

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Prof. Kaloki) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

FATAL SHOOTING OF MESSRS. J.O. OCHOL AND C. GATHOGO

(Mr. Olago) to ask the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security:-

(a) What are the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting of Messrs. Jeremiah Otieno Ochol and Christopher Gathogo on 13th June, 2009?

(b) Could the Minister confirm that the two were removed from a Mombasa-bound minibus and shot at close range by police officers at Konza in Machakos?

(c) What action has the Government taken to apprehend the suspects?

(d) When will the bodies of the victims be released to their next of kin for burial?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is hon. Olago here?

Hon. Members, we will pend this Question for a while and see whether Mr. Olago will come to the Chamber, after which we can proceed with it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No. 150

BOUNDARY DISPUTE BETWEEN POKOT
AND TURKANA COMMUNITIES

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is Mr. Ethuro also not here? We will come back to the Question.

Next Question, Mr. Warugongo!

Question No.222

NON-PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO JOSEPH M. KAGWI

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is Mr. Warugongo also not here?

Mr. Njuguna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Warugongo had hinted to me that he was held up in the traffic jam. He is likely to appear here soon.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Thank you, hon. Njuguna. We will give him a few minutes to get to the Chamber.

Next Question, Mr. Kapondi!

Question No.142

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF MR. RICHARD MWOREI'S LAND

Mr. Kapondi asked the Minister for Roads:-

(a) whether he could confirm that the Government compulsorily acquired a one-acre piece of land in Mount Elgon District belonging to Mr. Richard Kirui Mworei and used it as a Works Camp for 15 years; and,

(b) what is owed to Mr. Mworei resulting from the acquisition, and when he will be paid.

The Assistant Minister for Roads (Dr. Machage): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) My Ministry entered into a purchase agreement with Mr. Kirui Chemait, who was the father of Richard Kirui, in 1981. Regrettably, Mr. Chemait passed on before the process was finalized. Since then, the Ministry has been in correspondence with Mr. Richard Kirui with a view to resolving the matter. In view of the above, I have instructed the legal advisor to my Ministry to get in touch with Mr. Kirui in order to finalise this long outstanding matter.

(b) I am, therefore, unable to give specific information on what is owed to Mr. Richard Kirui at this time until after the discussions between my office and Mr. Kirui are finalized.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Kapondi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the first time, I would like to congratulate the Ministry for coming up with a very appropriate answer. The first time the Ministry attempted to answer this Question, the answer that was brought here was completely inadequate. Could the Assistant Minister tell me when they will be ready, so that I can bring over Mr. Kirui, so that this matter can finally be settled?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will be ready from Monday.

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister also assure this House that they will take into consideration the fact that this land has appreciated in value since they acquired it, and that they will consider this fact when they will be paying compensation to Mr. Kirui?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will do exactly that.

Mr. D.M. Muoki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us their policy on compensation for such land? I also have cases of constituents whose land was acquired more than ten years ago, and who have not been compensated. What is the Ministry's policy on compensation for acquired land, in terms of value?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry respects the Kenyan Constitution on private ownership of land. So, we compensate at market value for land that is privately owned, if it is compulsorily acquired under the law; gazettment of such property is done before the acquisition is effected.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Last question, Mr. Kapondi!

Mr. Kapondi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the answer.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Thank you very much.

Next Question, Mr. Baiya!

Question No.264

EXCLUSION OF NGORONGO-GITHUNGURI ROAD
FROM ROAD CONSTRUCTION TENDER

Mr. Baiya asked the Minister for Roads:-

(a) whether he could confirm that the public invitation for tender for Ndumberi-Kiawaroga Road construction included a section in Githunguri constituency from Ng'orong Factory to Githunguri;

(b) what considerations influenced the exclusion of that section of the road in Githunguri constituency in the final contract, and substitution thereof with a section from Ng'orong to Limuru; and,

(c) what action he will take to redress the situation or construct the section of the road in Githunguri constituency that was excluded, considering that over 95 per cent of vehicular traffic in Ndumberi-Kiawaroga Road goes to Githunguri Constituency.

The Assistant Minister for Roads (Dr. Machage): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) It is true that the public invitation for tender for the Ndumberi-Kiawaroga Road Project inadvertently included a section from Ngorongo to Githunguri.

(b) The project design and the tender documents that were used for bidding were for Ndumberi-Kiawaroga-Limuru Road (D409). The section from Ngorongo to Limuru was erroneously omitted from the tender invitation and was advertised in the print media, while Ngorongo to Githunguri was inadvertently included. That error was corrected in subsequent communication to the bidders.

(c) The Ministry, under the current budgetary provision, is unable to undertake design and construction work for that project during this financial year. However, the road will be considered for improvement alongside others under the Roads Sector Improvement Programme.

Mr. Baiya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for the answer that he has given. However, since he has confirmed that there was an error in the public invitation for tender in the construction of the road to include the section from Githunguri, could he tell this House whether there was a similar error when that road was initially done in 1984? Secondly---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Hon. Baiya, can you explain the error that you are talking about for the Assistant Minister to understand?

Mr. Baiya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said in part (b) of his answer that the section from Ngorongo to Limuru was erroneously omitted from the

tender, but the section from Ngorongo to Githunguri had also been included erroneously. So, he is attributing that to an error, whereas it is clear that the Ministry decided to change the direction of that road after the tenders had been invited.

Could he confirm whether it is not true that, initially, the road was intended to be constructed up to Githunguri where there is a lot of traffic, but some powerful influence intervened to change the construction of the road towards Limuru?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am completely unaware of the allegations made by the hon. Member. I will be happy if he sheds more light on this issue by all means of communication. However, I may not be able to say whether there was an error in the initial design of the previously constructed road because I have not looked at the documents. That was not part of my Question this morning. But I will look into it at a later time, if he so wishes.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Hon. Baiya, are you satisfied with that answer?

Mr. Baiya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, no. The Assistant Minister has not really responded to one part of my Question. Is it not true that over 95 per cent of traffic from Ngorongo goes towards Githunguri Constituency and not the other road, which only serves about 10 or so big farms in that area? Why did the Ministry, notwithstanding the traffic and the users of the road, decide to construct the road towards the Limuru direction? The money that is being used to repair that road is taxpayers' money from the Fuel Levy Fund. Why should the Ministry commit funds to a road that has lesser traffic and fail to construct the section which is used by over 95 per cent of the people?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, whereas the hon. Member may be right in his statistics on the road use, I have not looked at that. So, I may not be able to comment as to whether one road has a 95 per cent road use and the other one has 5 per cent road use. That was not part of the Question and I may not be able to comment on that. I have taken note of his concerns and I will look into the issue.

Mr. Baiya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My question is very categorical. I have asked the Assistant Minister to confirm why that decision was taken notwithstanding the fact that over 95 per cent of the traffic goes towards the Githunguri direction? Is it in order for him to say that, that was not included in the first part of the Question?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, the question is why you are avoiding to construct a road which has over 95 per cent road users according to hon. Baiya. Why have you chosen to construct a different route? Can you explain to him the rationale behind that?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already talked about the percentage use of that road. However, the interest of the Ministry of Roads is to construct every useful road in this country. Just because one road has been done before the other is not a reason to think that the other road will not be done. We will do it. Just be patient, hon. Member!

Mr. Baiya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am ready to accept the undertaking by the Assistant Minister that he will have that road done. That is the concern of all the users of that road. They are keenly following what is going on. Could he confirm when the Ministry will do that road?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with great sympathy, I beg the users of that road to bear with the Ministry. We will do it when funds are available.

*Question No.218*REGULATIONS ON EXPLOITATION OF FISH
RESOURCES IN LAKE VICTORIA

Mr. Odhiambo asked the Minister for Fisheries Development:-

(a) what regulations the Government has put in place to guide the exploitation of fish resources in Lake Victoria to ensure a structured arrangement of securing fish growth in the lake;

(b) how funds from fishing and fish farming resources are ploughed back to benefit the fishermen and local communities; and,

(c) what plans the Government has to develop fish farming in Kenya and Butula Constituency, in particular.

The Minister for Fisheries Development (Dr. Otuoma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The Government has put in place a Fisheries Act, Cap.378 of the Laws of Kenya, 1991, and this has also been amended by various fisheries regulations and legal notices over time. They guide the exploitation and general management of all fisheries resources in Kenya and those of Lake Victoria. In addition to monitoring, control and surveillance, which is used to eradicate bad fishing methods, fishing gears and laws that are used to protect breeding grounds, the Ministry of Fisheries has also successfully launched the National Oceans and Fisheries Policy in April, 2009 and the subsequent Oceans and Fisheries Management Co-ordination Draft Bill, which is more elaborate and explicit. It is ready and will be brought to this House in due course for enactment. The new Bill will replace the current Fisheries Act and will ensure that there is a more structured arrangement of securing fish growth and exploitation in Lake Victoria and other water bodies.

(b) Fishermen and fish farmers benefit directly from the sales of their fish. The Government only collects some revenue from licensing activities and the money is used for infrastructure development, training and mounting of various fisheries management programmes.

My Ministry has also planned strategic interventions to revitalize aquaculture in the country, including Butula Constituency, as follows:-

(i) Improve the distribution system of improved aquaculture inputs by providing quality tilapia seeds, formulated seeds, establishment of propagation and multiplication centres.

(ii) Commission a comprehensive tilapia breeding programme that will also serve Butula and the larger Busia area.

