muriungi?" The House has to know!

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that first, to address the problem that emerged as a result of the recent recruitment, we shall investigate whether there were any malpractices. Hon. Members, including Mr. Muriungi, have said that there were disparities in the exercise. I have said that we are investigating that matter and we will have a solution to those problems.

**Dr. Khalwale:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. If the Assistant Minister wishes to keep secrets on the number of people they recruited during that exercise, could we be in order, given that he has conceded that the exercise was badly done, to ask him to nullify the whole exercise, so that it can be done afresh? Then, they can keep their secrets!

(Applause)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I am not answering for the Assistant Minister, but I think that is almost impractical.

Mr. Assistant Minister, you know there are provisions in our Standing Orders! Therefore, if you really want to disclose to Parliament alone, there are provisions!

**An hon. Member:** We cannot hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I said there are provisions in our rules, even to remove strangers from the House for you to give the information to Parliament. I do not think that is a matter covered by the

Official Secrets Act. If the Question is about how many members of the armed forces already exist in Kenya, I will support you on that. But on how many recruits were taken from Igembe, I do not think that will threaten national security. It will not---

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

Order! Order, hon. Members! Give the Assistant Minister a chance to respond.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek the understanding of the House in this matter. May I request the Chair to give me more time so that I can go and carry out investigations---

**Hon. Members:** Time for what?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Hon. Members, give the Assistant Minister a chance to respond.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, complaints have been made. I have said that we are investigating how the recruitment exercise was conducted and the disparities in numbers of recruits from each district. We will address the mistakes made during the recently concluded recruitment exercise.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Could I now take legitimate questions? Mr. Sasura, what is your question?

**Mr. Kosgey:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker Sir. You were not on the Chair last time when the same Question was asked in this House. The Assistant Minister requested the House to give him more time to investigate the issues raised by hon. Members, and yet he is now asking to be given more time. Is he in order to take this House for a ride? The Assistant Minister asked this House to give him more time to investigate the issues raised by hon. Members sometime back, and now he is again asking the House to give him more time to investigate the same issues. Where are we?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not sure whether the hon. Member listened to what I said. I said that I was not satisfied with the answer I received. I have been told about the Official Secrets Act, but not been referred to the relevant section. I did not say that I needed more time to investigate the issues raised by hon. Members sometime back, but that I needed more time to get an appropriate answer for the House.

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is talking about irregularities and malpractices in the recently concluded recruitment exercise. But the Question does not talk about any irregularities or malpractices. He has simply been asked how many persons from Igembe Constituency were recruited into the armed forces in the recently concluded recruitment exercise held in August, 2003, and whether he could give the House the recruitment breakdown by district. This Question does not talk about names and corruption. Let him just tell us how many persons from this constituency were recruited to the armed forces in the recently concluded recruitment exercise.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that I am barred from providing the information required by the provisions of Cap. 187.

**Mr. Sasura:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will remember that when this Question was asked in this House last week, the Assistant Minister said that it was difficult for him to get an answer from the Department of Defence (DOD), which is only three kilometres from his office. The answer he has given this House now shows clearly why he could not get it last week. The required qualifications were spelt out very clearly in the media, where the recruitment advertisement was carried. We have

one problem with the recently concluded recruitment exercise. Considering the fact that there were disparities in that only one person was recruited to the armed forces from some districts--- In Igembe Constituency, 52 persons were recruited; in Marsabit District, seven persons were recruited, while in other districts 100 people were recruited to the armed forces. In view of the qualifications one had to meet in order to join the armed forces, could the Assistant Minister kindly tell us what caused the disparities, unless this is also a secret?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, although that is a different Question, I will respond to it. The actual number of persons recruited to the armed forces was based on the manpower needs for the Kenya Army, the Kenya Air Force and the Kenya Navy, while the number of recruits picked from each administrative district was based on the 1999 National Population Census. The recruitment was done on a *pro rata* basis.

**Hon. Members:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker!

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I must revisit this issue! Yes, Mr. Ogur!

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Wait for a moment! Yes, Mr. Ogur!

**Mr. Ogur:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are telling the Assistant Minister that things went wrong in the recently concluded recruitment exercise. We are also telling him that a person who wanted to be recruited to the armed forces had to bribe the recruitment officers with Kshs30,000. In Nyatike Constituency, people ran round mountains in order to be recruited to the armed forces. How come that nobody was recruited into the armed forces after running round mountains? What went wrong?

*(Applause)*

We should be told what went wrong so that we run properly, or go round one hill and not different hills in the Republic of Kenya.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I said that the Ministry is investigating the manner in which the recruitment exercise was done, I meant that we are addressing such issues as have been raised by Mr. Ogur.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Tarus, how will the House know the kind of disparities you will investigate unless you tell us what they are?

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that the number recruited from each district was based on the 1999 population census.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The matter at hand is very serious. We have allocated substantial funds to the DOD. The Government taxes our people in order to realise some money to allocate to the DOD. We did not scrutinise the DOD's budget and now we cannot scrutinise the actions of this department. This is another Goldenberg in the making, and we must arrest it at its germination stage.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Angwenyi, what is your point of order?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the Assistant Minister should nullify the entire exercise and conduct a transparent recruitment exercise in the whole country. The Assistant Minister should tell us the number of people in each constituency and the number of people they have

recruited from each constituency.

**Mr. Tarus:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the concerns of the hon. Member. I would like to say that it may not be practical to nullify the recruitment exercise.

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the NARC Government---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, Mr. Sambu! The whole House must relax now. Hon. Members, you have legitimate concerns, but as you raise them, let us follow the rules of the House. When the Assistant Minister is on the Floor, he must be given an opportunity to say what he wants to say. After that, hon. Members can ask him supplementary questions. I will not allow ten hon. Members to rise up when the Assistant Minister is on the Floor and tell him off. It will not happen.

**Mr. Wanjala:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have read the mood of the House. But this issue is serious to the extent that people on the ground are losing confidence in the NARC Government because of the conduct of the armed forces. Since the Assistant Minister who has come to answer this Question cannot make a final decision, would I be in order to ask the Chair to defer this Question so that the Minister himself can come and answer it properly?

**Mr. Muriungi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. To show that the Assistant Minister is not serious in answering this Question, and that he has been trying to avoid it all the time, even the copy of the written answer which I have received is not signed. So, I think this Question was not treated with the seriousness it deserves.

**Hon. Members:** Defer it!

**Mr. Bahari:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister has said that he wants to investigate this matter. It is very clear that during the recruitment exercise, Kenyans all over the country complained. It was reported in the Press that army vehicles were stoned in many places and some of us, hon. Members, personally wrote to the Minister concerned. What has he investigated from that day up to now? Could this Question be deferred? We need your indulgence.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I think the Assistant Minister relied, or attempted to rely, on the Official Secrets Act and said that it applies to this issue, which I very much doubt. I think, to avoid any further doubt in my mind, I will look at the section he has quoted. I then will come back to this House and say whether or not he is entitled to rely on it. If he is not, believe he me, he will give the breakdown. However, if he is entitled to rely on it, then he will not give the breakdown. So, I will defer the Question and make a ruling on Thursday. If the law covers him, well and good; but if it does not, then I am sorry to say that he will have to answer the Question.

*(Question deferred)*

*(Applause)*

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON  
PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS

**Mr. Omingo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Finance the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that a company whose directors were excluded from all Government tendering in the 1993/94 Financial Year is about to supply lotus notes for the entire Government?

(b) What is the Minister doing to ensure that the Government does not lose colossal sums of

money through sub-standard supplies?

(c) What is the position of the Government procurement regulations in the light of the Ministry's circular dated 28th May, 2003?

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

(a) I am aware that there was an attempt to supply lotus notes/domino to the entire Government without following the normal Government procurement procedures. However, the initiative was nibbed in the bud before implementation.

(b) In view of the above reply, part (b) does not arise.

(c) Although the Government suspended Public Procurement Regulations via a Treasury circular of 28th May, 2003, the suspension has now been lifted vide Treasury Circular No. 20 dated 24 September, 2003.

**Mr. Omingo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, various reports of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) have actually been rubbished by the people who are supposed to adhere to the recommendations made. Could the Assistant Minister show seriousness to the recommendations made by the PAC, by tabling the name of the company which flouted the rules, was given a chance to tender and almost did so were it not for this Question? What action has he also taken against those officers who, actually in total disregard of the law, sought to enable this company to tender?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, no tender was given. What happened was that we had a company that demonstrated what it could do using its lotus notes. Due to public outcry, we never reached the stage of giving out the tender as the same company had been blacklisted, as the hon. Members says.

**Mr. Billow:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Assistant Minister what procedures were in operation when the Government suspended the procurement regulations that governed the supply of goods and services to Government departments and State Corporations.

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the procedures which were in place were the same procedures which had existed for a long time. However, we found that they permitted some irregularities to occur, and we are almost coming up with a Bill. This Bill will come up with proper procurement procedures for this country as some of the procedures we have are too tedious while others are not good. We are trying to streamline the whole procurement system.

**Mr. Osundwa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that the Government has lifted the ban on procurement, yet we know that procurement officers have been removed from Government service. Could he tell us who is procuring services? Is it the DCs, DOs, the PSs or the Ministers?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the officers who were doing procurement were not removed from Government service but were deployed to other departments, and that is a fact. We have recruited other officers who are doing procurement. In every department and Ministry, we have officers doing procurement.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what is happening with our Government. What I know in management is that you do not do away with regulations which apply to a particular situation without replacing them with something else. We have been operating from May to the 24th of September in a vacuum as there were no regulations.

The Assistant Minister has just said that they have recruited new officers. As far as I know, they have only advertised for recruitment of these officers and yet there are services being supplied. Who procures these services since the Government has removed the professional people from their



positions? Is it the Ministers, the PSs or the messengers?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that we removed those who were doing procurement and replaced them with others.

**Mr. Bahari:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, many times we hear the Minister for Finance clearly state that Kenyans will get value for their money. Procurement is such a sensitive matter in any organisation and even for this country. My question is why it took the outcry of the public to stop this company from supplying lotus notes. There are so many---

**Mr. Speaker:** That is now a statement. What is the question?

**Mr. Bahari:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can Kenyans be protected against these blacklisted companies? It seems that this Ministry is not protecting Kenyans!

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, suspension of the procurement officers was one of the measures we took to ensure that Kenyans get value for their money. This was because we had realised that there was a lot of corruption going on in the procurement of goods in this country. You would find an item costing Kshs10 being bought by the previous officers for more than ten times that price. That was one of the reasons why we had to suspend all these officers. Moreover, we recruited fresh officers.

**Mr. M'Mukindia:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that the rumour circulating out there is that Government services have come to a halt as a result of the fact that supplies officers were removed from their positions and were not replaced fast enough, and that, in fact, the World Bank is now insisting that supplies officers should be redeployed as quickly as possible?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to respond to rumours. What is important---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Are you suggesting, by your statement, that your hon. colleague is a rumour monger?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am responding to exactly what he said. He is the one who has talked about a rumour out there. I am saying that I do not want to respond to the rumour but to facts.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I said last week that let us treat each other with a lot of dignity. I never heard Mr. M'Mukindia referring to rumours.

**Mr. Katuku:** He did!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Katuku, please, relax! What the House wants to know is the situation on the ground, but not the linguistics. Now, will you respond to him?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, issues of rumours aside, the Ministry has put all measures in place to ensure that what was happening before does not re-occur in the procurement system. That is why we suspended those officers. We have come up with a new team. As I speak here, procurement of goods in all Government departments and Ministries is going on very well.

**Mr. Omingo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, since May to September, 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of procurement by Government services was being done by an individual, or no service was being rendered at all. The Assistant Minister says that he is aware of the scheme and that he has nipped it in the bud. Could he tell us what action he has taken against those officers who

actually flouted the recommendation by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that no procurement was done on this aspect. We had a company which came to demonstrate what they could do on the issue of software. No company was given the tender. So, we cannot talk about the tender here because it was not given.

**Dr. Ali:** On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no such thing as a point of clarification, Dr. Ali! I am sorry, you have to get the procedure right. There is no such thing in the book!

**Dr. Ali:** On a point of order then, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, you may not now because you have changed your mind.

Next Question, Dr. Ojiambo!

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY FOODS

**Dr. Ojiambo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Agriculture the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) What is the Government position on biotechnology foods which have been imported into the country?

(b) What effects do these foods have on the growth of indigenous agricultural produce?

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

(a) I am not aware of any importation of genetically modified foods in the country.

(b) Based on the above, the issue regarding the effects of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) on the growth of indigenous agricultural produce does not arise. However, given the concerns about GMOs raised by the public, my Ministry, jointly with other arms of the Government, has developed a policy on the whole issue of GMOs. The Government, through the National Council for Science and Technology, is in the process of formulating the following documents on biotechnology: Biotechnology Development and Bio-safety Bill, Revision of Regulations and Guidelines for Bio-safety in Biotechnology for Kenya, and Biotechnology strategy.

**Dr. Ojiambo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while appreciating the answer given by the Minister, I sympathise with him because he has no time to visit supermarkets and many groceries in Nairobi City.