(iii) Adopt a cluster based aquaculture production system which is constituency based and will also help farmers access credit. We are also targeting to improve aquaculture production to almost 50 per cent. We are currently at 1 per cent. This will involve coming up with almost 200 ponds per constituency. We are targeting 140 constituencies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this financial year, we have been financed to the tune of Kshs1.1 billion. We are also thinking of fingerling production to improve dams and all these other areas.

For Butula in particular, we are currently sourcing fish fingers from Dominion Farm as a temporary measure. We will be expanding Wahungu Fish Farm to propagate more seeds that can supply Butula Constituency. At the individual farm levels in Butula, we already have four clusters. Namely; Chengo, Tingolo, Butuma and Makwera clusters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, just to emphasize how this is going, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Nyamu, the Member for Tetu, who has been one of the major pioneers of this programme. I think he will be having an activity there on 7th August. I invite Members of Parliament to go and see how this programme is working.

Mr. Odhiambo: Thank you very much, *Bw. Waziri*, for your elaborate answer. However, one of my fears is, in Lake Victoria some fishermen tend to fish along the shores rather than going into the deep lake to get mature fish. What measures is the Minister putting in place to ensure that they do not fish along the shore? Along the shores, they just catch juvenile fish.

Dr. Otuoma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think in my earlier answer, I had said that we are improving programmes on monitoring, control and surveillance. Indeed, in this year's Budget the Government has given us Kshs300 million to buy boats that will be used for monitoring, control and surveillance to ensure that breeding areas are protected.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in line with the Government's Vision 2030 programme of promoting industrialization, what plan does the Ministry have to relocate the fish processing factory from Thika to the lake region so as to promote industrialization in our area?

Dr. Otuoma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I had said earlier, fish business is basically a private enterprise. As a businessman, sometimes we cannot hold you to account on where you want to put your factory. However, we have been encouraging the fishermen to form cooperative societies so as to be able to do value addition instead of just selling raw fish. In this way, they will get better returns.

I would urge Dr. Khalwale to make sure that fishermen from the regions he is talking about are able to come up with cooperative societies. They then can be able to do value addition from the source instead of selling raw products which fetch almost 10 per cent of the real value.

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to join Mr. Odhiambo in thanking the Minister for a very elaborate answer he has given. This is the way Ministers earn respect in this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to get one assurance from the Minister. In this programme of establishment of propagation and multiplication centres for fish farming, he said he has been allocated some Kshs1 billion or so and he is targeting 140 constituencies. I want his assurance that Garsen Constituency is one of those that is going to be in that programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a problem in terms of catching fish which is not yet mature. In Kipini area which is part of Garsen Constituency, we have had fish trawling problem. The trawlers really deplete the fish resources in the ocean. This leaves the local fishermen who do not have the capacity or vessels to go out and catch as much fish as they should, living in absolute poverty.

What plans does the Minister have to protect the local fishermen from this problem of trawling and therefore, over-exploitation which results into poverty for the people of that area in Garsen Constituency?

Dr. Otuoma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know Garsen is one of our major fishing areas. I have been to the Kipini area and I think I know some of the problems there. For the coastal areas, we have a more elaborate programme because there, you can do both mariculture which is culturing fish that grows in salty waters. I think for this area, we have a more specific programme through some development partners. This is done through the Arab Development Partners. There is a partnership we are developing. I want to assure the Member

for Garsen that we will be doing something there. However, we have a different programme for coastal areas.

When it comes to trawling, the issue as far as I am concerned and from scientific evidence around, we banned trawling for the last two to three years but so far, we have not seen this translate into improved catches by the locals. The kind of gears that they use cannot allow them to capture prawns. Trawling is basically used for prawn capture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also saw that when you trawl and fish, they are done at different times. Some work during the day and others in the evening. Therefore, according to scientific evidence, trawling has no impact on the local communities. I want to assure the hon. Member that I will be going to meet the locals in the coast area so that we can compare what is scientific fact and generally accepted beliefs. After banning trawling for over two years, it never translated into any economic gains for the local people. We should get to the problem instead of just saying, let us ban trawling and then nothing else happens after that. We should, maybe, be thinking of how we can build capacity for these people to exploit prawns from the ocean.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I also wish to associate myself with the accolades the Minister for Fisheries Development is receiving in this House. Indeed, I can confirm that in March, he came to Turkana to try to draw up a plan for the largest inland lake in the Republic of Kenya. That is not Lake Victoria as many people might think.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when are we getting that plan ready, and has the Minister factored sufficient resources in this year's Budget to ensure the plan is realized? How much has he factored?

Dr. Otuoma: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think hon. Ethuro is correct. Lake Turkana is actually twice as big as our portion of Lake Victoria. In terms of the fish biomass, I think it has got more than ten times what we have there. We have plans to see how best that resource can be utilized in terms of ensuring that the infrastructure in those places is improved. This year, we had already factored in money to put in one boat there, especially to improve security and do monitoring. From the Kshs300 million that we got for control, monitoring and surveillance, one of the boats will be bought to be used in Lake Turkana as a first step. You are very much aware that our research institute, the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI) has been carrying out expeditions there to see how best we can exploit that resource. I believe that from their findings and from the plans we were developing, we should be able to utilize this resource properly for the benefit of the people there and for the benefit of this country. I beg hon. Members that once we request for more funding and once the Budget comes here, we will remember that there are resources in some areas which are not utilized. So, some money has already been allocated to Lake Turkana.

Mr. Odhiambo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Time is ripe for us to have a fisheries development authority which I believe will cater for the requirements and the development of the fishing communities which live along the fishing areas. This will help them to improve on their incomes and their standards of living. What plans has he put in place to establish such an authority under his Ministry?

Dr. Otuoma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to assure Mr. Odhiambo that if he has looked at our Oceans and Fisheries Policy, he must have seen that we have already recommended the establishment of a Kenya Fisheries Development Authority. Currently, if you look at the programme that we have; the National Aquaculture Development Programme, apart from the Kshs1 billion which we got from the Government and for which we appreciate, it is not

enough. That will do only less than 3,000 acres of fish farming. The potential in this country is millions of acres which can be utilized in fish farming. Where you can do irrigation, you can do fish farming. It is there in our policy. As I said, once the Bill is brought for enactment here in this House so that we can give it the legality, we will roll out all those authorities and even the various directorates and take care of some of our water bodies which had been neglected over the years or are under a lot of environmental strains. You have seen what is happening in Lake Naivasha and Lake Baringo. We need to take care of those places. Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Next Question, No.224 by Mr. Lessonet. Hon. Koech will ask the Question on behalf of Mr. Lessonet.

Question No.224

CLOSURE OF GITHIORO PRIMARY SCHOOL
AFTER THE POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Mr. Koech, on behalf of **Mr. Lessonet**, asked the Minister for Education:-

(a) whether he was aware that Githioro Primary School in Eldama Ravine has not resumed classes to date after the consequences of post-election violence; and,

(b) when the school will be reopened.

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mr. Mwatela): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Githioro Primary School was affected by the post-election violence in January 2008 and has since not reopened. This is due to displacement and exodus of teachers and pupils to the neighbouring schools, namely, St. Mary's Andama, St. Joseph's Makutano, Maji Mazuri Forest and Maji Mazuri RC Primary schools. Currently, the pupils are comfortable learning in these schools. That explains the reluctance of the school's management committee and the parents to revive the closed Githioro Primary School.

(b) The Ministry has held a number of meetings with the school's management committee, parents and the local leaders towards reopening the school in January 2010.

Mr. Koech: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I thank the Assistant Minister for that answer, prior to the post-election violence, this school had been in operation, running from Standard 1 to Standard 8. It had done the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) Examination four times. The schools mentioned by the Assistant Minister are more than four kilometers away from this particular school. The children, especially those in Standard One, Two and Three have been subjected to this kind of suffering, covering long distances for the last one and half years. The reason behind this is that the school was destroyed and thus the reluctance of the community to revive the school. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that the children, especially the young ones, have been suffering covering long distances? What is the Ministry doing to ensure that the school is opened before 2010 so that it can take care of the suffering children?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Sure!

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, I share the sentiments of the hon. Member. That is why, indeed, the Ministry has held meetings. It has taken it upon itself to ensure that by January 2010, this school will reopen with the help of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the big problem with this Government is the compartmentalized way in which it operates. The Ministry of Education alone cannot sort out this problem. What efforts is the Ministry putting in place to liaise with the Provincial Administration and other important Government agencies in the larger peace efforts to make sure that we have these people back on track in terms of their education because 2010 is quite far? They have already lost one and half years. This exercise has been slow because the Ministry operates in isolation. So, what efforts are they making along with the larger Government organs to make sure that these pupils are back in school?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that that Question should be directed to the Prime Minister of this country.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order, I think that Question falls under your docket; the Ministry of Education. I think you should respond to it and give an adequate answer.

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Member wants me to answer the issue of co-ordination of different Ministries. That is why I feel that the question should be answered by the Prime Minister.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): The question is: Can you speed up the process because if we wait until 2010, there will be a lot of suffering? Could your Ministry move in additional resources so that the school can reopen and the pupils can come back and continue with their schooling?

Mr. Mwatela: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are now in the month of July, 2009. The Ministry said that it will reopen the school by January 2010, which is six months down the line. So, we will reopen the school.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): By when?

Mr. Mwatela: By January 2010.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Very well!