I would have expected his officers to do some research for him so that they make him a little more aware of what is happening around the markets. However, given the situation, would I be in order to ask him to ask his officers to do a little more research, so that he can come back here with a more satisfactory answer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why do you not help him? What goods exactly are on the market that he has not seen? What will he look for?

**Dr. Ojiambo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reason why I said that the Minister is not aware is because he does not go to the supermarkets. It is a fact that supermarkets are full of eggs from the Republic of South Africa, meat from Britain and other products. Also, in the groceries, you will find onions - "this size" - and other products that do not look like the natural foods that we eat in our homes. Therefore, if the Minister had time to look around, he would have seen that we now have products in the market that do not look natural.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Minister, you may respond. However, for the sake of the HANSARD, how do we record "this size"? Would you like to respond, Mr. Kirwa?

**Prof. Oniang'o:** On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Internationally, there is no policy on labelling of biotechnologically produced food. Therefore, if the Minister went to the supermarkets there is no way he would be able to determine whether these foods are

biotechnologically grown or not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Minister, what is your response?

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sentiments raised by the hon. Members are important. That is why, in trying to draw the guidelines, we, as a country, want to see how we can safeguard the interests of the indigenous foods and also the interests of the people of Kenya. There is nothing we, as a Ministry, will do that will be injurious to our people.

**Mr. Midiwo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us what is the policy about importing consumables, particularly agricultural produce? What is the logic used to allow all these foods to infiltrate our markets while our farmers are suffering? Why is the Government allowing simple products like eggs, onions or even tomatoes from South Africa? Why could we not stop them so that we can create market for our local producers?

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very good question. We, at the Ministry, are very careful on what kind of crops or plants enter the country. We have various regulations governing the importation of different plants. On a number of occasions we have had to stop some of these foods from entering into our country at the airport because the necessary requirements are not met by the importers. This is an aspect that is being pursued by the Kenya Plant Health and Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and all other regulatory bodies within the Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Last question, Dr. Ojiambo!

**Dr. Ojiambo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do appreciate that the Ministry has problems, but there are concerns that our people are being fed on foods that do not promote good health. Could the Minister organise a team of researchers to go round the supermarkets and groceries? That could assist him to set up a body that can act as a watchdog to oversee what is imported into this country, to save our people from consuming foods that can affect their health.

**Mr. Kirwa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken into account the concerns of the hon. Member, and I will ensure that all arms of the Government within my Ministry and other Ministries are reactivated to ensure that Kenyans do not consume what is injurious to their health.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### *Question No.367*

#### TARMACKING OF KILGORIS-NAROK ROAD

**Mr. Manoti** asked the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing whether he could consider tarmacking the Kilgoris-Narok Road to open up the Western Tourist Circuit.

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

I am willing to consider upgrading to bitumen standards, a road that will link Awendo on A1 to Ngorengore on B3 through Lang'ata Sien, Kilgoris, Shartuka, Emurwa, Dikir and Marti (Upper Mara Bridge) to spur economic growth in the area. So far, the section between Ngorengore to Narok is already bitumen surfaced. The process of upgrading the rest of the section is at the planning stage.

**Mr. Manoti:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very productive area and most of the maize that feeds Kenyans comes from there. Most of the tourists who go to Maasai Mara cannot go to Kilgoris and

other parts of western Kenya. I am grateful for the answer that has been given by the Assistant Minister. He has said that the Government is planning to open up that area. How long is it going to take the Ministry to open up that area?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that plans are under way to upgrade the road from Kilgoris, through Lang'ata Sien to Awendo on A1. The resources are not available at the moment, but plans are there to start the designing of the road.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter touches on my passionate agenda for this nation. Every time we have a road that passes through Maasailand, we are told that funds are not available! Whether the road is to Wambaa, Loitokitok, Mau-Narok or Kilgoris, we are told that funds are not available.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House that he is going to embark on looking for funds, even from outside this country, to tarmac roads that pass through Maasailand?

*(Applause)*

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, fortunately, this Government is looking into that. It is common knowledge that, that area was completely neglected by the last regime. This Government is addressing those issues.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you happy, Mr. Manoti?

**Mr. Manoti:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister has said that they are looking for the money, could he also look for money to murrum the road between Kilgoris and Ngorengore to make it passable?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is what I said! Plans are already under way and once the funds are available, we will do something about it.

*Question No.403*

BUILDING OF CULVERTS AT KWA KILALO

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

- (a) why culverts at Kwa Kilalo near Maraga have not been built to date and yet, some Kshs4 million were 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 beg to reply.

(a) Culverts at Kwa Kilalo near Maraga have not been built to date because funds have never been set aside for that purpose.

(b) However, the consolation is that in this financial year, 2003/2004, my Ministry has budgeted Kshs4 million under the Bridging Programme to construct a box culvert at Kanagoni along B8 Malindi-Garsen Road. The other drainage works, including installation of culverts will be covered under the Road 2000 Programme, which is already under way.

**Mr. Kombe:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather unfortunate because in 1999, the Ministry announced that it had set aside Kshs4 million for the same purpose. We expected the culvert to be

built, but it was never done. Why is the Assistant Minister telling us that no funds were set aside for the project, and it was even announced in the media?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my records show that there was no specific amount of Kshs4 million set aside for building culverts at Kwa Kilalo near Maraga. The only money that was set aside was the Kshs4 million for Kanagoni, where a bridge was installed to restore accessibility along the Malindi-Garsen Road, B8. There were no funds set aside for building culverts at Kwa Kilalo.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our Fuel Levy funds, we have 24 per cent which has not been utilised in the last three years. Could the Assistant Minister consider using the 24 per cent of the Fuel Levy funds to build the culverts for this "poor" Member of Parliament?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why do you think he is poor?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am calling him poor because he cannot get to his own constituency!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! He may not be protesting because you are supporting him.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir I withdraw the word "poor"!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I insist that hon. Members, including those who are friends, must address each other properly. It must be formal!

Mr. Assistant Minister, what are you going to do to the hon. Member?

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an allocation for every district from the 24 per cent, and if my memory serves me right, Malindi District should be receiving about Kshs8 million, which they can use to build culverts at Kwa Kilalo. The use of that allocation is entirely on the District Roads Committee (DRC).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Time is up! I am afraid that, because of the time constraint, Questions No.364, 668, 384, 378 and 643 are deferred. I would ask the Clerks to spread them over this week and next week. I know that Mr. Ndambuki and Mr. Kembi Gitura had sought Ministerial Statements. Please, come tomorrow morning when we are under no pressure and we will facilitate that!

*Question No.364*

STREAMLINING OF MARSABIT DISTRICT HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.668*

ELECTRIFICATION OF CENTRES IN GIKINDU LOCATION

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.384*

INDEBTEDNESS OF PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.378*

PAYMENT OF MR. MUNYОВI'S DIVIDENDS

*(Question deferred)**Question No.643*LOANS OWED TO CO-OPERATIVE BANK  
BY RACHUONYO UNION*(Question deferred)***Mr. Speaker:** Next Order!**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY***(Order for Committee read  
being 16th Allotted Day)***MOTION**THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW  
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

*(The Minister for Agriculture on 8.10.2003)**(Resumption of Debate interrupted  
on 8.10.2003)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Who was on the Floor? Hon. Ms. Karua was on the Floor, but she concluded her presentation. Mr. Kosgey!

**Mr. Kosgey:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you, for giving me this opportunity to support this Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. Since 80 per cent of Kenyans live in the rural areas and depend on agriculture and will continue doing so for a very long time, the revival of the economy will, therefore, depend on the revival of agriculture. Agriculture currently contributes 24 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and unless we revive agriculture and do a thorough job--

*(Loud consultations)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since there is too much noise, I am not being heard. Could the hon.

Members withdraw quietly from the Chamber?

I was saying that if we want to revive the economy, we have to revive agriculture. The amount of money being requested for by the Ministry of Agriculture - Kshs5.2 billion - is not enough to be able to revive and revamp this sector.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister, while moving the Motion, talked of food security. I did not hear him refer to agriculture by irrigation. We cannot continue to rely on rain-fed agriculture. The reason why this country and other countries in Africa are always deficient on food is because they rely on rain-fed agriculture. If we practised irrigation farming, there would be enough food. I do hope that when the Minister comes to reply, he will actually tell us exactly what he is doing with regard to irrigation farming. There are so many rivers which we can dam. We can have a lot of food without having to rely on rain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked of revival of the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMRs). He talked of setting up a task force which will go round the provinces gathering ideas on how to revive GMRs. This is a very common method of delaying tactics. Farmers are waiting for the revival of the GMRs and we are hoping that in 2004, that policy would be in place and farmers would be able to obtain the GMRs. This task force is going round the provinces and by the time they prepare a report in January or February, it will be too late. I would like to request the Minister to actually release this report so that farmers can take advantage of it in January.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked of maize, and maize is a strategic crop. Kenyans consume three million bags of maize per year and we need a very clear policy on maize. I would like to request the Minister to increase the price of maize from Kshs1,010 per bag. The Minister is not paying attention to my speech. This is a very important point.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Kosgey! The Minister is consulting and I can definitely see the officers from his Ministry taking notes. I am also informed that a very faithful Assistant Minister is also watching. Could you continue!

**Mr. Kosgey:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to request that the Minister raises this figure of Kshs1,010 per a 90-kilogramme bag of maize to Kshs1,500. The price of maize meal in the market is about Ksh60 per packet, which means the millers and retailers get Kshs2,700 per 90-kilogramme bag of maize. So, there is a big margin between consumer prices and the production cost. The Minister should take this very seriously. We want a 90 kilogramme bag of maize to cost Kshs1,500.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was no mention of wheat and yet it has become a very important crop. We would also like to hear the policy of the Government with regard to wheat. There was no mention of other produce, particularly sugar-cane which has become painful to the farmers. Sugar-cane farmers produce this crop and wait for three to four years before it is harvested. They then wait for another three to four years before they can actually get payment from the factories, and this should be taken very seriously. The Minister did not utter even a single word with regard to sugar-cane production. When he comes to reply, we would like him to tell us exactly what is happening to the sugar-cane sector. There was a report which he has yet to receive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to milk, it is currently being bought from the dairy farmers at Kshs8 per litre. This is a throwaway price and the Minister should pay attention. We want milk to be bought at Kshs15 per litre. The Minister should introduce safe guidelines. He should actually announce and tell the milk processors that there is no point of a milk processor buying milk at Kshs8 per litre and selling it at Kshs60 per litre in the local market. So, at the moment there is complete exploitation of the farmer, whether he is a maize, dairy, wheat or a sugar-cane farmer. I wonder where this country is going with regard to farming. Although farming is a major employer, the Minister is still not paying attention to it since he is talking to the Clerks-at-the-Table.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Kosgey! Just for the purpose of record, because you have said it twice that the Minister is not paying attention, the Minister is consulting. His Assistant Minister, Mr. J. Nyagah, is there. I do not know what kind of attention you want. So, I want it to go on record that the Minister and his Assistant Minister are in the House, paying attention.

Continue!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want the Minister to nod his head to show that he is paying attention.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Angwenyi! We have warned hon. Members not to raise frivolous points of order.

**Mr. Kosgey:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked of the 7,000 extension staff who provide extension services. These extension services are currently totally moribund. I am not very sure that we should invest money there because without sorting out the marketing aspect, there is no point in putting money in the extension services. We are just sinking money in this area for nothing. These officers just drive to every local trading centre and at the end of it all, the farmer gets no extension service. Let us sort out the marketing aspects of the produce first, and then that will be enough incentive for the farmer to be able to produce. There is no point in giving money to these guys who drive around all over, eat *nyama choma* at every trading centre and then go home later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with respect to the recent strengthening of the Kenyan shilling, I would like the Government to devalue the Kenyan shilling in order to save the tea, coffee, dairy and the horticultural farmers who are earning foreign exchange in this country. At the moment, what is the point of having cheap imports? Who is benefitting from the strong Kenyan shilling? I am glad that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture is a renowned economist. He should tell us, through the Minister, who is benefitting from this strong Kenya shilling. We should devalue it in order to support our farmers. We need to be able to sell our produce and get enough money. We do not need to be able to buy cheap---

**The Assistant Minister for Labour (Mr. Odoyo):** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I hate to interrupt my fellow hon. Member who is also my *jirani* back at home. But at the moment, the Kenya shilling is selling for as low as---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** What is your point of order?

**The Assistant Minister for Labour (Mr. Odoyo):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the hon. member in order to mislead this House that the Kenya shilling, compared to the dollar, is stronger, whereas it is selling at Kshs82 per US\$1?

**Mr. Kosgey:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that was a momentary weakening. We need an even weaker shilling; maybe, Kshs90 to US\$1. That may be a bit too high, but we need a weaker shilling so that the farmers can be able to get good returns from their produce.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, because my time is running out, I would like to request the Minister



to be a strong advocate of farmers. We knew him when he was in the Back Bench as a very strong advocate for farmers. He is a friend of mine. Those of us who come from the valley area are looking forward for his support. We want him to argue for farmers like he has been doing before. Somebody is asking me to talk about tea, yet I have already done so.