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will recall that last year, as a Parliament, we sent teams to the entire Republic, including Eldama Ravine. I led that delegation. Some of the centers including schools had been displaced. It took concerted efforts in terms of convincing, in peace meetings, to get residents back to the centers and to the schools. I want to inform the Assistant Minister that it is not just due to displacement alone that the children are not back in school. It is also the fact that the school was destroyed. What is he doing in terms of reconstructing the buildings that were destroyed in order to get the children back to school? He should also tell this House how many schools are yet to reopen due to post-election violence. When will he ensure that each and every school that was affected and destroyed reopens by 2010?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, whereas I undertake the re-opening of this particular school, it is not possible for me to confirm that every school will be re-opened. The Ministry officials are on the ground to address the matter. We have been having meetings with the relevant authorities and the parents. However, I cannot guarantee the re-opening of every school.

Mr. Abdirahman: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We should address the problems of Kenyans in totality. Why should a Ministry not be able to plan for a number of schools in this country to open all together? What is their business, if they want to operate one school after one year and another one in another year? Does it make sense to

Kenyans? Is the Assistant Minister in order to tell us that, as a Ministry, they can only do one thing at a time? Is he in order to say that they cannot address the problems in the entire country?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, could you tell us how many schools are still closed? Do you have any plans to open all the schools by 2010?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that, that is different Question. I will have to find this information. If hon. Members want to know exactly how many schools are open or will be opened by January 2011, I require more time to find out.

Mr. Koech: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This Question revolves around a school which was closed as a result of post-election violence. We are talking of many schools that were closed as a result of post-election violence. This has seriously affected the young school-going children. Now that the Assistant Minister does not have a comprehensive answer, would I be in order to request that this Question be deferred so that he can bring to this House a full report on the situation and the status of those schools in this country?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to bring a comprehensive answer as a Ministry.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, you can appreciate the concern of Parliament.

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate those concerns. The circumstances are different in each area. There are areas where we do not get students going back to school at all. We are establishing new schools elsewhere. I will bring more information on this matter if you give us time.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House and the entire Republic that the Grand Coalition Government does not even know how many schools were affected by the post-election violence and yet they are a direct product of the violence? These Ministers sit in this Government by virtue of the post-election violence! Since they assumed positions, they have forgotten Kenyans who died and were displaced because of them. When will this Government be serious?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to protest. I do not sit here by virtue of the post-election violence. However, with due respect to Mr. Ethuro, I undertake to provide that information.

Dr. Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House that the school will be re-opened in six months time when he knows very well that according to the Printed Estimates which are before this House, no money has been factored in the form of allocations to these primary schools, including this one, whose infrastructure has been destroyed and would require to be refurbished before being re-opened? Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead us when he knows very well that this money is not there?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not misleading the House. I am 100 per cent sure that this school will be re-opened in January.

Dr. Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It would be nice if the Assistant Minister was move specific. Where will these funds come from? Does he expect the parents to construct the classrooms or the money will be obtained from the Printed Estimates? We have the Printed Estimates and these schools are not covered!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Dr. Khalwale, the Assistant Minister has answered that question. He has said that come January, 2010, he will look for additional funds to construct the school. He has also promised that the school will be re-opened at that time.

Mrs. Shabesh: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have seen the kind of urgency that the Government is giving the issue of the Hague, thanks to the post-election violence. We would really like to see the Government take the issue of displaced people seriously. This is more so to children who are no longer going to school and women who were raped. That is why we have asked this Question. Which Ministry is responsible for re-locating children who were displaced from schools, rebuilding schools---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order, Mrs. Shabesh! I think that is a different Question and it cannot be directed to the Assistant Minister!

Mr. Koech, ask your final question!

Mr. Koech: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the concern of this House is for all of us to see to it that all the children of this country get back to school. I thank the Assistant Minister for the undertaking. However, could he confirm to this House how much the Ministry has set aside for the reconstruction of this school? Could he also undertake that all the schools that were affected by the post-election violence will be re-opened by January, 2010?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot give the specific amount for all the schools. However, I will ensure that the Ministry funds the re-opening of this school.

Mr. Koech: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My question is specific. How much has been set aside by the Ministry for this school?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the figure.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, undertake that you will bring the figure later on.

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member can come to me for briefing.

Hon. Members: No! No!

Mr. Baiya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to promise the answer to the individual Member of Parliament who asked the Question when it is on the Floor of the House? Every hon. Member is entitled to that answer!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Assistant Minister, could you undertake to bring that figure later?

Mr. Mwatela: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Then that should rest the case.

Mr. Koech: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Just for purposes of clarity, have we deferred the Question or not?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): We shall defer the Question so that the Assistant Minister can bring the figure here. When can you bring that answer?

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir---

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order, Mr. Abdirahman!

Proceed, Mr. Assistant Minister!

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could I bring the answer next week on Wednesday?

Mr. Koech: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to appreciate and duly request your indulgence that the Minister also includes the list of other schools that were affected and what the Ministry is doing for them to be reopened.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Alright, Mr. Assistant Minister, I also direct that you bring the list of all the schools that were affected. That information is useful to us.

Mr. Mwatela: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if that is what is required, then much more work is required. So, either the hon. Members gives us a specific substantive Question or you give me more time to give you a detailed answer.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, we would like to have the list of all the schools that are closed at the moment due to the post-election violence. Are you able to bring that list to us? I am sure your officers are on the ground and can get the information.

Mr. Mwatela: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is possible.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): That is all. Bring information on the two items. So, we will defer the Question to Wednesday next week.

(Question deferred)

Next Question by Dr. Eseli!

Question No.235

IMPORTATION OF GMO MAIZE

Dr. Eseli asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) how much of the maize imported into Kenya was Genetically Modified (GMO);

(b) what informed the procuring entity to accept a price three times the price of the known value (where GMO costs over US\$400 per tonne instead of the known price of US\$150 per tonne); and,

(c) whether the Ministry did notify the Kenyan people that they were to consume GMO maize and conduct an impact assessment (prior to, and after release of the same to the market) as per the regulations of the Bio-Safety Act of 2008.

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

(a) No GMO maize has been imported into Kenya.

(b) Since no GMO maize has been imported, the price comparison does not arise. The imported maize was sold at a willing buyer, willing seller basis through competitive market rates.

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

The importation of maize was done in two lots. The first tranche was 153 metric tonnes and the second one was 135 metric tonnes and all certificates for the importation of maize are here, certifying that no GMO maize was brought into this country. I hereby lay the documents on the Table of the House.

(Mr. Ndambuki laid the documents on the Table)

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of that answer, that this maize was sourced on a willing buyer, willing seller basis, at competitive market rates, could he give us those competitive market rates that they paid for this maize?

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the maize we got from Tanzania which was 8,141 bags cost us US\$270,477. The cost per metric tonne is US\$369. The maize we got from South Africa cost US\$420 per metric tonne and the IS was US\$430 per metric tonne.

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issues of pricing aside, there is a bigger question that would worry all Kenyans today. That is whether it is actually safe to consume GMO maize. I would like the Assistant Minister to speak from the Floor of this House whether it is the policy of the Government to allow Kenyans to consume these GMOs. They should educate us because we are worried. This is the gist of the matter. What is the policy position? Can we, or can we not?

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, we do not have a policy on GMO and the Government is developing one. At the moment, the maize being consumed in this country is non-GMO. As a Ministry, we can come up with a Statement regarding GMO. At the moment, there is nothing I can say. But I can assure the House that we will do so and bring it here.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the file that has been tabled by the Minister, the inspection certificate which indicates that this was a non-GMO import is actually from South Africa by a South African company called Global Inspection. How was the Government of Kenya satisfied that this Southern African company was not helping a South African company to sell its maize here? Why did the Government not do its own inspection?

I also realize that in this particular file, there is a company called Afril Trading Company Limited. This is the same company that brought spoilt maize that was returned to South Africa. Why is the Government continuing to do business with a company whose product was returned back and yet in this one they have given them 25,000 metric tonnes?

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in that file, if you go deeper, you will find a certificate from KEPHIS confirming that the maize was GMO free. It is not only the South African company that did the inspection. We did our own and it is in that file. With regard to the issue of doing business with that company, it was just a one-off incident and there is nothing else that we have done with that company.

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this file is very voluminous and I would request for some time to be able to go through it. It is not possible to tell the total tonnage that proves that it is not GMO. He told us that the imported tonnage is well over 100,000 tonnes. So, I would like to get time to go through this file and be able to interrogate the Assistant Minister further.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Dr. Eseli, the Assistant Minister has answered you. Are you not satisfied with the answer?

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need time to go through this file which is very voluminous to be able to interrogate him. I am not yet quite satisfied with the answer. So, I need to go through this file because the tonnage he has given as having been certified as non-GMO and the tonnage that is here, can be got from this file.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, could you comment whether you have done what is required?

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as this Question is concerned, I have given him the answer. He can go through it and put another Question instead of deferring this one.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Dr. Eseli, could you ask your final question?

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that I have not gone through this file, it will not be possible for me to ask an intelligent question to the Assistant Minister. It would be good if I have time to go through this file. It is only good for Kenyans to know because there is indeed a Bio-safety Act in this country. Deferring it would be more useful than asking another Question.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Dr. Eseli, go ahead and go through the file and if you have another Question you can file it but I think this Question has been answered.

Mr. Mungatana: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am still pursuing the issue of the Bio-Safety Act and the GMOs. It has just been brought to my attention that the Bio-Safety Act, section 20 says that a person shall not import into Kenya, genetically modified organisms without a written approval of the authority. It seems that there is not only a policy in place but a law. What is lacking is the Ministry's action in setting up an authority to deal with matters to do with GMO organisms or foods into this country.