I would like to mention something about cotton. I thought cotton was very important, particularly in the textile market where we are supported by the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

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

**Mr. Khamasi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute on this very important Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for those of us who have been in this House for some years, this Vote used to be very, popular. Hon. Members sat here throughout the session to catch the Speakers eye to be able to contribute, but of late, it appears as if people have lost interest and, in fact, when the House rose, there was hardly any quorum in the House! I would like the Minister to reflect on that and ask himself why hon. Members have lost interest in contributing to this Vote, which is a very important Vote.

Having said that, I would like to support this Vote. I would like to support the Minister because of the importance of this Ministry. Looking at the funds being availed to this Ministry, I would say that the money is not enough and I believe that when we improve our economy, this Ministry should be one of the Ministries which ought to get enough funds to be able to manage its huge portfolio. The Ministry of Agriculture is too big and it needs to be restructured, if we need to get any meaningful services from the sub-sectors in it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most Kenyans rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Kenyans had a lot of expectations when NARC took over Government. A lot of us too, had a lot of expectations and we expected that since hon. Kirwa had been appointed to this Ministry, a lot of things were going to change. There is something wrong somewhere in the Ministry of Agriculture, and it is only the Minister who can tell this House what is wrong. I believe one of the wrong things in the Ministry is that hon. Kirwa is riding on the same wheels the KANU Government was riding and it is very difficult for him to make any change. Therefore, if hon. Kirwa is to make any meaningful change, he has got to move some heads around. He should get some heads rolling in order to get the Ministry of Agriculture onto its feet. It is an important Ministry and the Minister cannot afford to look around and see things go wrong. He has got powers to move people around.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, concerning tea farmers, has there been any shift in policy since the change from Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) to Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA)? One wonders if there has been any change at all. In fact, to me, it is business as usual. What has Kenya Tea Development Agency done? It is still left with core business in that particular subsector. For example, transport, acquisition of fertilisers, tea auction and so on are still under KTDA. Volumes of funds are still channelled to the tea subsector through KTDA. Let the Ministry tell us what change has taken place in that subsector which is very important to our economy. If we are not careful, it might go down the way the coffee subsector went down. I think it is a matter we need to look at. Coffee farmers, for instance, only talk about delayed payments. What is the Minister doing to make sure that the subsector runs well?

The worst is in the sugar subsector. The Minister must just do something about this subsector to save over six million people who depend on it. Let him not come here to tell us about substitute

crops. A few of his colleagues have been moving around telling us to grow pepper and all sorts of crops. Forget about it! Sugar-cane is a crop that supports so many people and something has to be done about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in many other countries sugar-cane is protected. Why should we not do that in this country, yet we have a lot of people who delivered their sugar-cane to sugar factories many years ago? They have got their children out of school, they cannot pay for their medical bills, and they cannot dress themselves properly due to non-payment, and yet the Minister wants to find an easier way of telling us to grow pepper and leave sugar-cane. Let him forget about it! We will not. We are demanding from this Government that something has to be done. Booker Tate, a very, very expensive management agency in Mumias, have been pushed out. What are they doing now? They are trying to make a come-back through the back-door with the full knowledge of some officials in this Ministry. Can we bring that to an end? Booker Tate did their part and we know how expensive they were and how much they were charging, yet you dare say that you want to make arrangements for them to take over the management agency again. Forget about it! We will not agree. Give Africans a chance to see how they can be able to manage that particular factory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about the Nyayo Tea Zones, which, happily so, has been taken to the Ministry of Agriculture. This was a very, very poorly managed parastatal and the Treasury had to finance its operations some years ago. We are telling the Ministry of Agriculture that for the time being, hold on to it, but get out of its business because it is not Government business to do farming; it is for farmers. Please, privatise it and give it back to the owners of the forests which were actually excised by the Government. For example, the county councils can, hopefully, hire the services of managing agencies for them to be able to run that particular sector. I would like to request the Minister for Agriculture to establish links and have dialogue with the Ministry of Trade and Industry because of the poor returns on our agricultural products. For example, we give away coffee and tea as raw materials which are blended and sold by other people as finished products. There is no value-adding done in our country. It is high time we decided to add value to our agricultural products so that we can export them as finished products. We have been talking about this for a long time. Now, can the NARC Government wake up and make sure that we make this a reality, so that our people can earn good money from their agricultural products? I would like the Minister to tell us what he has done in that particular aspect since he took over the Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the remaining two or three minutes, I want to touch on the basic needs of a farmer. A poor farmer at home in my village in Shinyalu wants to have an extension officer to tell him how he can plant his maize, apply fertilizer to his crops and how he can test his soil. Now, given that these extension officers are non-existent, what are we doing about it? What is the Government doing about it? An ordinary farmer in my village wants to control insects which destroy his crops. For example, in my village we have a new breed of weevils called "Osama". This is a weevil that does not even recognize the insecticide called "Doom". It is destroying harvested maize very badly. What is this Ministry doing about it?

The ordinary farmer in my village wants cheap seeds of maize and beans. The Kenya Seed Company (KSC) has been mismanaged for years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I once went to the Minister and told him that we must make a change in the KSC because its leadership was rotten as they were doing many ills there. As I speak now, that man still sits in that office comfortably. I do not know what transpired between him and the Minister as he is directly answerable to the Minister. What has the Minister done about that man who

has been selling commercial maize as seed and still sits in that office?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers want cheap credit. Thank God there is something happening about the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA)---

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. J. Nyagah): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Member in order to imply that the KSC is a parastatal when, in fact, a very big majority of its shareholding is private?

**An hon. Member:** We are questioning that issue, too.

**Mr. Khamasi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the problem we are facing. We have got Ministers of this type. This is a relic from the KANU Government, and he is thinking exactly in the same way they used to. So, you cannot understand me.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order, Mr. Khamasi! Your time is up, Mr. Khamasi.

Proceed, Mr. H.M. Mohamed.

**Mr. H.M. Mohamed:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand here to support this Motion. The Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture is very important. I can see some fellows looking at me because they think that I do not know much about agriculture. They know that I come from an area that can be classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL).

*(Laughter)*

In fact, they wonder what I am talking about regarding agriculture.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, former Minister! Did I hear you call hon. Members "fellows"? Can you withdraw that word? Please, refer to them appropriately as hon. Members.

**Mr. H.M. Mohamed:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. That was just a slip of the tongue. I withdraw that word and apologise to the hon. Members.

This Ministry of Agriculture is the most important Ministry in this country and, maybe, in the whole world, because it is in charge of food and food security. No human being can live without food. Where I come from, we grow very few crops; hence, we depend entirely on livestock and on food grown in other parts of the country. In the past, the Government made sure that there were silos in every part of the country. The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) started closing down some of these silos because some people said that they had been privatized. They did not even see the reason for maintaining a silo in a place like Garissa. These silos are very important because when there is drought, people have enough food to eat. I appeal to the Minister to make sure that those silos are opened so as to provide food to the people of this country.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about irrigation in this country. We know that 80 per cent of the land mass of this country is comprised of ASAL areas. Kenya has no desert at all. At one time, I had the privilege of being the Minister for Land Reclamation and Water Development. I was in charge of irrigation and I had the privilege of touring many countries which have deserts. I noticed that these countries produce enough food through irrigation. It is time this

country woke up. The Ministry of Agriculture should put in place a policy on irrigation. We have a number of rivers flowing in this country, yet people living along these rivers depend on famine relief. This can be attributed to bad Government policies.

In Kenya, farmers depend on rain-fed farming. In the ASAL areas, one cannot depend on rain as the rain pattern is unpredictable. This is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the 1970s, the Government used a lot of money to establish the Bura Irrigation Scheme. This project used to produce a lot of food and enough cotton for the country and for export, but today it is dead. It has collapsed. The people who at one time used to produce and sell a lot of food like maize and cotton, are today beggars who depend entirely on famine relief. It is high time the Ministry looked for a solution to the problems facing the Bura Irrigation Scheme. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bura Irrigation Scheme had a second phase which was surveyed; the Bura East Irrigation Scheme. Bura East is in Garissa District, while Bura West is in Tana River District. That scheme was surveyed, a feasibility study has been done and everything is ready

on paper. That area could produce enough food to feed all the people in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in this country. It could also produce cotton and other crops for export.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bura and Hola Irrigation schemes have collapsed. The proposed scheme has not even started and we even do not know whether there is any plan to initiate it. Livestock has been separated from this Ministry, and I want to extend my appreciation to the President for creating the Ministry of Livestock Development. That is a very wise decision that the President took. The Government has taken the right step in the right direction and it needs to be congratulated before we remove it out of power. The Government has made many promises to the people and we need to see them fulfilled. We were told that the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) would be revived. We were even told the day when it was going to start operations. Up to now, we do not see any sign of the KMC being revived. I will reserve that comment for the Vote of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, but I am not quite sure whether the Vote will be brought to the House. I want to put it on record that we want to see the KMC revived.

I was in my constituency over the weekend and I toured some parts where I saw animals dying from various sicknesses. The problem with the Government is lack of priority. Livestock is a very important sector in this country and especially where I come from, but we do not have veterinary doctors.

With those few remarks, I support the Vote.

**Mr. O.K. Mwangi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to the debate on one of the most important Votes in this House, which I support.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture for the effort he is making to bring back the mainstay of this country back to its position. That is agriculture. However, there are quite a number of issues that I would like to call upon the Minister to look into, in an attempt to revive the economy of this country. One of those issues is the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, for reviving the AFC, but its operations leave a lot to be desired. I would like to call upon you to look into it because farmers are complaining that when they go to the AFC to take some loans for their farms development, they are required to pay some money before their loans are processed. You will agree with me that for a farmer to do whatever he intends to do, he has no money and that is why he goes to the AFC. If farmers must pay some money, then the cost should be deducted from the loan after it is processed. Otherwise, when you ask them to pay money in advance,

they will not be able. That will mean that you will be lending money only to the rich and the poor will not be helped, which will be against the policy of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government.

The other issue which I would like to call upon the Minister to look into is the prices of food stuffs.

**Mr. Poghismo:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to continue addressing the Minister instead of addressing the Chair?

**Mr. O. K. Mwangi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that I would like the Minister to note. I did not address the Minister. I think that is quite in order.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. O. K. Mwangi, you better heed what Mr. Poghismo has said!

**Mr. O.K. Mwangi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was talking about food products. I am surprised that in the last two months, prices of food products have gone up tremendously.

First, the price of maize flour has gone up from Kshs40 to Kshs56 for a two kilogramme packet. What has happened? The price of rice has gone up from Kshs26 to Kshs36 per kilogramme and the price of sugar has also gone up from Kshs40 to Kshs60 per kilogramme. The price of maize seed has gone up from Kshs200 to Kshs300 per two kilogramme packet. I do not understand what is happening. We are trying to revive the economy of this country and you do not expect us to do that when Kenyans are hungry. They have not just got money from the blues. I do not understand why the prices of food stuffs have shot up by over 25 per cent in a period of two months.

Let me talk about coffee, which used to be the highest foreign exchange earner in this country. I am perturbed to note that the Ministry is not doing much to revive the coffee sector. Today, coffee farmers cannot revive the sector on their own. They have not been paid their coffee proceeds for quite some time and we do not understand why they have not been paid. In 2001, coffee earned a lot of money and up to now, farmers have not been paid their proceeds to the tune of over Kshs640 million. When you tell farmers to increase their coffee production without giving them any financial assistance, I do not know what the Government expects them to do. They need to be given an impetus. They need to be given materials and even financed to buy fertilizers, spraying chemicals and pay for labour. That is not happening and the Minister should address the issue, so that farmers are assisted to increase coffee production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I may comment on the tea industry, it is frustrating to note that in 2000, this House passed the Tea Act. This Act is supposed to help farmers run tea factories as autonomous entities. However, this has not happened because the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) has not released the reins of running these tea factories to the farmers. The directors who were elected by the farmers have no control over these factories. It is the KTDA at the headquarters which is even supervising management of tea farms. I wonder what the Tea Act is supposed to do if it cannot liberalise the tea industry to the extent that farmers run their factories as autonomous entities. I would like to call upon the Minister to look into this issue so that farmers will have a say in how and what they will do with their tea. When they are growing their tea, nobody is concerned about how they do it, but when they sell it, there is always somebody who takes away their money. We should allow the tea farmers to grow, market and decide on what to do with their money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the dairy industry, farmers are now producing enough milk. However, the marketing of milk is still surrounded by a murky smoke. I would like the Minister

to look into this issue and streamline the manner in which milk will flow from the farmers to the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). This is because some of the farmers' hands are tied. They would like to produce more milk, but they do not know where they will sell it and there is no efficient method of paying them.

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

**Prof. Oniang'o:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to make my contribution in support of this Motion. First of all, I would like to start by congratulating the Minister for Agriculture. He started too slowly, in fact, we were wondering what he was doing in that Ministry. However, I must say that once he started to move, he has done so steadily and we can see some tangible results from that Ministry. However, I would like to urge him to move even faster now.

I would also like to commend the creation of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. I am a nutritionist and I know that we cannot live on grain alone. Animal proteins are very important for the sustenance of human life and for the promotion of health.