So, the issue is: When will the Assistant Minister set up this authority so that we can all feel safe?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): I think your concern is already taken and the Assistant Minister said that there was a certificate in the file showing that there is certification of compliance. It is already in the file. So, Dr. Eseli, you can file another Question if you are not satisfied after you go through the file. I would rest the case there.

(Mr. Mungatana stood up in his place)

Order! I have already moved on!

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister was even going to give a statement on this issue.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order! Order! I think we are satisfied on that. There is a certificate there and Dr. Eseli said that he would go through the file. He can file another Question, so we need to move to the next Question.

Question No.237

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO MIGORI TOWN

Mr. Anyanga, on behalf of **Mr. Pesa**, asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) how the long Ministry will take to connect Migori and its environs to Kericho power line as promised by the Minister in the House in 2008; and,

(b) what immediate short-term measures he has put in place to cushion learning institutions and businesses from current losses incurred due to frequent non-availability of regular power in Migori.

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

(a) The interconnection between Chemosit Sub-station in Kericho and Kegati sub-station in Kisii which will connect Migori, Kehancha, Kilgoris, Rongo, Homa Bay, Ogembo and the other areas in South Nyanza will be completed by December, 2009. That will improve the connectivity and the power quality to all the areas that I have mentioned. There will also be five 33 KV lines which will be done to improve the services to the areas which I have mentioned.

(b) Meanwhile, as a short-term measure, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) is doing some work from Muhoroni Sub-station which comes all the way from Lessos Sub-station to Thurgem in Nyakach Constituency. This will connect to Katito, Pap Onditi, Sondu Miriu, Kendu Bay and finally to Homa Bay. That is a 33KV ring. Also a 33 KV ring is being constructed from Katito to Sondu, Chabera, Ringa, Oyugis and Kosele in Kasipul Kabondo and finally towards Homa Bay. Those are some of the reinforcement works which are being done, meanwhile, as a short term measure while awaiting the 133 KV line from Chemosit to Kegati Sub-station, which I have said, will be completed by December, 2009.

Mr. Anyanga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Assistant Minister for a well elaborate answer and hope that he will respect his word that the system will be commissioned by December, 2009.

Mr. Keter: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I have said will be done because these are some of the reinforcement works which we are doing as a Ministry. We will stick to our time-lines. The line should have been commissioned earlier but there was a problem on the acquisition of the way-leave all the way from Chemosit to Kisii. As things are now, all that has been done and work is on-going. Even if you go to the ground, you will realize that it is on-going and the final part of the work at Kegati Sub-station, which is nearer to Kisii Town, is nearing completion.

Mr. Anyanga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the answer. Thank you very much!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Very well! That will rest the case there.

Next Question!

Question No.260

ESTABLISHMENT OF COURT SERVICES IN MBITA/SUBA
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): We have information from Ms. Odhiambo and we will defer that Question to a later date.

(Question deferred)

Question No.321

STATUS OF WATER DRILLING PROJECT AT
MAILI KUMI NA MBILI IN NAKURU

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Gaichuhie is not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Warugongo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, let me apologize for coming late. However, I do not have a written answer.

Question No.222

NON-PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO JOSEPH KAGWI

Mr. Warugongo asked the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security:-

(a) why he has not paid service and pension benefits to Mr. Joseph Muturi Kagwi (Personal Number 371347) who retired on 1st December, 1997; and,

(b) When he will pay him.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is the Minister in?

(Mr. Ojode stood up in his place)

Mr. Assistant Minister, are you prepared to answer that Question?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I seek the indulgence of the Chair to defer Mr. Warugongo's and Mr. Ethuro's Questions to a later date. That is the information I have.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, notice has been provided to your Office. Why do you want to defer that Question?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is Questions 222 and 150.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is there reason why we need to defer them?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are yet to receive satisfactory answers. I have also consulted with Mr. Ethuro and he has accepted.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): So you are still getting information from the ground?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right!

Mr. Warugongo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just received an answer. Could the Assistant Minister continue?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order, Mr. Warugongo! Let us be fair to the Assistant Minister. He is still collecting information from the ground to effectively answer you. So, I think it is fair to give the Assistant Minister additional time. That also applies to Question No.150 by Mr. Ethuro. The Assistant Minister has requested for additional time.

(Question deferred)

Question No.150

BOUNDARY DISPUTE BETWEEN POKOT
AND TURKANA COMMUNITIES

Mr. Ethuro: Indeed, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to confirm that my colleague had approached me yesterday and I thought they had already communicated to the Chair. That is why I was not available when you raised the matter. So, I want it to go on record that it is not because I was missing. It is because I was already aware that the Question had been deferred to tomorrow afternoon which I would like you to also confirm with the Assistant Minister present.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right! Mr. Assistant Minister, tomorrow afternoon, do you undertake to answer Question No.150?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): That is fine, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): That is fine!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Ngugi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has said that he has an answer to the Question which the Assistant Minister wants to be deferred. Is it in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order, hon. Member! The answer is not adequate and so he is still getting additional information to effectively be able to answer the Question. So, the answer is not adequate and the Assistant Minister has already confirmed that.

There is a Question by Private Notice!

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

FATAL SHOOTING OF MESSRS. J.O. OCHOL AND C. GATHOGO

(Mr. Olago) to ask the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security

(a) What are the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting of Messrs. Jeremiah Otieno Ochol and Christopher Gathogo on 13th June, 2009?

(b) Could the Minister confirm that the two were removed from a Mombasa-bound minibus and shot at point blank range by police officers at Konza in Machakos?

(c) What action has the Government taken to apprehend the suspects?

(d) When will the bodies of the victims be released to their next of kin for burial.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Is Mr. Olago here? It is now 10.10 a.m. and so we will drop that Question.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was here yesterday when this Question was deferred and Mr. Olago was present. It was deferred to today. It was never specified whether it is for the morning or the afternoon session. Just look at the HANSARD. So, I think it is unfair to drop this Question when the hon. Member was present yesterday and the Minister went missing.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): That is fair to the Chair! Let us then wait; maybe he does not know whether it was coming in the morning or afternoon session. So, Mr. Ethuro, we concur with you and so we will wait to see whether Mr. Olago will be here this afternoon.

Next Order!

(Question deferred)

POINTS OF ORDER

PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO KNCHR REPORT ON POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Dr. Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. All hon. Members have had an opportunity this morning to peruse the Order Papers for both morning and afternoon and we have noticed that during this afternoon's session of the Prime Minister's Time, the Prime Minister has no Question from this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am rising on a point of order to remind the Chair that when we created the Prime Minister's Time, it was because we wanted to create an opportunity, deliberately, to allow topical issues and current issues of national importance to be presented to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak, you directed from the Chair yesterday that I send a Question to the Prime Minister's Office in respect of the issues I had raised yesterday. I did that and I passed it to the Office of the Clerk yesterday. I was expecting that, that Question would be on the Order Paper this morning in respect of the post-election violence and the deadlock in the Cabinet over the Report on the post-election violence by the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC).

And as if it is not enough, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Mungatana had also filed a Question through the Office of the Clerk to the Office of the Prime Minister which, again, we were expecting would be on the Order Paper. Could the Chair rule whether somebody is deliberately making it difficult for hon. Members to have their issues raised to the Prime Minister or whether there is a breakdown between the Office of the Clerk, the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Prime Minister?

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

STATUS/PERFORMANCE OF DONOR-FUNDED GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to confirm what Dr. Khalwale has raised. For example, three weeks ago, immediately after we raised some information about millions of shillings of donor funding from various Government departments that had been returned without utilization as a result of failure by various Government Ministries to utilize that money, I immediately filed a Question with the Office of the Clerk – and I can see one of them is here. I want to know what is happening. Why is it that Questions are not being filed and are not reaching the Prime Minister's Office? What is happening? That is critical! If the Minister for Finance, the Minister of Agriculture or any other Minister goes and gets donor funding for Kenya and then that money is not utilized, it means that someone is sleeping in his department and the Prime Minister needs to look into that! If our Questions are not listed on the Order Paper, what is happening?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right, hon. Mungatana and Dr. Khalwale. We will be able to follow up on your Questions which are not appearing on the Order Paper. As I understand, the House Business Committee met last night and it seems that your Questions were not there for some reason. Therefore, we will be able to follow up to find out why your Questions are not appearing. So, just give us additional time and we will be able to follow up on that.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Let me allow a point of order from hon. Wamalwa---

Dr. Khalwale: It is on the same one, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): I will give you time.

Dr. Khalwale: Okay, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

FATE OF MT. ELGON HOSPITAL LAND IN KITALE

Mr. Wamalwa: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Ministry of Lands regarding the fate of Mt. Elgon Hospital land in Kitale. It was public land that was converted to private use irregularly by some individuals. I would like the Minister, in his Statement, to indicate under what circumstances the prime public property that was Mt. Elgon Hospital land was converted to private use and transferred to a private company. I would also like the Minister to indicate what steps the Government has taken to ensure that public interest in that prime property is protected. Finally, I would like the Minister for Lands to confirm to the House when he intends to bring the Lands Policy that was recently approved by the Cabinet to this House to ensure its implementation and expeditious dealings on matters of land grabbing in this country.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right. Is there any Minister who can take that undertaking?

The Minister for Fisheries Development (Dr. Otuoma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to inform the Minister concerned to be ready next week on Thursday.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right. It is so ordered! Next week on Thursday! Thank you.

Proceed, hon. Ethuro!

POLIO OUTBREAK IN TURKANA REGION

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also rise to seek two Ministerial Statements, one from the Minister for--- I do not know which is which – is it the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation or the Ministry of Medical Services? It is about polio. Maybe, after I read the request, you can direct me properly. The other one is to the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security.

The first one, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is that I would like the Minister to confirm that there is a serious polio outbreak in the larger Turkana Region. Already, about 16 cases have been reported. I would like the Minister, in his or her Statement, to confirm how many of such cases have been reported and the exact location where they were reported. The Minister should further confirm that the number of cases reported exceeds the recommended World Health Organization (WHO) standards and, hence, must declare Turkana a national disaster. What reasons can the Minister give for the recurrence of a disease that was generally expected to have been wiped out from the surface of the earth and can only be found in northern Kenya? What urgent measures is the Minister taking in order to improve polio immunization from the current low levels of about 48 per cent to 100 per cent in order to ensure that it covers the entire region?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, knowing that Turkana region borders Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia, what measures is the Government taking to ensure that the porous borders do not become conduits for such a serious disease? It is serious and very bad. I would like the Minister to really clarify to the nation what is happening in northern Kenya.

FREQUENT ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS BY POLICEMEN

The second request for a Ministerial Statement, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is to the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security. On Sunday, 13th, a policeman stabbed a man in Lodwar Town. This is the second incident involving a police officer. I would like the Minister to tell us under what circumstances that happened? Why did the Officer Commanding Station (OCS), Lodwar Town, not arrest the policeman in good time?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, failure of the OCS and the police to arrest one of their own led to a serious inter-community conflict within town, affecting non-residents, something that some of us are trying to make sure that Kenyans live in peace.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, who are the accomplices that were with the police officer? What is his exact identity in terms of name, rank, personal number and the years in service? When was he arrested? Why has he not been arraigned in court? What is the exact cost of the damage to the local businessmen as a result of mobs that were rioting for failure by the State to enforce law and order in this particular incident? What is the Government doing to ensure that the culture of impunity, especially where the police are involved and where they have a tendency to protect each other, can come to an end? When is the Government going to compensate those businessmen and women who lost their properties in the ensuing chaos as a result of failure by the Government to do its job?

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right. Minister, can you take that undertaking? Could you also give an undertaking about the one on health?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. On the one on our Ministry, I will be able to give a Statement on Thursday, next week. On the other one, I will be able to inform the Minister--- The Minister is here, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he can undertake to respond to that.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): All right. Minister, can you take that undertaking on community health?

The Assistant Minister for Public Health and Sanitation (Dr. Gesami): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We undertake to give the Statement next Thursday.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, tomorrow is also a Thursday. That is the next Thursday. This is a very serious matter. Polio was said to have been wiped out of the whole world.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Assistant Minister, are you able to give this Statement tomorrow?

The Assistant Minister for Public Health and Sanitation (Dr. Gesami): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we shall not be able to do so tomorrow as requested by the hon. Member. I would like to give it earliest on Wednesday, next week.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Could you, please, give it on Tuesday, next week because of the emergency element involved in it?

The Assistant Minister for Public Health and Sanitation (Dr. Gesami): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Mr. Ethuro, is that okay with you?

Mr. Ethuro: That is okay, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO *KAZI KWA VIJANA* PROGRAMME

Mr. Ruteere: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Prime Minister on the *Kazi kwa Vijana* Programme. Currently, the programme is not understood in many parts of this country. There are areas where this programme is going on very well, but in other areas, people just hear of it. The youth do not understand how it operates. I am seeking a Ministerial Statement to find out how much money has been allocated to various Ministries for *Kazi kwa Vijana* programme; how the money is being utilized in each of the Ministries; who forms the committees to monitor the utilization of such funds and the progress of this programme, so far.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Fisheries Development (Dr. Otuoma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *Kazi kwa Vijana* Programme is being co-ordinated under the Prime Minister's office. I undertake to inform them to issue the Statement sought by the hon. Member on Thursday, next week.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Very well.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF POLICE REFORMS TASK FORCE

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometime before we went on recess, hon. Karua, in her Question No.182, asked for the names and qualifications of the members of the National Task Force on Police Force which was formed in 2004. I wish to table the names. It is a long list. If the Chair wants me to read it, I can do so. However, we agreed that I table a list showing their names and their qualifications.

(Mr. Ojode laid the document on the Table)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): How many names are there?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are 16 names.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Could you, please, read them?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have Mr. Cyrus Gituai who was then the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry. Hon. Amos Wako, Attorney-General; Maj-Gen. Mohammed Ali, Commissioner of Police; Mr. Joseph K. Kinyua, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Mr. David S.O. Nalo, then the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade; Mr. Titus J.K. Gatere, Director, Kenya Institute of Administration; Mr. Kinuthia Mbugua, Commandant, Administration Police; Dr. Manu Chandaria, Proprietor, Mabati Rolling Mills; Mr. James J. Mageria, Rtd. Assistant Commissioner of Police; Justice Mary Owuor, Criminal Justice International Trainer in Security Business Executive; Ms. Jane Kiragu a lawyer at FIDA; Mr. Stephen Ouma, advocate of the High Court; Mr. Philip Kichana, advocate of the High Court; Mr. Maina Kiai, Kenya Human Rights Commission; Mr. Francis Thuita Kimemia, Deputy Secretary, Office of the President; Mr. Leonard Kimani, legal officer, Office of the President, and Mr. Leonard Wanyonyi, Senior Assistant Secretary.

On that particular Question, I was---

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

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why does the hon. Member not let me finish and then he can have all the time to raise his points of order?

On that particular occasion, I was also challenged to lay on the Table of this House some of the reports. I did say that those reports will be laid once they have been released by the appointing authority. The Waki Commission Report is the only report that has been released by the appointing authority. It is already in the public domain. The rest of the reports are yet to be officially released by the appointing authority. Therefore, I cannot table them before Parliament.

The reports on the Kiruki Commission, the Artur Brothers, the Grand Regency Commission and the Sharawe Commission on North Eastern Province are yet to be released by the appointing authority.

Concerning Prof. Alston's Report, I wish to state that the report is a UN document. Therefore, I cannot purport to table it before Parliament knowing very well that it was not commissioned by this Government. In any case, it is also in the public domain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Cap.108, the Commissions of Inquiry Act, provides for the appointment of Commissioners to inquire into and report on matters of a public nature referred to them by the President. Consequently, the President reserves the right on how to deal

with the reports handed over to him. He has absolute discretion in deciding whether to release the findings of the inquiry to the public or not. The President cannot, therefore, be compelled to release the reports that are within his possession.

We passed the Commissions of Inquiry Act in this House. I have gone through this law and I have not seen a single section which compels the President to release the reports once he has received them. I would like my colleagues to go through the Act, so that they can know that it is, indeed, true that there is no law which compels the President to release the report.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The point of order on which I wanted to rise on has already been overtaken. So, I will just seek a clarification. I would like the Assistant Minister to appreciate the fact that when the President orders for a task force, it is not in his interest to do so. He is doing so, as the custodian of the interest of the public. Therefore, it is important that members of the public know what the outcome of that particular task force is.

Secondly, could the Assistant Minister clarify the total cost these task forces have visited on public funds.

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will just repeat what I said earlier because that is not a new question to me. I had said earlier that the amount spent on the 2004 task force was Kshs2.1 million. The Waki Commission spent a total of Kshs25,214,456. We are still preparing the budget for the current task force which will be completed within this month. They are supposed to finalise their report by the end of the month.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is, indeed, true that once a Commission of Inquiry is held, we need to have the report. However, we are also guided by the statutes of this county. I would want to challenge the hon. Member to amend this Commissions of Inquiry Act to compel the appointing authority to release the report once the commissions have done their work. Otherwise, the President has powers to release what he wants.

Mr. Baiya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to acknowledge what the Assistant Minister has said about the powers of the President, but it is also true that there is nothing about the law that forbids the President from releasing these reports to the public. It is true that these are public funds being expended on public matters towards achieving certain objectives. It is only fair and imperative that the President makes these reports public for this House to debate.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Hon. Baiya, the Assistant Minister has already said that there is no law that can compel the President to release the reports. Currently, there is no law that can compel the President to release the reports. So, the case rests there.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The issue is, really, not the legality around it. The issue is about public money being spent to produce reports that do not come to public attention. You wonder why those commissions were set up in the first place, if they were not meant for some public good. So, Mr. Assistant Minister, we are not going to amend the Act, but that is not an excuse for the appointing authority not to release such reports to the public. We are in the era of transparency and accountability. So, can you ensure that your boss releases all the reports that were undertaken at great public expense?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true. Even the expenditure of those public funds is done through an Act or some statute. That is why Cap.102

gives the President the mandate to constitute those commissions. So, the President is completely in order to commission those inquiries. He is using Cap.102 to spend public money.

Dr. Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is not in order to mislead the House that the President can spend public funds without any regard as to whether the public is going to be interested in getting value for expenditure of their money. The reason as to why the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General is there is to make sure that the public gets value for any money that is expended. Can the Assistant Minister admit that he is just being a good advocate for the President, who deliberately refuses to make these reports public, because he wants to protect certain interests that have been exposed in certain cases, like in the case of hon. Kimunya, who was indicted by the Cocker Commission, but the President refused to make the report public so as to let him off the hook?

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think I am very clear. I have said that the President has done his work according to the statutes of this country. I would want to challenge my colleague. What law has the President disobeyed? I am telling him that the President has done his work within the law of this country. In fact, I want to challenge him to go through this law. He will agree with me that the President actually did what Cap. 102 requires of him to do.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kaloki): Order! Order, hon. Members! Let us rest that case at that. The Assistant Minister has taken time to explain that we cannot compel the President to release the reports.