I would like to urge the Minister to move very fast and re-open the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) so that Kenyans can get quality and cheaper meat. I would also like to see the development of other types of meat so that most Kenyans can get high quality proteins.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the mainstay of Kenya's economy. It is a major source of employment. It generates more than 60 per cent of the job opportunities in this country. We know that with 80 per cent of Kenyans living in the rural areas, the agricultural industry has become a great source of livelihood. Indeed, the agricultural industry is a feeder of Kenyans. Therefore, this Ministry is extremely important. However, the money that has been allocated to this Ministry is not commensurate with the importance that we attach to it. I hope that in the next financial year, the Government will allocate resources to Ministries according to their importance.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to pay some more attention to urban agriculture. You will be amazed that most of the foods, especially the vegetables consumed in the towns are actually grown in the towns. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the quality of these foods. In fact, some of these vegetables are grown in raw sewage. If we were to go and see where these vegetables are grown we would not even eat them. Therefore, this is an area which has been neglected and the Minister should actually pay more attention to it. We are also aware that it is from this kind of agriculture that the poor jobless people in the towns actually get their livelihood. Therefore, we do not want to approach it in a punitive manner, but rather in a facilitative manner. I believe that this can actually be done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to comment on cash crop farming. We have some areas of this country which rely solely on cash crop farming, for example, the sugarcane belt of Western Kenya. We are aware of the Government policies that allowed only two-thirds of family land to be devoted to cash crop farming. The rest of the land was set aside for food crop production. However, we know that these policies are no longer followed although they were good. It would be a good idea if the Minister actually revisited them.

I would also like to comment on the issue of subsidies to farmers. We are aware that farm inputs are very expensive. We keep on being told that the Government cannot subsidize fertilizer, pesticides and implements. Yet we are aware that some African countries, including Tanzania, next door, are able to give subsidies to their farmers. Our farmers cannot compete internationally when farmers from countries which are already much richer are offering subsidies to their farmers. We abuse farmers when we take their produce and we do not even pay them right away. Farmers toil on their

farms to feed us. Unfortunately, we sell their produce and keep their money. This kind of practice is scandalous and it must be stopped. We have to improve on the kind of appreciation we accord our farmers because, at the end of the day, without them, we cannot talk of other people who can feed us.

We are aware that only two-fifths of Kenyan land is highly productive. The rest of it is arid or semi-arid. We know that ASAL areas would be highly productive if only we could practise proper and affordable irrigation. We know there are some cheap irrigation technologies such as drip irrigation which we could introduce to our farmers in these areas so that they afford to grow food. They could also source a livelihood and realise income from it. I would like to see the Minister taking this on board and make sure that these technologies are promoted to the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, bio-technology is a very good form of modern technology. We should not just abuse it. It appears that people talk against it out of ignorance. Bio-technology is not just about Genetically Modified Crops (GMC). There are situations where proteins are modified and they could be injurious to people's health. This is something we do not know much about. However, there are other bio-technological methods which can help us produce high producing crops; crops that are resistant to drought and pests. These crops, in fact, would help our farmers. Therefore, I would like to urge the Minister to make sure that he creates awareness among Kenyans. We need to train Kenyan scientists in this technology so that we know which aspects of it are beneficial to us and which ones are not. We should not just condemn this technology, for the sake of it, or out of ignorance.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also want to talk about storage and preservation of food. We have to be food secure to maintain our dignity so that we do not go begging. For some reason, we do not know how to store food. Over 40 per cent of the food we produce is actually wasted through poor storage; over 40 per cent of it. Sometimes we put it in the usual traditional granaries only for people to come and steal it. We have to address the issue of food storage, preservation and processing. It is only when we add value to our food products, that we can actually compete internationally. We should not allow very cheap imports to come into our markets. In fact, they are cheaper than the same products that we produce here. This kind of thing defeats the whole purpose of farming. This is an area which I think we can still pursue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, I would like to talk about extension services. As far as I am concerned, extension services do not work, they do not exist and do not support the farmer. Extension officers cannot work without facilitation. They cannot walk for 15 to 20 kilometres in order to serve the farmer. They should be facilitated. This is an area which I believe the Minister should put some emphasis.

Thank you, I beg to support.

**Mr. Owino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been said by previous speakers that agriculture makes 90 per cent of the Kenyan economy. That is a huge percentage of our population. I am happy the Minister for Agriculture is here. With regard to planning, what percentage of our national Vote goes to agriculture, as important as it is? I calculated and I found out that it is less than 2 per cent. Now, 2 per cent is like a drop in the ocean. What is the Minister for Agriculture doing to ensure that in the next Budget, he gets 10 per cent of the national Vote given to his Ministry?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture comprises of so many sectors. Most of those sectors, today, are dead. In fact, if the agricultural sectors of this country are not all dead, then 99.9 per cent are dead. I happen to come from a fairly rich agricultural area. I come from a sugar-cane, cotton and maize growing area. It is unfortunate that in this financial year's Budget, there was no

mention at all of how we are going to improve farming in my area or give incentives to our cotton farmers. Today, cotton farmers in my home area do not even know that they should grow cotton, because nobody has told them what benefits they will derive from growing cotton. We are talking of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) when the industries which depended on cotton are dead. I am sure the Thika Textiles is dead because I do not hear of it any more. In Kisumu, the Kisumu Cotton Mills (KICOMI) has been dead for several years, and the Minister has not told us how he will revive these industries. We need to know this so that when we talk of AGOA, we do not do so and import cotton from Tanzania to meet the Kenyan quota for AGOA. I think this is a sad state.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cost of inputs, like Prof. Oniang'o said, is very high to the extent that it has driven the farmers to buy cheap seeds which are not high yielding. Something has to be done about it. This is happening, whether we like it or not. When I go to a supermarket and get maize seeds which cost Kshs300 and another type which costs Kshs100, I will go for the latter, because sometimes I do not know the difference. Nobody has come to tell me.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all said and done, I would like to talk about sugar because the way I see it, the sugar industry in this country is going to die a natural death. When I read in the newspapers yesterday that by January the Ministry will do away with duty on sugar imports, I almost cried. If that happens, and with the kind of cheap sugar that is being imported to this country, the sugar industry will go to the drain. When the sugar industry goes down the drain, we are talking about six million Kenyans losing their livelihood. That has to be addressed. If there is a policy for the sugar industry, let it be and let it be known to the sugar-cane farmer. They do not know anything. When the President was on a tour of Kisumu he said that the Government would write off so much money that is owed by the industry or the farmers, but up to date nothing has happened. So, the people are asking us to explain what happened because they do not see anything happening.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Speech of the Minister for Finance on the Budget day, he talked of high dependence on rainfall. It was a sub topic in his Speech. If we are aware that we depend so much on rainfall for agricultural production, what are the alternative methods we are putting in place now? We should have alternative methods put in place, so that at least, our farmers get to know that the Ministry cares for them.

The Ministry of Agriculture needs some financing. The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), in my view, is dead. As at now AFC wants to recover money that was lent to farmers 20 to 30 years ago, instead of telling them how they are going to assist them to get new financing to be able to do their farming. Why does the Ministry not introduce some kind of micro finance to assist, especially the small-scale farmers most of whom form the bulk of farmers in this country?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his Speech also, the Minister for Finance talked of outdated technology. Now, if we are still using outdated technology, why does the Ministry not look for better technology for our farmers, so that at least, we again become the Kenya that used to export, for example, maize? When I was a university student I used to read in newspapers that Kenya was exporting maize to Zambia. That was about ten to 20 years ago. What has happened all of a sudden that we are not even able to feed our people today? Today, I talked to a constituent of mine who had gone all the way to Kitale to buy maize, because maize at my home has already been exhausted, yet it is a high potential area. There is no maize there because the farmers there were not given incentives to do what they are supposed to do as farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, the Ministry must look for a linkage between agriculture as an industry, the manufacturing sector and other industries. I sympathise with farmers



who grow coffee and tea in the highlands. Now, 40 years after Independence we are still selling the same kind of natural products to the outside world instead of looking for other better ways. Yesterday when we were in Mombasa for a seminar, I learnt that when we sell our coffee to the London market, we are paid US\$0.5, and when they sell it to the German market, they are paid US\$16. That is the kind of disparity that exists. Why does the Ministry not get a linkage between the industries concerned so that they come up with a product which will earn Kenyans some money?

Thank you.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of this country. You may not want someone from the Ford People Party to contribute to that important aspect. The Minister for Agriculture has tried to do his best, considering that he is operating on the old policies that were formulated by the colonial Government. The policies stipulate that we should sell raw tea to the UK, raw coffee to Germany, sell our hides and skins to Italy, and that we can only get our crops through rain-fed agriculture and not through irrigation. We must abandon those primitive old policies.

I am sure that if the Minister, considering the way he has performed, could embrace the new modern policies and methods of agriculture, he would create 800,000 jobs in this country and Ksh500 billion would be added to our economy. How do we do it? For instance, the world tea market is 87,000 billion dollars. Kenya is the second largest exporter of tea. However, how much do we get out of that 87,000 billion dollars of the world market? We get less than a billion dollars; half a billion dollars in fact. Supposing we wanted to get 2 billion dollars only, how much would we have to invest to earn the two billion? We would have to invest Ksh160 billion, which is half of our national Budget.

What we have to do is to invest only Ksh500 million to package, add value, and process our tea and give it a local brand name like Koyua tea, Gatombe tea, Gatianchoma, which are names of some of the areas where we have some of the best tea in this country. We can sell the tea the same way French wine or the Italian wine or the Kenyan wine is sold. If the Minister for Agriculture was given Ksh500 billion to invest in machinery to package the tea, we would earn Ksh160 billion from the world market.

We would also create jobs to the tune of 200,000. From that one crop, the Minister would have provided 40 per cent of the jobs that were promised to this country by the NARC Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, how would we earn some more money? By investing Kshs1.2 billion in value added processing for our Kenyan coffee. How much would we earn from that investment? We would earn 3 billion dollars out of the world market of 112 billion dollars. We would just get 3 out of 112 billion dollars. That is Kshs240 billion in Kenyan money. The two crops would fetch Ksh400 billion, which is more than the money we would have raised in from our taxation.

In that investment, we would also be able to create 200,000 jobs; formal jobs which pay salaries at the end of each month, in addition to the occupation of the farmers. The Minister would have rescued the pledge of the NARC Government and included the pledge of the Ford People in the last elections. What else would he do? He would undertake to fulfil the needs of AGOA, by investing Ksh2 billion in cashew nuts; supply seeds, fertiliser, and equipment, to the ginnery. In that investment, we would be able to raise Ksh80 billion from AGOA, I have the Act here to show that. That is one quarter of our national Budget. Already, AGOA has created 60,000 jobs. We can increase those jobs to 150,000. That way, the Minister will have surpassed what the three crops can offer, and the pledge that was made by the NARC Government to this nation for job creation. We would have solved all the *Mungiki* problems, *Kebago* problems in Kisii, all the *Musumbiji* problems in Kakamega, and all the *Baghdad* problems in Kisumu. The boys involved in those groups would get jobs and would not

involve themselves in illegal activities. We would have solved the problems of muggers and carjackers. We would not only have provided jobs, but also solved security problems in this country. That is what Ford People would have done and I know since the Minister has been its member since its inception, maybe he would embrace the ideas I am giving from Ford People so that our county can develop.

Mr. Temporary Deputy, Speaker, Sir, if we talked to the people living around the lake Victoria and invested in the lake and other lakes 2-3 billion dollars, we would have fish from those lakes and earn Ksh20 billion from the European market alone. If we expanded the market to China, and to Japan, we would earn Ksh30 billion a year from fish export. These are very simple things and the investments are very minimal. The Minister should talk to his counterpart in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. They should Kshs2 billion in livestock; create 10 abattoirs so that we harvest our livestock production. That would earn our country another Ksh30 billion. If he does not know how he can get it, let him come and talk to me. I will show him how to earn Ksh30 billion from livestock, and create 50,000 jobs, instead of going to KMC and investing Ksh4 billion. Let him invest half of that amount in 10 abattoirs in this country. We will earn Ksh30 billion just like Botswana and create 50,000 jobs. All the Somali people we see around the country selling illegal arms, would be occupied in producing meat and meat products. We would then reduce the spread of illegal arms and the capability of muggers and carjackers, thus solving the crime problem.

I would like to conclude by asking the Minister to take keen interest in irrigation because the development of this country relies on agriculture. The rain-fed areas are almost exhausted by being densely populated. We must direct our focus to the sparsely populated areas which are the semi arid areas, and invest in irrigation. That way, we would produce all the food we need for this country and even extra for export. This country would be a great country and in five years, I would be begging to join NARC so that I can come back to this House in the next Parliament.

I beg to support.

**Mr. G.G. Kariuki:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to contribute on this Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture. First of all I must thank you very much for allowing me to stand here today. The Ministry of Agriculture is a very important Ministry. It is surprising that the money which they are asking for is less than Kshs4 billion while some other Ministries are getting more than that amount and yet they are not as equally important as this one. With a new Minister, we expect to hear a new national policy on agriculture, based on current situations. This country has come from very far since Independence and up to now, it is surprising that we are still importing food. What is important, and I believe that is what the Ministry should do, is to make sure that land is used to the maximum and that every inch of land that is used is productive because in cases where land is not productive in one way, it is productive in other ways like animal husbandry and so forth.

The Ministry should also be in a position to make sure that food crop diseases are eradicated because today, if you go to every sub-division or division, you will find extension officers stationed there but they have no means of transport. Therefore, diseases continue to destroy our crops while we have the most trained men and women in those areas. The Ministry needs to ask itself why it should have people in an area where it knows it cannot utilize them to the maximum. These people have just been dumped in those areas for political or employment purposes and the Government is not even aware of what they are doing. Time has come when we need to employ and station officers in areas where they are productive. If they are not productive, we need to do something else with them because there are many other areas where they can be deployed.

Another issue is the availability of agricultural inputs. Inputs are becoming too expensive and yet we are expected to have enough food for this country and for export. I do not know whether the Minister and his staff ever sit down at any moment and decide which way to go. If they have ever decided, then the route they are following is personal to them because the country has not seen something new from this Ministry. We are told that there will be the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR) scheme. If the GMR scheme will be used the way we have just heard; that some money has been allocated to some areas, another way of corruption may be found. Let us be honest and make sure that whatever money is available in this country is properly utilised. We should not re-introduce the GMR scheme for the sake of pleasing people politically and yet it will not improve the agricultural sector. I am talking about that because of a recent saying that there was money which was supposed to be sent in every district. I do not know how that money was used. I think that money may have been used in ways that it is normally used, and we all know how that money is used by individuals.

This Ministry knows that they should be number one in protecting forests and rivers to make sure that they do not dry up because Kenyans will not be in a position to create dams or get water for themselves, unless they are assisted by nature. The Ministry of Agriculture needs to have money to do exactly that. I do not know how this Ministry which is just asking for Kshs3.9 billion will serve any useful purpose.

The next issue is production sustainability. You cannot sustain production unless various things are taken into consideration. We need to sustain agricultural production by providing all that is needed in the improvement of agriculture. This Ministry also needs to be involved in areas like wildlife conservation because the people of this country have produced a lot of food without any support from the Ministry of Agriculture. I cannot say which day I can count that an official from the Ministry of Agriculture has ever helped anybody in this country, especially in my constituency. However, we are able to produce is being destroyed by wildlife. It is the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture to make sure that there is food in this country. Since they have been used to this habit of being spoon-fed by the international community, they see no problem because in the process, some people make money through imports and distribution. Importation of food can be sustained by some people in this country because they have been very happy to distribute that money to the poor people. I think the Ministry should be ashamed if we continue to be fed by foreigners. It is a very serious matter. I think the new Minister and Permanent Secretary, the two people I have respect for, will give us a new and clear cut policy.

I would also like to comment on the marketing of our food surpluses. What effort do we make to ensure that all the surpluses of whatever we have like sugar--- You will see a lot of politics from that end because there are some people who want to import sugar in this country while we have surplus sugar. This is also a very serious matter that the Ministry needs to look into and the NARC Government needs to stay clear from making some kinds of accusations. We accused the KANU Government of misusing all the revenue of our productivity. Let us now be seen to be doing better than they have been doing all those years.

There is no way this country can feed itself, unless we subsidise our agricultural products. If we cannot support the farmer, the 500,000 jobs that we are talking about will just remain a dream. If we want to employ people, we must know that the only area remaining which does not compete with any other area is agriculture. This is where we can employ very many people in this country if the Ministry of Agriculture takes very seriously, what is being produced by the farmer.

We keep on saying that we shall re-introduce the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR)

scheme and reduce the prices of fertiliser and so forth. We should introduce it and then support agriculture in every respect. Again, this Ministry should work in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport and Communications because weather forecasts in this country are extremely unreliable. Sometimes we are told that rain is coming in the next two weeks but it starts raining the following day. Sometimes we are warned that the country is going to experience *El-Nino* rains but this is followed by a dry spell. I think it is time we told our people what we are capable of doing and what we are not.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Kones:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I would like to say that I support this very important Motion. In my opinion, the Kshs3 billion plus that is being granted to this Ministry should be tripled. We are talking of a very important Ministry which deals with almost every aspect of life in this country. But when it comes to allocating funds, we do not seem to be performing very well.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to congratulate and thank the Minister for what he has done so far and especially what he said yesterday. The Minister said that scientists have been researching on various aspects but do not transfer the same to the farmers. I think there is so much research in this country that is still going in-house. It has not been transferred out to the farmer. There is no transfer of that technology that is felt out there. We have heard of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) for very many years, but if you ask a small village farmer whether they have seen a KARI official, they would tell you they have not seen any. We have spent a lot of money doing research work and a lot of it ends up in some pilot projects which have never been transformed into reality.

I think it is time the Ministry goes out deliberately and say that there is going to be so much given to research even if it means doubling their current allocation but then link it up to the farmer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about extension officers. But if, today, we still want to use those same extension officers with the traditional methods that they already have, we are not going to improve anything. If we want to be competitive internationally, we must employ modern technology in our farming activities. We would like to see a situation where extension officers in the villages have gone through some induction courses with KARI officers so that this research is not a theory. I think in this country, research has concentrated more on theory so that its results are not reflected to what the farmer gets at the end of the day. Because I heard the Minister say this yesterday, we would like to see this done practically so that it is not just said in workshops without transferring it to the farmers in the field. We have the manpower, but the ability to transfer this into reality has not dawned on us. I would like to see the Minister implementing what he said.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to liberalisation of the tea industry, one speaker said that though we passed a Bill in this House to make tea factories autonomous and owned by farmers, and that the directors will be elected to manage those factories; the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) headquarters has got a heavy hand in what happens at local factories. The Ministry staff seated at the Civil Servants Bench will decide who becomes a director. If it is not their choice, they will make sure that person is not elected. There is a lot of rigging that goes on out there. I know an example of Kapkoros Tea Factory in Bomet where the officers from the headquarters went out there and forced an annual general meeting to be held despite the rebellion by the farmers. They were aware that certain resolutions which were going to be passed at the AGM were not in the favour of the farmers. But they sought the assistance of the Administration policemen and the regular police to guard a few members whom they knew would be passed the resolutions they wanted. I would like to

tell the Minister that there is a lot of turbulence going on within Kapkoros Tea Factory. It is time he intervened and liberated the farmers. If the farmers lost hope, even with the new Act, they are going to abandon tea farming. This is a very expensive exercise. There is a lot of talk that tea farming is very lucrative, it is not; it is to the contrary. A lot goes into actual production cost itself and at the end of the day, the farmer gets very little. If we mess that up, the farmer ends up getting nothing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you recall, some months ago or two months ago, a Question was brought into this House on the acquisition of fertiliser. It is because the farmer is not getting what he is supposed to get. I am urging the Minister to intervene particularly on this issue of Kapkoros Tea Factory. What happened with the AGM? Why were the police and the anti-riot police involved? Why would the farmers be forced to elect certain directors? What is the interest? This is a very serious matter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to commend the Minister for reintroducing the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR) scheme. When we were young, we used to see the GMR function. It functioned perfectly well. The farmers were advanced with loans to plant. When they got their produce, they sold them and the proceeds which were due to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) went to AFC. The only way we can revive serious agriculture in this country, particularly on cereals, is to introduce soft loans for farmers. When the farmers want to plant, they require several agricultural inputs but they do not have money. But if we can advance them money and guarantee them that the money will be deducted from their proceeds, they will be encouraged to produce 20 tonnes more than what we are doing now. It is shameful that we import maize to this country whereas our land is lying idle. This land alone is enough to feed this country and even get surplus for export. But because farmers are not supported in good time, they are not capable of producing that. Most of the farmers sell the low yields they get to enable them pay school fees for their children. But if they could be supported, they will produce more. The Minister should ensure that the GMR scheme is revived and functional. It functioned in the past and there is no reason why it should not work now.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are happy with the Minister because he is going to purchase the proceeds from the farmers at Kshs1,010 per sack of maize. But how much of it is practically realised? If today, the Minister told us that Kshs1,010 will be paid to the farmers at the production level, I have no quarrel with that. But he intends to open a store, for example, in Bomet, there is going to be one buying centre and a farmer would have to travel 40 kilometres to get to that centre. It does not make sense. If the Government wants to purchase maize, it should guarantee the farmers that Kshs1,010 will be the price on production at their own farms. But the farmer will find it cheaper to sell that maize for Kshs600 to middlemen, so that he does not incur any transport costs. When will this Kshs1,010 be paid to the farmers? Is it on delivery or 10 months later? There are so many things that we should clear about this issue so that we are not just talking about the figure.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, people have proposed Kshs1,500, I would say yes. But if we could get that one for a start, and then open enough centres like it used to be in the past--- The only unfortunate thing is that most of those stores were sold out. But it does not matter! You can always improvise certain small centres, get some tents or hire some stores around those areas, and buy the maize from the farmers in the villages. That way, we will not ask farmers to travel long distances.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding horticulture, I was impressed that we are now going out of our way to actually employ agricultural attaches, who will market our produce. I did not hear much about what you are doing in the Middle East. We have a potential market for horticultural

products, particularly the cut flowers. If we are serious about those things, let us open those centres and explore the Middle East market. There is a tradition in this country that the only market we have is Britain. There is a potential market in the Middle East for our tea, cut flowers, vegetables, meat and so on. Let us also move to the Middle East.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Members! It is now time for the Minister to reply.

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

I would like to thank hon. Members for their positive contributions regarding the budget of the Ministry. It was noted by a number of hon. Members that the Kshs5 billion budget is not adequate for the purpose of carrying out our mandate as a Ministry. We do agree, but we also recognise the constraints faced by the Government, in trying to budget. We hope our case shall be considered in subsequent budgets in the next couple of years.

In the past, good reform policies have been formulated, but there have been various problems in the implementation of the same, generally because of diverse interests and lack of political commitment on the part of those who were in leadership. My Ministry is now moving from that scenario towards ensuring that all good policies are effectively implemented and promptly done so. In that regard, my Ministry is preparing a strategic plan. I heard a number of hon. Members, while making their contributions, expressed concern as to whether the Ministry was focusing in any particular direction. In that strategic plan, its implementation will be closely monitored by the Ministry. The plan recognises more private sector participation in various sub-sectors and also in extension service. It also emphasises on capacity building of other service providers such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and religious groups, so as to effectively take up some of the services currently being provided by the Government. It calls for proper exit and entry plans. Exit in the sense that the Government needs to exit from some of the functions it is carrying out and move to core issues of governance. Entry, in the sense that the private sector needs to take up effective leadership as far as providing some of those services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I respond to the issues being raised by Members of Parliament during the debate on the Vote of the Ministry that I presented to this House last week, I would like to give a brief overview of the budgetary allocations of my Ministry, to make it clear why we have not been able to do as well as we should.

Of the Kshs3,271,152,430 allocated to the Ministry for Recurrent Expenditure, Kshs959,435,345, equivalent to 29 per cent, goes to state corporations under the Ministry. That leaves a balance of Kshs2.3 billion to cover salaries, operations and maintenance expenses at the Ministry Headquarters and other field stations. Of that, personal emoluments take close to Kshs1.75 billion, representing 76 per cent of the recurrent budget, leaving only 24 per cent to cover the operations and maintenance expenses. This is a real challenge to the Ministry and the country. This is because if we have to effectively contribute to the overall economic recovery, as a Ministry, we need more money to enable us assist other sectors to move forward.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in spite of budgetary constraints, my Ministry will strive to formulate policies which will lead to getting maximum returns from the meagre allocation. It is with this view that we have allocated Kshs5 million to utilise in financing stakeholder consultations, which are geared towards ensuring effective review of the Kenya Rural Development Strategy Paper,

which was started by the Ministry sometime back. It is also going to assist in reviewing the national food policy and the horticultural, pyrethrum and cotton policies, which are required to ensure that this sector is streamlined in order to make a meaningful contribution to the welfare of this society. My Ministry has allocated close to Kshs400 million under this Vote for extension services as a means of ensuring that farmers get the latest information on farming methods and inputs needed to improve production.

On horticulture, Mr. Kones did make it clear that there is need for us to explore new markets, particularly in the far East and other countries of the world instead of relying on the traditional markets in Europe. The European markets have become unprofitable because of the high tariffs imposed on our exports. This is a problem we are considering as a Ministry, and I am positive that we shall make serious and concerted efforts towards realisation of effective value addition to our exports.