Next Order!

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Chachu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, aware that Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands face perennial drought that is cyclic in nature; mindful that this occasions severe negative economic, social and environmental effects; noting that currently, responses to drought are reactive due to lack of proactive measures; concerned that the country lacks legal framework designed to mitigate these problems, this House urges the Government to establish a Drought Management Authority responsible for drought preparedness and response.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, drought is one of the most serious problems facing this nation. Drought affects about 10 million Kenyans, who are food insecure. Drought destroys the economy of a nation and sets back years of development efforts. Structural and institutional marginalization and drought related-disasters are major causes and contributors to poverty in northern Kenya – an area that is drought-prone.

Out of 14 disasters that have happened in Kenya in the last 30 years, 12 are drought-related. Major droughts occur in this country every three to five years. All of us in this House are

30 years old and above. Experiences from our own lifestyles will tell us that every three to five years, this nation faces severe drought that devastates the livelihoods of many Kenyans, up to 10 million. When drought occurs, it displaces so many Kenyans to neighbouring countries, exposing them to so many threats, including insecurity and many other hardships.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, due to the severe drought in this country, many Kenyans from the North Eastern Province of Kenya have moved to Somalia. Kenyans in northern Kenya, comprising of the Gabra and Borana, are moving to southern Ethiopia. The Maasai of Kenya are moving to Tanzania, not to mention the Pokot and other Kenyans living along the Kenya-Uganda border, who are moving to Uganda.

The frequency of drought hardly leaves pastoralists, and other people affected by this disaster, within sufficient time to recover from past droughts. Ten million Kenyans today have been made very vulnerable to food insecurity as their livelihood bases have gradually been eroded. Kenyans are increasingly becoming poorer and poorer.

Mr. Temporary deputy Speaker, Sir, drought is cyclic in nature. Drought is not an emergency. It is predictable. We know that after every three to five years, it is here with us. Our approach of dealing with drought in this country as an emergency is ill-founded. It has been a very bad policy. Drought is natural and a recurrent aspect of our climatic phenomenon. Drought is normal, and an inevitable aspect of the climate in dry lands.

This nation should prepare for drought the way it prepares for the rains. The fact that drought is cyclic in nature should make our policy makers to predict the next onset of drought. If we are willing to address the problem of policy, since it occurs every three to five years, we should plan and prepare drought-related interventions, just the same way we prepare for the rains in this nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, drought cycle management strategies put a lot of emphasis on livelihood intervention. When we invest in livelihood intervention in drought management, we will strengthen the livelihoods of so many Kenyans. This is very important, because up to now, our interventions have been aimed at saving lives, and not at securing the livelihoods of the people who are repeatedly faced with drought in this nation.

This Motion is intended for the setting up a Drought Management Authority, which is envisioned to be a parastatal, or a semi-autonomous institution, to deal with drought management in the entire nation. The frequency of drought in this nation is known. It has happened 12 times in the last 30 years. In other words, it has been with us every three years. Such an institution will enable us to manage major disasters that have been happening in this nation every so often.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the envisaged authority will facilitate contributions from both the Government and donors. It will have the capacity to disburse funds to all parts of the country, especially the drought-prone areas, to mitigate drought in a very flexible, efficient and effective manner. Co-ordination of drought management in this country is a major problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, every Ministry manages its own activities. This Authority will be responsible for co-ordination of drought management in the entire nation in a very holistic way. As it is today, many Ministries co-ordinate those activities in their dockets. For example, the Ministry of State for Special Programmes is responsible for famine relief. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is responsible for water-related activities in its own docket. The Ministry of Education is responsible for the School Feeding Programme in schools in ASALs. The Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security is responsible for security. Insecurity and conflicts in drought prone areas are largely resource-based. During such severe droughts - as the one occurring in Kenya today - conflicts are likely to

increase as communities compete for the meager and limited grazing and water resources. As a result, insecurity will become a major problem and the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security will have a major role to play in drought management.

The Ministry of Livestock Development - and livestock being the major source of livelihood in ASALs which are drought prone - has a major role to play in terms of animal health interventions, including livestock development programmes. The Ministry of Medical Services and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation have major activities to undertake because health-related problems are likely to occur, especially due to the limited amount of water that is available to those communities. On the other hand, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations will also intervene on their own, with minimal co-ordination from the State. That is why it is very important to have a Drought Management Authority which will co-ordinate all those Government Ministries, NGOs, donor communities and other stakeholders in a holistic way, so that drought is managed and the resources that are available for drought management are used in a useful way that will enable us to manage that disaster.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Speaker, there are many objectives for establishing the Drought Management Authority. It will be responsible for the management of the drought early warning systems in the whole Republic. Secondly, it will be responsible for contingency planning that will deal with drought coping mechanisms, risk reduction and building communities' capacities to long-term drought resilience. Thirdly, the Authority will be responsible for the disbursement of contingency funds to drought prone affected districts in the best possible effective and efficient manner. It will be responsible for the human resource to facilitate the implementation and management of drought mitigation programmes at national and local levels.

It is also important for that Authority to document, publish and disseminate all relevant drought management data and information to all stakeholders in and around the country. In addition to all that, the Drought Management Authority will support capacity building initiatives of drought management among the relevant stakeholders in the nation. Drought management is a very expensive major initiative. As a result, the Authority will undertake fundraising activities to finance drought management programmes in the country. Finally, it will be very important for the Authority to operate a functional and effective monitoring system for drought management interventions in the whole country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the activities of that Authority will have a livelihood perspective. It will not be based on just saving lives. It will respond to drought emergencies all over the country. It will be equipped with a fully-fledged drought early warning system with a fully-fledged institutional arrangement and capacity. It will be backed up with very good contingency plan which will have been adopted from different parts of this country. The Authority will have activities which will be based on the drought management cycle. When drought occurs, it is slow on its onset. It happens within one or two years. We have early signs of drought. For instance, when the rains have failed, that is the stage where we need to be alert. After the second or the third rainy season fails, we get to an alarm stage. We know that things are not going well. The animals start deteriorating in terms of their health, water pumps and other water resources start to dry up and we are alarmed that we are likely to experience drought. Then, the situation becomes an emergency. After that, a recovery period is experienced once there are rains.

Based on that, different types of interventions are required at each stage of the drought cycle. For instance, the Drought Management Authority at the earlier stage will invest in early

mitigation efforts. That will include resource management involving infrastructure in the drought prone areas, promoting income, planning for contingencies as well as capacity building in the communities that are living in the drought prone environment. On the second stage, it will prepare for the drought. It will start strategically to stock cereals, rehabilitate strategic or critical boreholes, promote livestock marketing interventions and also intervene in human and livestock health as well as provide supplementary feeds for livestock.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the third stage, which is the response and relief stage, the Authority will intervene in human and animal health. That stage, which is the drought emergency, the Authority will focus on saving lives and livelihoods at a very critical stage of the drought cycle. The Authority will provide emergency water supplies, supplementary feeds for both livestock and vulnerable groups and also, specifically, to people who are living in those areas. At that particular time, the livelihoods that support such communities will have collapsed. It will be very critical for the people to be fed by the Government and other development actors.

Finally, once the rains come, it will be very important for the Authority to invest in long-term development interventions which will mitigate and manage drought. At the recovery stage, it will basically restock the pastoralists and assist them to rebuild the herds that they have lost. It will be a time to build capacity and develop infrastructure that will have been destroyed during the drought through food for work and cash for work and investing in natural resource management.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Drought Management Authority is functional and well funded, it will accelerate development in drought prone areas in northern Kenya by safeguarding their livelihood assets. The drought management interventions will contribute significantly towards poverty alleviation. The activities of the Authority, if well funded and managed, will enable the Government to realize its Vision 2030 and, at the same time, make progress towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals, especially the ones dealing with poverty and access to water and education.

The Drought Management Authority interventions will usher in a strategic change in drought management by focusing on livelihood strategies by moving away from life saving approaches that have been with us since Independence, which for sure, have made a lot of progress towards saving lives, but not livelihoods of the pastoralists and other communities living in the drought prone areas. It is very important to save lives and there is nothing that we can compare with the value of human life. If the pastoralists have lost their livelihoods and year in, year out, they depend on food aid, are they living a dignified life? I am not a philosopher but sometimes I tend to wonder whether it is even worth living such a life.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Authority should focus and implement activities from a livelihood point of view. It should also usher in new thinking in drought management. We will realize once and for all that drought is not an emergency. Drought is inevitable in the Arid and Semi Arid Lands. About 10 million Kenyans are suffering today because as a State, we have failed to plan. Since we know we have drought every three to five years, we can plan and mitigate drought emergencies. Today, as a result of poor planning, over 10 million Kenyans are suffering. Millions of other Kenyans have moved to neighbouring countries to safeguard their livelihood.

With those few remarks, I beg to move. I call upon Mr. Ekwe Ethuro to second this Motion.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to second this Motion. In doing so, I want to thank my good friend who has come to join us in this House. I want to thank him

for advancing the cause of pastoralists of northern and southern Kenya. Through that advancement, the whole nation can be lifted.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House has debated issues of the Drought Management Authority for a very long time. It started with Mr. Keynan who moved two Motions in the Eighth Parliament. This was followed by Mr. Ali Wario in the Ninth Parliament and today, we are discussing a Motion on the same issue by Mr. Chachu. The only difference today is that we have one of our own, Mr. Mohammed Elmi, as the Minister in charge of a freshly minted Ministry. Sometimes the silver lining in a cloudy, bloated Cabinet is when you have Ministries like this.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the play by Prof. Francis Imbuga, *Betrayal in the City*, Jasper Wendo is quoted as stating:-

“When the madness of an entire nation disturbs a solitary mind, it is not enough to say the man is mad”.

We are not mad. Members of Parliament from pastoralist areas are not mad men and women. We are here to bring to the attention of the nation that for far too long, the issues of development in this country are purely political with a lot of political bias. This has led to continuous marginalization and neglect of a people. These are people who provide the economy of this country with 50 per cent of livestock products. These are the people who protect the international integrity of our borders. These are people whose political muscles are small and limited by the vagaries of nature and diseases. Just this morning, I said that there is polio outbreak in northern Kenya. According to World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, one case is an outbreak. Two cases is a double outbreak. 16 cases is a national tragedy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is what we want to represent here. I am not just making sentimental statements. I am making statements on the basis of a sustained policy framework that for a long time, since colonial time, has worked against and negated the interests of the people of this country.

In 1903, the then Governor-General of the colonial Kenya, Sir, Elliot Charles, in a preface to a book on the Maasai stated like this:-

“Let us do what we can do for the Maasais but not for long because in a hundred years, the Maasais will become Kikuyus”.

Obviously, 2003 was 100 years later and the Maasais are still with us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the White Paper came in 1923 with the same biases. The Swynnerton Plan of 1954 had the same biases. As if what the colonialists revisited on the Republic was not enough, in 1965 we came with our own Sessional Paper by the Late Tom Mboya. That was the genesis, accumulation and affirmation of neglect of our people. It stated:-

“The planning of resources in the Republic will go to high potential areas”.

The definition of potential area is relative. Twenty per cent of the country that receives high precipitation is not adequate to be considered potential. The potential areas had things like Tea Research Foundation, coffee and pyrethrum boards. What did we have for northern Kenya? Even the colonialist had the Livestock Marketing Department (LMD) in northern Kenya. What did the new Government do? It removed all that. Beef research stations starting with Lanet, were all converted to dairy research stations because we did not have Friesian cows. These are things I know. I am an authority on such matters. I did a research on policy, its implications and biases in terms of productivity in the nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State has lived in a state of denial for a long time. They deny that there is drought and there are no victims of famine. The job of a local chief

was always to deny. We started seeing light. I want to thank the Government of President Kibaki. We started seeing light when NARC came to power in 2003. In the official inaugural address to this House, His Excellency the President made a serious commitment by Government to look into the issues of ASAL areas. This has subsequently been followed by the creation of the Ministry.

This country lacks coordinated efforts. As I speak now, the Arid Lands Resource Management Programme is coming to a close. I want the Minister, when responding, to assure us that this programme will be extended. The precursor of the arid lands programme was a programme known as the early warning system. This country can proudly boast of an early warning system. What has been lacking and most wanting is rapid response by the State to consider the indicators to respond in good time to ensure that our people do not die.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have Fusenet Programme that is funded by the USAID. It continuously produces information, including on the dailies. All the Minister needs to do is collate that data and make sure there is a trigger mechanism in place so that our people do not die of hunger.

We will be ungrateful ingrates like in *Things Fall Apart*, whose trade in stock is character assassination, if we cannot appreciate the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) who have been helping our people in times of crisis. Drought affected communities have been relegated to being taken care of by NGOs as if the State does not operate there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this Motion, we want to shame the Government of the Republic of Kenya in its entirety. Even the attempts they have made are feeble knee-jack reactions. We need concerted efforts. This Motion is asking for a Drought Management Authority to ensure that these knee-jack reactions can be institutionalized. We should not just be left at the mercy of an individual. It should not be that when that individual is feeling happy, then we are all happy. When the individual wakes on the wrong side of bed and is in foul mood, then the whole Republic is in foul mood. We want to create institutions and organizations that outlive us. We want to put things in a position that it is not individuals that matter, but there is institutional framework, learning and response. That is why this Motion is calling upon the state to come up with a Drought Management Authority.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also want to thank the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government, to some extent, for feeding our people. However, Kshs1 billion per annum is not enough. We need a minimum of Kshs5 billion. The entire location being served by the contingency fund should be given this food. It is very easy for the agriculturists to say that they want to carry out irrigation. That is not the solution. That can only supplement our food security. The solution is to develop the pastoralists economy that has been neglected for too long. I also give notice to the Minister of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, my good friend, Mr. Mohammed Elmi, and I wish him well. This issue is not just a matter of friendship. We did it in the Eighth Parliament and that is just living memory. I am sure many more things have been done before. This Motion was brought during the Ninth Parliament and the Government thought we were just playing some music. I want to confirm to the Minister, through the Chair, that the Standing Orders have given this House sufficient power through the Committee on Implementation.

I know that the Minister will support this Motion because if he does not, then he has no business being in that Ministry. Once he supports the Motion, we will expect action. If he fails to act, through the Committee on Implementation, we will fix him.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Affey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion. I support it with my heart, mind and soul. I begin by thanking the hon. Member for North Horr, Mr. Chachu Ganya, for bringing this Motion before this House and for causing the Government to take action. This Motion which seeks to address the problems that nearly 80 per cent of this country's population faces has been brought on the Floor of this House by an hon. Member. This should have been the responsibility of the Government. The Government should have brought this Motion a long time ago. However, since the Government does not think and does not want to think, I want to thank the hon. Member for making it think.

There is no way we can think about Kenya without thinking about the northern part of this country. Last year, after the crisis, once the Cabinet was formed, there were a lot of celebrations in northern Kenya because for the first time, there seemed to be a genuine attempt to solve our problems by establishing a Ministry particularly responsible for this region in terms of trying to fast-track development. However, we are increasingly becoming disappointed. We are starting to think that this was a political gimmick and that this Ministry was maybe established in order to satisfy the huge voting blocks that certain parties achieved. Part of it was a campaign platform by certain political parties.

You cannot attempt to establish a Ministry like this and then you give it a paltry Kshs2 billion in two consecutive budgets, part of which is supposed to go to a project called Arid Lands Resource Management Project. We want to thank that project and its management. That money has not been coming from the Government. It has been coming from our friends; the international community. I think if there is a real definition of Government and sense of Government in northern Kenya; it is only the Arid Lands Resource Management Project that can qualify to really mean "Government" to the people because it has been useful in terms of mitigating their problems.

I just happen to have come from home last evening, a constituency represented by hon. Abdirahman in Wajir South. This happens to be my home area. I have realized that in that part of the country, if there is no focus by the Government to mitigate disaster that is likely to happen, we might go to the countryside or the constituencies with the firefighting measures when we might have lost livestock which is the backbone of our economy and even lose people.

This Motion seeks to establish Drought Management Authority responsible for drought preparedness. To prepare is to plan. Failure to plan is planning to fail. I, therefore, want to support this Motion and to request the Minister, even though he is consulting, to do all that is possible to justify his presence here as a Minister and second, the relevance of the Ministry to the country and fast-track the development of this Authority.

Mr. Chachu has said that this Ministry will be responsible for the coordination of the very many items that lie in many Ministries that are relevant in northern Kenya. Currently, there are six other Ministries, apart from the Ministry of State for Development Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, which have pocket budgets to support the northern Kenya programmes. Why did the Government establish the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands when we have a substantial budget for it in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities, the Ministry of Lands, and the Office of the President and especially in the Ministry of State for Special Programmes? What is the essence of establishing the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands

when the budget is spread across eight Ministries? If you coordinated it well under the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, it could have some impact.

This Authority, I suggest, should have its headquarters in northern Kenya and not in Nairobi. If we establish the Drought Management Authority, you must never allow it to be domiciled in Nairobi. Even when you establish the Authority, you--- A lot of money is spent in Nairobi on conferences and seminars and hospitality. Once the Authority is established, it must have its headquarters in Turkana or Mr. Chachu's Constituency since he is the Mover of this Motion. It can also be stationed in Pokot, Kajiado or any other northern constituency including Dujis, which my friend, Mr. Abdirahman, represents. It must be domiciled in northern part of Kenya so that people from that region can feel that the Authority belongs to them. I was confronted by a huge population of people desperate for food when I toured parts of my constituency five days ago. Apart from the livestock that we are likely to lose in large numbers if the rains do not come in time, there is a possibility of people dying because of hunger. The Minister must redouble efforts on how these communities can be saved.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) which should have supported livestock farmers in this country has failed them. This is the case and yet it falls under a Ministry that has a Minister and an Assistant Minister. I do not know whether they are the ones who have failed or it is the budget that is not sufficient. I have no reason to believe that it is the Minister or the Assistant Minister who have failed. The KMC's failure has got to do with the policies of the Government. The KMC should have moved in now and bought livestock from farmers instead of leaving them to die because money has been set aside for this venture. Instead of doing this, the KMC is asking people to transport weak livestock all the way from Manderu to its grounds. Some livestock would be too weak while others would die by the time they arrive at the KMC. Why can the KMC officials not visit every part of northern Kenya, buy livestock from the villages, slaughter them there and give the people as relief food? By doing that, the Government will gain in both ways. The livestock will be slaughtered and eaten in northern Kenya instead of transporting them to the KMC grounds. Our people are sentimental. They would rather leave the livestock to die than take them to a market place for sale. This is because we believe that livestock is a treasure to keep.