As far as development is concerned, indeed, Mr. Sambu, in his contribution did indicate that we did not mention a number of projects under the Ministry. This is true because the allocation to the Development Vote is very small compared to the Recurrent Vote. As I said before, we spend close to 76 per cent of our Recurrent Expenditure on personal emoluments. This leaves the Ministry with very little money to initiate development programmes. However, I do want to recognise and thank a number of organisations which have been, in collaboration with the Government, assisting the agricultural sector to improve. I would like to particularly thank the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), DANIDA, GTZ, FAO, USAID, IFAD and many other organisations which have been assisting the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me now respond to specific matters raised by hon. Members. As far as extension services are concerned, I do agree 100 per cent with hon. Members that they are moribund and need to be revived and extension officers made to recognise the needs and aspirations of the people of Kenya. I appreciate the concerns shown by hon. Members. I also appreciate the fact that hon. Members of Parliament do recognise the fact that there is inadequate funding. But it is not inadequate funding which leads to poor extension services. The major problem is lack of proper orientation of extension officers. This is because for many years, these officers have been waiting for political pronouncements and directives to move to the ground. I have given them a clear direction that they have to deliver services to the people of Kenya, failing which they will have to leave before we are voted out of power. It is a situation I am dealing with, and for the period I will be heading the Ministry of Agriculture I will make sure that there is effective delivery of services to the people of this country. I will take necessary steps to ensure improved service delivery. I promise this House that positive changes will be seen in due course. There will be a re-organisation of some of the bodies under the Ministry and even the Ministry's staff. It is time the staff of the Ministry understood that this country expects a lot from them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also trying a new extension policy which entails increased collaboration between various providers of services. We would like service providers to play a bigger role in the provision of services, especially extension services. It is imperative to remind the House that the Ministry now gets less than 3 per cent of the total Budget. At Independence and for many succeeding years, the Ministry got close to 11 per cent of the total Budget. No wonder that at that time the economy grew at 6 per cent. The diminished budgetary provision to the Ministry has also had a negative effect on the growth of the economy.

I would like to remind the House that there are some factors we need to look into as we discuss the Motion on the Ministry of Agriculture. Principal among them is the fact that while it is

admitted that 45 per cent of the national revenue comes from the agricultural sector, which also contributes 26 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), we have not invested as much as we get from the sector. I have told the officers in the Ministry that it is high time the Ministry of Agriculture told its own story. We should not wait for other people to tell our story. I do hope that in the course of time, I will adequately tell the story about the Ministry of Agriculture.

As far as fertilizer is concerned, I do recognise the concerns raised by hon. Members and their wish that, that commodity be cheaper than it is today. We do appreciate the fact that we have been getting a lot of assistance from Japan as far as fertilizer is concerned. This assistance was stopped this year throughout the world. I am using the words "throughout the world" so that it is not mistaken that this assistance was stopped when we took over power. This programme has been stopped all over the world. We hope that in future, we will get assistance and mobilise our domestic resources. Along with mobilising our domestic resources, we will design clear modalities for ensuring that any donated fertilizer or any fertilizer from the Government, will reach the farmers through farmers' organisations such as the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) and cooperative societies at an affordable rate. It is in this spirit that the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing has been revitalising the co-operative societies with a view to ensuring that there is effective delivery of services to the people of this country.

The other issue which was raised by hon. Members as far as fertilizer is concerned is its quality. I do recognise that while the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) may be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that what comes into this country keeps to the specifications and standards required internationally and locally, there has been a cartel of businessmen within the country who have been faking both the quality and quantity of fertilizer. We have put on high alert surveillance instruments within the country to ensure that this situation becomes a thing of the past. We are dealing with a society replete with men and women of morals that can be anything other than unquestionable. However, we hope that with the will of God and divine providence, we shall be able to overcome some of these problems.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as pyrethrum is concerned, when I took over the Ministry I got a lot of disturbing stories. This was because many farmers were not able to get their pay. As I make this contribution in this House, farmers have not been paid to the tune of over Kshs1 billion for pyrethrum delivered for the last one year. This problem was occasioned by a number of factors, one of which was the mess in the marketing of pyrethrum both locally and internationally by the management of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK).

Since I took over the Ministry, I have taken a number of considered steps to ensure that I streamline the organisation. To begin with, I fired, or caused to be fired, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of that organisation. A couple of months ago, I degazetted the election of some directors who, through some funny elections, wanted to remain in office, and now they have to go for proper elections. If farmers give me the same or similar directors, then, unfortunately, there will be little I can do. This is because the Pyrethrum Act is very clear that the Minister has only the leeway of appointing four directors and the other six are supposed to come from the farmers. Moreover, I realised that there were no clear regulations on how these directors are supposed to be elected by farmers. I have, therefore, ensured that regulations are prepared and presented to the Attorney-General. He has given me his concurrence and I have forwarded them for gazettment. I am happy to announce to the House that the regulations have been gazetted and I have now put into motion the mechanism for ensuring that the farmers elect their own directors.



As for the issue of payment to the farmers, I would like to assure the House that I will do all that is humanly possible to ensure that farmers are paid. There is a structured understanding between the organisation and some of its buyers abroad. The organisation has given me an indication that there is going to be a payment in the month of November to the tune of Kshs82 million. This is a drop in the ocean, but it is better to have something than nothing.

As far as other boards are concerned, I will take serious action whenever I realise that there is a problem with any of them. I will ensure that issues relating to corruption and elections are dealt with. I have also taken keen interest in what Mr. Kones said about the police being used at Kapkros Tea Factory. I know that the use of police is a very ugly thing to be directed at any human being. For the last two years, we have witnessed the misfortune of the same hon. Member being beaten, tear-gassed and chased like a common thug by the police. We do not want Kenyans to think that the police can still be used to do any job other than serving the people of Kenya. I take great exception to use of the police instead of using his head by any director, be he of an agency or a parastatal under the Ministry, or other organisation over which the Minister has any residual powers to exercise under an Act or the Constitution. Many of the directors whom we have appointed, or caused to be appointed, to boards of various parastatals are people who went to school and understand what they ought to do. One of the things they ought to be doing is not using the police.

On the issue of credit, we recognise the scarcity of resources. As a Ministry, we have been trying as much as possible to provide farmers with affordable credit.

I know hon. Members may say it is too little, but this is the beginning of a major step towards revitalizing the agricultural sector in this country. We have given the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) close to Kshs520 million. I do realise that the conditions under which the AFC is lending money to farmers are acceptable. I have given a directive to the management of AFC to ensure that those conditions are farmer-friendly and that farmers who had initially borrowed money from AFC are not harassed. It is through those farmers that the public will have full confidence in the AFC. Mr.

Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the GMR scheme is concerned, it is a deliberate move by the Government. We strongly believe that is the only way to go. What we know is that the GMR scheme was replete with so many abuses which we want to remove. We are serious about it. We may not do everything overnight, but we are determined to move in that particular direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the cotton industry is concerned, we have taken a number of steps. The first step was to provide seeds to the farmers. While it is not enough, we have been able to double the production this particular season from 25,000 bales to 40,000 bales. This is a programme that is on-going in the Ministry. We are doing it hand in hand with the process of trying to revive the cotton sector through policy and legislative framework within the Government. We do hope once the cotton board is in place, it shall take up the responsibility of overseeing improvement of cotton production throughout the country. While many hon. Members mentioned the issue of cotton as a response to the initiative of AGOA, we at the Ministry, look at it slightly differently. We are looking at AGOA as an opportunity for us to be able to organise our internal mechanisms such that by the time AGOA or any other market is not there, we will be able to have enough cotton for our own domestic consumption.

As we are now, our total national consumption is close to 120,000 bales against the production of 40,000 bales. This, therefore, means that there is an enormous market of cotton within the country and within the factory network that we, as a Government, are trying to revive. Therefore, we are looking at AGOA as an opportunity for us to improve what we need to have in the long run,

but not as an end in itself.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue which was the main concern of hon. Members is the new varieties of seeds and the question of the role of research. Through the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), our country has developed several new crop varieties suitable for various agro-ecological zones, including the Arid and Semi-Arid areas (ASAL).

I would like hon. Members of Parliament to reflect, for a moment, about what we call ASAL areas. To us, these ASAL areas are areas of unexploited potential. These are areas whose potential has not been effectively utilised. While we are investing close to Kshs12,000 per acre in the high potential areas, we are investing less than Kshs5,000 in the low potential areas. If we invest an equivalent amount of money per unit area we are likely to realise enormous amounts of returns on investment from these areas of limited potential as of now.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members from the maize growing areas were concerned about the question of price. The price is an aspect that we increased this year. However, we do hope that we shall be able to review the logistics and the price in the subsequent years to ensure that a farmer gets the best benefit out of his crop. As far as maize is concerned, we do expect to harvest close to 26 million bags from the long rains and 5 million bags from the short rains.

In order to stabilise prices, the Government has set aside Kshs3 billion to purchase crops from the farmers. The Government, through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), offers a floor-price to the stabilised prices. We are not saying that we are giving the best price to the farmer. But we are ensuring that the farmer does not get harmed by the middleman. I will give an example. Recently, in the South Rift, it was not possible for all the harvested maize to be sold to the NCPB because we acted as a floor-price. The farmers knew that, in the absence of a middleman, they had somewhere to go to. The middleman also knew the same. What has happened in the dynamics of maize-pricing over the period is the following: The middleman has been creating rumours about the possibilities of cheaper maize elsewhere, or certain factors that mitigate against the farmer. In desperation, the farmer offers his maize hoping that he would beat the other farmers. At the end of the day, they realise that they are offering their maize at lower prices. We want to be the stabiliser, to assist both the farmer and the consumer.

In due course, we will be able to look at measures and put effective safe-guards in place, to ensure that we are not looking at the question of price alone. We are also looking at cheaper costs to the farmer, who is the producer. That is the only way we are going to enable the farmers to break even, as far as some of those issues are concerned.

I would like to assure this House, and the country at large, that the Government shall not import maize for any purpose, because we have enough maize. The Government shall buy maize from the farmers and pay promptly. I have been taking keen interest in maize because I know that is where the granary of this country lies. Given the inadequacy of time and the generosity of my contribution, I would like to thank all the hon. Members and assure those who are interested in the protection of river banks that, I have given clear instructions and directives under Cap.318 on protection of river banks. But because I know the abuse has been widely exercised in the past, I have given those who have been abusing the river banks, six months to stop that. The officers in this Ministry are listening to me! That is a situation I cannot allow to continue because I strongly believe that there is a possibility of us ensuring that we have cleaner water and better environment.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

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

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

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

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,992,656,145 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2004, in respect of:-

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

*(Question proposed)*

VOTE 10 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

*Head 190 - Headquarters Administrative and Technical Services*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, with regard to Head 190, Item 050, House Allowance, it looks like the Ministry is reducing the allocation in the next three years. What are they going to do? Are they going to construct houses for these people to stay in?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Hon. Members, while the Minister is consulting, perhaps, those hon. Members who want to raise issues on the same Heads can do so so that the Minister can answer all of them at once. Mr. Angwenyi, do you have another question?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Head 190, Item 121, Telephone Expenses, they are reducing the allocation from Kshs72 million to Kshs45 million next year and then to Kshs9 million the year after. Are they going to send their messages by runners or what?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Minister, I believe that you are noting down the questions. Are you doing so?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Yes, I am doing that, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Those are two questions on the same Head. Are there any other issues on the same Head which an hon. Member would like to raise a clarification on? Yes, Mr. Muturi!

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to raise two questions on the same Head 190, Item 068, Training Expenses, and Item 200, Replacement of Motor Vehicles, at the same time. Could the Minister tell us what kind of staff he wants to train with this Kshs28 million in one financial year? Are they livestock officers or meat inspectors because this money is so little? I find it strange that it was even allocated there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Item 200, Replacement of Motor Vehicles, there is a star there indicating that no expenditure can be incurred under this Item until a requisition to incur expenditure has been approved by the Treasury. How many vehicles does the Ministry plan to replace with Kshs10 million in one financial year?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 191, Item 070 - Foreign Service Allowance, you can see the same amount is being reflected for the next four years and yet we want to refocus our foreign missions on trade particularly in agricultural products and yet they are saying the amount is going to remain stagnant for the next four years. There is no change of policy to increase our marketing activities in agricultural products overseas. Why is this so?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Minister, could you now respond strating with the first question?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there are a number of issues about the downward trend in terms of the expenditure for the Ministry and this is mainly because of the split and re-organisation of the two Ministries. As you remember, at the beginning of the year, I had almost three Ministries in one and these were the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries, the Ministry of Regional Development where most of the parastatals were under my Ministry and also the Ministry of Agriculture. The split, therefore, occasioned a bit of reduction in terms of expenses.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as far as the issue of training is concerned, it is also similar because the training needs of our personnel have been occasioned by the need to train a certain cadre of our officers. However, the main problem is that when the Ministry was split, it was not possible, therefore, to get the same amount of money as we were getting, as was originally envisaged.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, finally, there is also the issue of limited financial resources because at the beginning of the year, we budgeted for a colossal amount of money in various aspects but because of the Government budgeting process and the fact that we had a ceiling under which we had to operate, it was not possible to have the figures that we sought at the beginning of the year.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The Minister has not answered the other questions. For example, that one on telephone expenses being reduced from Kshs9 million to Kshs72 million last year. He has also not talked about the foreign service allowances.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I did indicate that many of these reductions are occasioned by the fact that when the two Ministries were split, they went down. Secondly, there have been very stringent Government regulations to the extent that even we, as Ministers, are supposed to have a certain ceiling as far as the telephone expenses are concerned because the Government does recognise that the resources we have been spending as far as telephone services are concerned, have been a lot more wasteful than it should be.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as far as foreign service allowance is concerned, we are interested in doing something because as you will remember, when I was moving the Vote of the

Ministry, I did indicate that we need more attaches in other countries than the countries we have been having because currently we have only three attaches. There is one in South Africa, one in London and another one in Rome. We are thinking that we need additional staff for the Middle East, Far East and even Brussels to take care of issues of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the European Union (EU) so as to ensure that the Ministry gets good information from other countries, but the main problem is that there is a limit to which we can operate. However, we are hoping that once our strategy is ready, we will be able to ensure that some of these things are ironed out.

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

*(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)*

SUB VOTE 101 - REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS IN AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you will notice that under Sub-Vote 101, we had not sought any extra funding for the next three years under Heads 266, 324, 407, 445, 446, 478, 481 and others. Is the Minister disbanding all these activities?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Is there any other person who wants to raise a point on these Heads so that the Minister can handle all of them together?

*Head 229 - Agricultural Machinery Testing and Development Centre*

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 229, Item 650---

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Which page is that?

**Mr. Muturi:** I realise that we are using different books, but the Heads are the same. In the book I am using, the Heads are on page 346. Is it okay?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Order, Mr. Muturi! You better get the revised books because they were presented here officially to replace the one you are using. Therefore, I suggest that you use the right book.

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, fortunately, it is the same page. That is page 346. They have not changed much. I had referred to Head 229, Item 650, Sale and Fees for Services Rendered.

In the previous financial year, what is shown to have been received is Kshs2.4 million and this year the Ministry is projecting to get Kshs638,000. What has happened? Why is this reduction anticipated?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Is there any other issue to be raised so that the Minister for Agriculture can take all of them together?

**Prof Olweny:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 266---

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** On which page are you?

**Prof. Olweny:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my book is different from yours, but I think it is under the same Head.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Sorry. Get the right book and then we will---

*(Loud consultations)*

Order, Members! These books were officially laid on the Table by the Minister and we are now discussing this Vote concerning the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, we shall refer to the right books that were presented here. If you do not have the right book, please, we have the orderlies and the Serjeant-at-Arms who are ready to get the right books for you and we shall move on.

**Prof. Olweny:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you do not want me to raise my point?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Yes, Mr. Angwenyi. Who do you want to inform?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** I want to inform you and the hon. Member.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Could you do that, please?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, actually, there is no allocation under Head 266 which the hon. Member wants to talk about. What we have is for last year. So, if my question is answered, maybe his doubts will be answered too.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Yes, but the Chair insists that we must use the right books that were laid on the Table by the Minister.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do put those questions in two categories. Firstly, we are not providing money in the subsequent financial years. We are not providing money because some of those Items are related to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development and, therefore, after the split, we do not envisage a situation where we are going to provide for the same. As far as Head 229, Item 650, is concerned, we provided over Kshs2 million last year and we are thinking of providing Kshs680,000 this year. Those were our estimates. However, we realised that we were collecting far much less than what we envisaged. So, we wanted to make a realistic budgetary provision, and that is why we went for a figure that is within the limit of our ability to raise funds.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I understand the explanation given by the Minister, but could he refer to Head 996 on page--

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): We are not yet there, Mr. Angwenyi!

*(Heads 229, 240, 266, 324, 407, 445, 446,  
478, 481 and 549 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)*

#### SUB-VOTE 102 - PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

##### *Head 996 - Bura Irrigation Scheme*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I wonder why we do not have any allocation for Head 996, Bura Irrigation Scheme.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): That is on which page?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** It is on page 363.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that aspect of irrigation went to the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development and is now domiciled there. What we are left with is only the

question of providing policy. But as far as opening up of canals and the working operations of the Board are concerned, they are now domiciled in the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development.

*Head 462 - Livestock Training - Support Services*

**Mr. Muturi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I want to raise a question on Head 462 on page 355, Item 200 on the Replacement of Motor Vehicles. I am getting a little worried because I do not seem to be getting the correct answer.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Mr. Muturi, I do not think we are together. Can you go over it again? Tell us the page number, Head and Item. If you are using the wrong book, I repeat that you must get the right one.

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Heads and Items have not changed. So, I do not know if the pages have changed. It appears just below Sub-Vote 102 - Promotion of Agriculture and Sector Development.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Head 462 is on page 355. What is the Item? There is no Item numbered 200 on this page. Do you have an Item like that?

**Mr. Muturi:** No.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if you look at Head 202 on page 364, I wonder what is going to happen as we do not plan to expand and intensify our research activities in agriculture---

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** Which Head and Item are you referring to, Mr. Angwenyi?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** It is on page 364, Head 202 - Agricultural Department Headquarters. I am questioning the entire Head.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Khamasi):** We have not arrived there yet.

*(Heads 305, 306, 425, 462, 463, 465,  
466, 532, 534, 537, 539, 548,  
995 and 996 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)*

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

*Heads 235 and 238 - Headquarters Crop Production Services and Headquarters Horticultural Crop Production Services*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am just concerned that provisions for Heads 235 and 238 have not been increased over the three-year cycle, yet the Minister told us, while moving the Vote that he wants to intensify research, increase and promote higher production and higher yields. How can he do it if he has not increased the amount of money he will spend on these Heads?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Does anybody wish to seek another clarification while the Minister is consulting? Mr. Minister, we will give you a few more moments.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a bit of shift in terms of the way we shall be operating in the subsequent years. While some of this money has been at the headquarters, we want to put more money in the field, so that farmers can get better services, instead of putting all the money at the headquarters. That shows why we have reduced the money in that particular direction.

*Head 638 - Provincial Agricultural Extension Services*

**Mr. Angwenyi**: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, following the response given by the Minister, if you look at Head 638 on page 375, you will find that there is no adequate increase in the money put into the field. The Minister has just told us that he has shifted funds from the headquarters to the field, but that has not been reflected in this Head.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Is there anybody else who wishes to seek a clarification?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): There are a number of factors other than the ones I mentioned earlier. There has also been the issue that our staff in the field is diminishing. For the last nine years, we have gone to almost negative 2,000 staff against a total establishment at that time of close to 9,000 members of staff in the field. That, therefore, means that we have not been able to pay as many people as we used to pay. But we hope that in future, we shall get more people in extension service.

*Head 699 - Research Extension Liaison*

**Mr. Angwenyi**: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me extend the same argument to other areas like Head 699 on page 379. If the Minister says that our staffing is being reduced substantially, then that should be reflected on emoluments, which have remained stationary over the period. That means that there is no substantial reduction in members of staff. Therefore, there must be another explanation as to why we have not allocated adequate funds for research in the field.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the other practical issue, and this is what is happening there, is that the national Budget has also not grown. As I said before, our budgetary provision has been diminishing over the period, to the extent that we are now getting 2.5 per cent of the total annual Budget.

*(Heads 202, 224, 232, 235, 236, 238, 255,  
260, 265, 280, 286, 291, 408, 477, 513,  
543, 638, 639, 661, 699 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)*

SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**Mr. Angwenyi**: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I really sympathise with the Minister



because he has accepted the position that the Ministry should not be allocated more funds even in the future. We know that this is the Ministry which is the backbone of our economy. I thought resources would be redirected from other Ministries to this Ministry. Could the Minister assure us that in the next Budget, he will seek more funds than what has been allocated for the next two years to this Vote?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): In all the Heads which have been read?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The provisions have not been increased.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there are a lot of issues as far as the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development is concerned. They were budgeted for under our Ministry, but they [**The Minister for Agriculture**] have now been shifted to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. So, we do not envisage a situation where we shall budget on their behalf.

*(Heads 198, 257, 258, 259, 261,  
467, 468, 471, 472, 473, 474, 642,  
645 and 759 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)*

#### SUB-VOTE 105 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

##### *Head 502 - Food Supplies and Management Services*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, again, we know that there is no bigger tragedy a country can face than food scarcity. We have seen what is happening in Zimbabwe. The Minister does not seem to be concerned about our food security. I thought he would have sought adequate resources to ensure that our food security is guaranteed. That has not been reflected in this budget. We want to support the Minister.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): What is your response, Mr. Minister?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, basically, this is a small skeleton office which is charged with the responsibility of getting information from the field as far as various aspects of the weather and the food situation are concerned. However, the bulk of the money the Ministry will spend on food security will be managed by the Office of the President under strategic grain reserve and famine relief programmes.

*(Head 502 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)*

#### SUB-VOTE 106 - CROP AND PEST CONTROL

*(Heads 230, 233, 290, 426, 431, 432,  
437, 447, 448, 490, 551, 552  
and 553 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 106 agreed to)*

SUB-VOTE 107 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE BASE FOR AGRICULTURE

*(Heads 228, 246, 247, 250, 254,  
449, 451, 452 and 461 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 107 agreed to)*

*(Vote R10 agreed to)*

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): We will now move on to Development Expenditure on page 126 of the Development Estimates Book.

VOTE D10 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

*Head 192 - Western Kenya District Based Agriculture Development Project*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 126, I would like to refer the Minister to all the Items under Head 192. It looks like the Ministry has discontinued Western Kenya District Based Agriculture Development Project.

We all know that the hon. Minister has embarked on expanding important agricultural activities under his Ministry. [**Mr. Angwenyi**]

Could he explain to us why he wants to discontinue these activities in Western Kenya?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is something beyond the ability of the Ministry. This was a project which was funded by a donor. However, the donor has since pulled out of that particular programme due to a number of reasons.

*Head 190 - Headquarters Administrative and Technical Services*

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to Head 190, Item 319, Eastern Province Co-operative Bank Credit on page 126. I come from Eastern Province, but I am not aware of anything like this. Could the Minister be kind enough to tell me what it is, so that I can be of assistance to my voters?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a programme under the Co-operative Bank of Kenya to finance particularly horticultural farmers in some parts of Eastern Province.

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 127, Head 240, Item--

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Wait a minute, Mr. Sambu. We are not yet there. I will dispose of the Heads that have been read.

*(Heads 190, 192 and 193 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)*

SUB-VOTE 101 - REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS IN AGRICULTURE

*Head 240 - Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)*

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the lighting in this Chamber is very poor. With regard to Head 240, Item 531 -Acquisition of Buildings, there is Kshs180 million which has been allocated to this Item. What is this that they are going to acquire for Kshs180 million, and where is it?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, KARI has been the host of KEPHIS, and KEPHIS felt that they have come of age and they have already advanced programmes of acquiring a building which will be their headquarters away from KARI headquarters.

KARI needs to expand because of the capacity of research that they are undertaking. The building they want to acquire is in Karen area.

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under the same Head, page 127, Item 690 - Reimbursement from Statutory Organizations, in the previous financial year, there was no money allocated to this Item and this Financial Year Kshs180 million has been allocated to it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in the next two financial years, nothing has been allocated to it. What is this?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Prof. Olweny do you have an issue you want to raise? I am looking at the Opposition Benches because we are interrogating the Government Budget.

**Prof. Olweny:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a Government Budget, but we need some clarification.

On Head 240, Items 306 and 690, the same amount has been allocated to the Items. Am I seeing properly?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): You are not seeing properly!

**Prof. Olweny:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 240, Item 306 - Grant to KEPHIS for Operational Expenses, this year they have been allocated Kshs54 million and the other year it was just Kshs8 million. Why is there that kind of increase? If you look down the page, the direct payment by USAID under Item 903, it is also the same amount. What is the correlation?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): It is Appropriations-in-Aid. Mr. Kirwa, are you ready to respond to the two queries?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I just captured one question.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): It is because you were not listening to what the professor was saying.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a follow-up on the question raised by Mr. Sambu. The Minister has told us that KEPHIS is going to acquire property worth Kshs180 million, when we are reducing money for other activities. We know that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has built very many buildings around the country. Could the

Minister consider saving this amount of Kshs180 million and acquiring some of the properties owned by AFC which we valued at Kshs4 billion in the last financial year, so that the Government can save this money for some other activities?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me make a clarification as far as the Kshs180 million is concerned. The money labelled as Reimbursement from Statutory Organizations is collected on behalf of KEPHIS by KRA. So, this is money that KEPHIS is now receiving from KRA. It is not anticipated how much is going to be received in the subsequent years.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as to why KEPHIS needs its own headquarters, it is because its improved capacity and surveillance will require a headquarters that has adequate room for their staff, and KARI does not seem to have that room as of now. This, therefore, meant that they needed to look for new headquarters. They are not giving them money as a Ministry. What is happening is that they are using their own fees which they are collecting from inspection service to provide for their new headquarters.

The AFC property was valued by the Government at Kshs400 million, and there has been negotiation between AFC and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as to whether there is need for that complex to be sold. We have discussed this with the management of AFC Board. While they are hesitant, we feel, as Government, there is need for that property to be disposed of so that, that money can do something else, because institutions like those are not core functions of AFC.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the only problem is whether we shall get value for the investment that was done at AFC, because that particular building was put up at a cost of close to Kshs500 million, but its value is now below Kshs500 million. Which means, therefore, that if we were to give it to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and even if Treasury was to give us some money in lieu of the building, the Ministry will not get the money that was invested in that complex.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Could you now address Prof. Olweny's question? Hon. Mwenje, just hang on so that the Minister finishes with Prof. Olweny's question and then I will come to you.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if I remember, the question was with regard to increment in terms of funding for KEPHIS from Kshs8 million to Kshs54 million. This is because USAID is providing some assistance to KEPHIS and, in keeping with our new policy of ensuring that the private sector does play a better role, USAID found it fit that KEPHIS gets more money for effective surveillance of various aspects of its inspection. That is how the money has increased from Kshs8 million to Kshs54 million.

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, further to what Mr. Angwenyi said, why should we pay Kshs180 million to acquire---

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Mwenje, could we know what page, Head and Item you want a clarification on?

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is on page 127, Head 240, Item 531. What I am wondering is, why does the Minister think that this is a priority when that kind of money should have been put in AFC so that it can assist farmers? For example, it could give rebates to coffee farmers. This is not money from the donors; it is money that we are voting. What makes the Minister think that it is a priority to purchase that kind of building and yet that money could assist farmers so that they can generate more income?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the organization we discussed is the same one which is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that there is effective inspection. Part of the reason, apart from the capacity, has been the question that it is an inspector of most of the organizations that are working together including KARI.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, may I hasten to say that KEPHIS is not being given new money by the Government. KEPHIS is using the fees they are collecting to build their own headquarters. Therefore, even if this money was given to the Government, it is not necessarily going to go to AFC, because this is not money that we have control over as a Ministry.

*(Heads 240, 407, 481 and 490 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)*

*(A mobile phone rang)*

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Whose phone is ringing?

**An hon. Member:** I thought it was mine but it is not. It rang from somewhere but I do not know exactly where.

#### SUB-VOTE 102 - PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

##### *Head 238 - Headquarters Horticultural Crop Production Services*

**Mr. Sambu:** I would like to refer to Item 521, Loans to Farmers through Co-operative Bank. In the last financial year the amount allocated was Ksh23.9 million. This fiscal year, it is going to be Ksh24.6 million. Could the Minister explain this because the funds have been available yet many Kenyans are not aware of it?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Mr. Sambu is right. Many Kenyans are not aware of this particular amount of money, but the service has been going on under IFAD. We hope that the service will be expanded to areas where it has not been attracting a lot of attention from the the farmers.

##### *Head 237 - Crop Production*

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will refer to page 128, Head 237, Items 300 and 305. A while ago, the Minister explained that issues to do with food security are mainly being handled by the Office of the President. Assuming that is the way it has been, last year, there was no allocation for that. However, this year, there is a provision of Ksh50 million. Where does this money go? Are there any specific areas targeted for it? Item 305 is on Grants to Coffee Research Foundation - Tissue Culture. Last year, there was a provision of Kshs107 million. This year, there is a provision of Ksh60 million. What is happening? Is it that the project is nearing completion?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): I will take another one from Mr. Poghio and I think somebody should take notes so that he does not repeat himself.

**Mr. Poghio:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 465 on page 129, the Item

is 465. There is something called Griftu Pastoral Training Centre. I have never heard of this college. What do they do? Do they train pastors or what? Actually, it is under Item 420 on the Construction of Water Supplies and Sewerage at Griftu Pastoral Training Centre. Where is that?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir I will start with the first issue and that is a special programme for food security. Unlike the issue of food security under the Office of the President, it is a programme that is targeting communities and we are now dealing with 18 districts throughout the country which are food-poor. The programmes that we are targeting towards those districts are meant to ensure the people in those areas are mobilised along the lines of their priority needs. Once their priority needs are identified, then the Ministry will cultivate a way of assisting them technically to be able to ensure that they supply food to themselves first before they think of more food for sale.

It is also useful to explain this because what the Office of the President does is to purchase food and distribute it for relief purposes. We at the Ministry under this programme, which is assisted by FAO, are ensuring that we re-engineer the process of allowing people in all areas of this country, starting with the districts with food insecurity to mobilise their own domestic resources to ensure that they have adequate food for themselves. The other issue is on the Griftu Pastoral Training Centre. This training centre is in Wajir where there are few pastoralists. This is a programme in Wajir that is assisting the community with the programmes of development and provision of water. On tissue culture where we are dwindling in terms of what we are giving them, that was money meant for the setting up of a laboratory in Ruiru to assist in the development of Ruiru 11. Therefore, the funding has been going down because the laboratory is now set up and they need less than they required last year.

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, page 129, Head 238, Item 300 - Grants to Local Initiative Groups, they were allocated Kshs7.6 million last financial year, and this financial year they will have Kshs12 million. Could the Minister spell out which are these groups, who administers them and how they are administered so that all Kenyans can benefit from the Kshs12 million?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 238, Item 401 on Civil Works, there was an expenditure of Kshs45 million last year. This year, they have reduced to Kshs6 million.

Next year and the year after, they are raising it up to Kshs45 million. What are these Civil Works being conducted by the Agricultural Crop Production Services? Are they involved in civil works or in producing crops?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Let me take the first one; that is the one of money to special Local Initiative Groups. This is money under IFAD and it is given to certain groups, in eight districts of Eastern Province. This is the money that IFAD has been expending in that part of the country.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** What about the civil works?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Incidentally, there is so much horticulture in Eastern Province again. They have been doing canal construction under the horticulture system for various vegetables. This has been going down, because the demand has also been going down, given the fact that some of the projects that were done earlier are not necessarily for repetition.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the allocation this year has gone down to Kshs6 million. Next year and the year after, it will go up to Kshs45 million. In fact, that is the greatest expenditure under this caption.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I said that

it has gone down because the demand was lower at that particular period. We do anticipate that with the expansion of horticulture in other parts of the country, other than the areas where horticulture has been prevalent, we will expand in terms of canal.

*(Heads 237, 238, 465, 532, 533,  
534, 537, 995 and 996 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)*

**Mr. Sambu:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Just as you demand of us to mention the pages which we are talking about, could the Minister also mention the page he has reached because sometimes he reads the items so fast you cannot follow?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Just raise the point of order that you are not with him and we will make sure that we are together.

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

*(Heads 193, 225, 241, 246, 260, 271,  
408 and 424 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)*

#### SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

##### *Head 698 - Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP)*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it appears as if this Head 698; Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) is a conduit for public funds. We voted a lot of money under the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife and also the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development under the same Item. Now, we are voting close to Kshs300 million. Could the Minister explain to us what these funds will be used for at Lake Victoria other than what is being spent in the other two Ministries?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a World Bank project. Earlier this year, when we were doing reorganization of Government, that particular department was moved to KARI, which is under my Ministry. That is why it is being reflected here. I may not be able to explain what happened about the other Ministries.

**Mr. Sambu:** I concur with Mr. Angwenyi. It is not only in this Ministry. We are making a budget for the Republic in seconds. The World Bank is telling us that the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) is going to spend all this money. I come from an area which is the catchment area of Lake Victoria. The LVEMP, which was previously headed by Prof. Ojiambo, is doing nothing. Why are we voting Kshs257 million?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): I am sorry I did not get the question by Mr. Sambu. I was consulting with my colleagues. Maybe he could repeat it.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): You must have people listening for you as well. Mr. Sambu, could you repeat your question?

**Mr. Sambu:** We are being ordered around by the World Bank and the IMF. I have no apologies to make. I come from an area which is the catchment area of Lake Victoria and the projects, including control of deposits into Lake Victoria, emanate from there. We are voting Kshs257 million. They are not seen on the ground at all. I have only seen them supplying polythene tubes to the project, which I can also do in my individual capacity. What is the Kshs257 million for? The World Bank should pack up and go!

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mr. Sambu!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Minister said that this is a World Bank project. But when you look at the Appropriations-in-Aid, we are only receiving some assistance of Kshs144 million, which means the Government of Kenya must give out Kshs112 million. So, it is a project that our country should be interested in.

Could the Minister explain why we are spending so much money when we are spending a similar amount of money in both the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife, and the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I seek the indulgence of the Chair. As I said at the beginning, this project was transferred to my Ministry through KARI because the World Bank found that KARI was better in terms of management and co-ordination of this project given the other projects they have been undertaking in collaboration with other donors. When this project was transferred to my Ministry, KARI took over the stewardship. But we have an integrated programme between ourselves, the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife, and the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development. The sentiments raised by Mr. Sambu are issues of concern that I must, as a Minister, be able to take cognisance of. Such a project must be responsive to the needs of the local community given that the greatest catchment of Lake Victoria happens to be areas which Mr. Sambu represents.

**Mr. Muturi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 137, Head 759, the National Agricultural Research Programme, which, is under Item 304, will get a whopping Kshs822 million. Could the Minister explain what this programme is all about? Could he also tell us where the programme will be concentrated? I am asking these questions because the National Agricultural Research Programme has been allocated a lot of money. It is important that we know what it is all about. Under the same Head, what is Increased Rural Household Income which has been allocated Kshs54 million under Item 319? This is a very strange Item. Is the Government engaging in some business in the villages or what is it all about?

*(Mr. J. Nyagah consulted with  
the Ministry officials)*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could I ask the Minister another question, as he waits for his Assistant Minister, Mr. J. Nyagah, to consult with the Ministry officials?

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): No, Mr. Angwenyi! Let the Minister answer the questions Mr. Muturi has asked him first.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 759, Item 304 - National Agricultural Research Programme - there is close to Kshs1 billion we



allocate to various parastatals, as I said earlier on when I was responding to contributions by hon. Members. We allocate the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) that amount of money to run and maintain research in its expansive research stations throughout the country. Under Item 319 - Increased Rural Household Income - is a component of KARI which interfaces research and research consumers. When KARI conducts research in various fields, it incorporates the communities in it so that the research it carries out involves a community element. This institution spends that amount of money to facilitate those activities.

**The Temporary Deputy Chairman** (Mr. Khamasi): Mr. Minister, I thought that on Head 759 the hon. Member wanted to know why there was an increase from Kshs421 million to Kshs822 million. What was the main reason for that big increase? What is this programme all about? I think that is what the hon. Member wanted to establish.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, remember that I have just mentioned that some programmes are going to be moved to KARI from other organisations because of its increased capacity and efficiency. So, this increase is due to the new jobs that they are taking on board in terms of increased research capacity and new projects that KARI is undertaking just like the one we have just mentioned. There is also the issue of KETRI because when the Government decided to harmonise various organisations, we decided that KETRI, which was a small parastatal, could fall under KARI because it is also a research institution. So, some of the burden and monies are now going to go to KARI and that explains the increase.

*(Head 259, 261, 467, 468,  
471, 472, 473, 642,  
645, 698, 759, 760, 761,  
763, 764 and 765 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)*

#### SUB-VOTE 105 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a lot of contradiction in this Budget and I do not blame the Ministry of Agriculture for that. I think I should blame the Ministry of Finance. We were told, a few minutes ago, that this Ministry does involve itself in food security, but under this Sub-Vote, there are no allocations for this year and subsequent years. Why can we not decide, once and for all, whether the food security docket should be handled by the Office of the President or by the Ministry of Agriculture like we believe it should be?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Kirwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that specific Sub-Vote is under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, but it was captured under our Vote. The component of food security lies between the two Ministries. Even in terms of special programmes for food security, both Ministries have been carrying out those activities. So, as a result of that, some of those Sub-Votes are not going to be reflected in the subsequent financial years.

*(Heads 491 and 508 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)*

## SUB-VOTE 106 - CROP AND PEST CONTROL

*(Heads 447 and 448 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 106 agreed to)*

## SUB-VOTE 107 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES BASE

*(Heads 247, 250 and 451 agreed to)*

*(Sub-Vote 107 agreed to)*

*(Vote D10 agreed to)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Resolution to be reported without amendment)*

*(The House resumed)*

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

**REPORT**

**Mr. Khamasi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs3,992,656,145 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2004, in respect of Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture, and has approved the same without amendment.

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

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. J. Nyagah) seconded.

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that we have authorised some money for the Ministry of Agriculture, one thing that I have observed is that it does not bring quarterly reports as required. Could the Minister take note that we will expect the quarterly reports? We want to know how that money is spent. We do not want to be told that the money was spent, stolen or misused in this or that manner.

Secondly, the coffee farmers have been crying. I have seen that the Minister has put money in so many other areas, without considering what they requested him to do. I know they have been going to his office so many times.

I still insist that the Minister should reconsider his position as far as the coffee farmers are

concerned and allow them a rebate. They do not have to pay that money. They should be treated like the other farmers. I hope he will consider that because he has the money. Otherwise, we shall pin him down next year.

**Mr. Nyachae:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the Minister that we are giving him money because we want to support his Ministry. We would like the Minister to look into a number of costs to the farmers. The cost of production in this country now, because of chemicals--- There is no coffee farmer who can make ends meet because chemicals are too expensive. The Minister should also know that in the production of flowers, farmers are now getting into a state of confusion because the chemicals that they are offered to use - and all of them are being recommended - have exceeded 31 types! In the case of cereals, the chemicals we are using, including fertilisers, have reached 19 types. As I am speaking here, I have been a cereals farmer for the last 34 years. We used to have a maximum of five chemicals in cereals production. But now, they have reached 19. Could we be told which ones are more effective than others, so that we can ignore the ones which are not?

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Poghio): Hon. Members, that concludes the business of the House on the Order Paper. The House is, therefore, adjourned until Wednesday, 15th October, 2003, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.50 p.m.