We have asked for the KMC to be decentralized, but the Government does not understand. The Government offset a Kshs4 billion or Kshs5 billion debt owed by the KMC Headquarters in Athi River. Why can the Government not establish one in Garissa, North Horr and Marsabit so that the KMC in Athi River is not under a lot of pressure? We require it because it is our facility, it will be useful to us and help the catchment areas in Maasailand. Why should the Government require somebody in a village in North Horr Constituency to transport the few livestock he owns to the KMC grounds in Athi River and yet it can establish a satellite KMC there? What is the logic? The Government lost about Kshs30 billion through corruption by importing maize some of which was Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) into this country. Why can the Government not use this money to irrigate our land? About 80 per cent of this land is arable. If you visit a place called "Habaswein" in Wajir South, you will find Lorian Swamp. The fields there extend as far as your eyes can see. We only need to irrigate that land in order not only to feed the people of northern Kenya, but the rest of Kenyans. If this is done we will even export the surplus food. The Government must wake up. We do not want an artificial Ministry to be created for us so that we can celebrate and then we are disappointed and start complaining after a few months. The Ministry is artificial and we do not understand it. It has no offices anywhere in the country. Its headquarters is here and it has no money. Even President Museveni

appointed his wife to become the Minister for the Development of Northern Uganda. Because he knew how powerful his wife was, she was able to access a lot of funds. In our case, the Minister who comes from northern Kenya is here and is sympathetic to our course but has no money. How does the Government expect him to serve us? It should allocate his Ministry enough funds otherwise, the Government should dissolve that Ministry and appoint him a Minister in another Ministry because he is highly educated.

The Minister of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands (Mr. I.E. Mohamed): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the hon. Member is misleading the House. We have staff in a number of arid areas in this country.

Mr. Affey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for confirming that he has staff in arid areas. I meant the arid lands project which was stopped by the World Bank.

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

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Defence (Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, Mr. Chachu for bringing this very important Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important for our country to plan to support or save our citizens. It is high time that we had an authority in this country to look into critical issues including disaster management so that we can plan and be proactive. My colleague, Mr. Chachu, has proposed the establishment of the Drought Management Authority, under the Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. That Authority is very important. You will realise that for several years, beginning from the 1990s, we have had a circle of long spell of drought. If we had an authority which could study and report to the parent Ministry that drought is in the offing, then this country could not be facing the famine that it is facing now. People are suffering because of lack of planning. It is important that we begin planning seriously for calamities such as drought.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Prof. Kaloki) left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Kajiado where I come from are suffering from famine. I urge the Government to ensure that food security for those people is guaranteed because the situation is grave. The Government should also move with speed and address the famine situation not only in Kajiado but also in other parts of Kenya. The situation is grave and it requires attention by the Government. I would like the Government to set aside funds and fund critical Ministries well. The other Government money should be channeled towards saving Kenyans.

We need the proposed Authority because livestock farmers have always been taken for granted by previous regimes. We do not even think that the current Government is taking the livestock farmers seriously. An example is the current drought that the country is facing. The KMC was given a loan of Kshs500 million to mitigate the problems of farmers. That amount is peanuts. It would have been fair if the KMC was given a grant of not less than Kshs2 billion in

order for the Commission to help livestock farmers sell their animals at a good price. I do not think the Government is taking livestock farmers seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have established a Ministry for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands but it has been allocated Kshs2 billion only. The Kshs2 billion is money that is allocated to a department and yet, you are talking of the whole of northern Kenya and South Rift.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

I am just half-way, so my colleagues should hold their horses.

That money is peanuts and we want the Government to take the livelihood of farmers seriously. In the Ministry of Agriculture, when there is anything to do with sugar or maize, the Government moves with speed to mitigate the problem of those farmers. What is wrong with livestock farmers? You have heard that Kshs40 billion will be written off for sugar farmers. Why can they not write off Kshs500 million owed by livestock farmers to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC)? We want the Government to know that livestock farmers have no money and no more cattle to sell in order to pay that money. So, it is up to the Government to ensure that the livestock farmers are given that consideration when it comes to relief in payment of AFC loans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to this Government but when you look at the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities and that of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, a parastatal like Ewaso Nyiro South and Ewaso Nyiro North are Authorities which should have been placed under the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. That is the only way you can co-ordinate and support the areas which are under the umbrella of this Ministry.

Livestock farmers in arid lands have been given a raw deal. When you look at 2004 to date, no assessment has been made on how many livestock have been lost through the cyclic perennial drought by livestock farmers. There is no data on that but you can get data on sugar or maize. That is why we need this Authority so that it can give the Government advance warning on the issue of drought. The Kshs500,000 loan which was given to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) to support the farmers is actually finished. Thousands of farmers have taken their animals to the Athi River factory but there is no money to pay them. So, we want the Government to move with speed and give a grant to KMC to enable it mitigate the problems of livestock farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, creating an Authority under the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands without funding--- We need a Fund for that Authority if it has to be established. The Fund should be at a certain percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There is no point of forming an Authority without giving it money to enable it operate. It is important that the Minister, who is here, tells the country what his Ministry has done for northern Kenya and other arid lands. If there is nothing they have done, then there is no business having that Ministry.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Assistant Minister for Livestock Development (Mr. Duale): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support this Motion to set up a Drought Management Authority in this country. There is what we call the Arids Land Resource Management Project that is basically doing what we are talking about; drought mitigation. This project is funded by the

World Bank. The first phase was initiated in 1996. It is a small project that covers 28 districts in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). The question that we pose is whether it has the capacity or the funding. What is the Government doing about it? It is time this country formed a Drought Management Authority that has the capacity, the financial strength, emergency and relief rehabilitation under it to take care of the sporadic and ever-emerging drought situations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, 80 per cent of this country's land mass is under ASAL. That is where we have about 75 per cent of the livestock population, mainly the beef and livestock. Under this 80 per cent land mass which is ASAL in this country, 45 years down the line, we still have poor livestock infrastructure, poor water resource management, no roads and it is the most backward region in this country. In the last 15 years, hardly have we had three years without a recurrence of drought. This is a country that 45 years down the line, 80 per cent of the people are under constant attack from drought, but the Government never tries to mitigate against subsequent recurrent droughts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we speak here today in this country, the people of northern Kenya have lost their livelihood. For example in North Horr, where the hon. Member for that constituency is the Mover of this Motion, close to 30,000 head of cattle have died in the last six months. As we speak here today, the livestock and the people of the 28 districts are going through a very trying moment. We are putting a lot of our time and energy in political issues. People are discussing issues to do with the Hague, post-election violence and the local tribunal. Even in special Cabinet sessions, they discuss post-election violence whereas we have never had a special Cabinet meeting to discuss the suffering and the loss of life in northern Kenya. It is very sad that the top socio-economic and political agenda of this country is not about the lives of the people of northern Kenya who are suffering under this drought.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, drought can be predicted. We have a regional body that predicts droughts. We have national bodies which predict drought. The Arid Lands Resource Management Project does quarterly periodical surveys on the impending drought and food security. We have the international body called Fusetnet funded by USAID that predicts drought. As we sit here today, Fusetnet has already predicted the recurrence of three months drought period starting today and then the outbreak of *El Nino* and Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in December. This is a country that nobody has put measures in place to fight *El Nino* and RVF.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the early warning systems that predict environmental issues that are to come; that predict the livestock and pastoral indicators, are not important. They are shelved! They are put in the shelves of various Government policymakers. What does the Kenya food security meeting that takes place in this country every two weeks discuss? They do not need to discuss how to give relief food to our people. They need to discuss how to mitigate against the coming drought.

For us to enhance food security and provide social service and delivery and for us to reduce livelihood vulnerability of our people in drought prone and marginalized communities, then the formation of a Drought Management Authority (DMA) as an initiative must be put in place. I want to thank the donor community; the European Union (EU) and the World Bank. For the last 15 years, the World Bank has been funding the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) and the EU were the ones who funded the DMA initiative whose basic aim was to improve drought. But this DMA that we are talking about today; that we want the Government to form; that we want this country to establish to mitigate against drought must look into the following; this DMA must come up with a drought contingency fund, a fund that will support and take care of its operations. This DMA we are talking about today must come up with

a component that will deal with and have a department called drought management co-ordination. We must have a co-ordination between the Ministry of Livestock Development, the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and other environmental bodies. Above all, we should not talk about forming a DMA when we do not have drought management policies.

So, in the first place, under the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, we must have a drought management policy co-ordination unit. How do we co-ordinate? The Ministry of Livestock Development was given Kshs500 million as a livestock offtake to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) but that was given as a soft loan. When you are given that money as a soft loan, it becomes business. So, the Government must give money to mitigate drought for the offtake that these animals are bought at the production level, slaughtered for the people instead of giving them maize so that the farmer can have that money in his pocket. But we must walk the talk and the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands was formed. Yes, the formation of all Ministries has a political angle. I want to disagree with the hon. Member who said that the Ministry for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands was formed for political reasons. Yes, all Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture were formed because of political reasons so that it can take care of the sugar cane, tea and coffee farmers. So, the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands was formed to take care of the pastoralists. That is the position. It is for the people of Northern Kenya, come 2012, to see whether they were taken for a ride by either of the Coalition partners. It is for us to do an audit of the relevance of the Ministry of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. I want to assure to hon. Members that that time is going to come. It is high time for whichever political party that advocated for the formation of the Ministry of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands to be on its toes that so far the people of northern Kenya as seeing a shell. You cannot give us a Ministry that has no funding. I want to tell the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance that either him or any of his Coalition partners, if they are not going to fund the Ministry of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands and if they are not going to form the DMA or put policies that we are putting in place, then that political entity called northern Kenya and ASAL will not be of any relevance when we reach the end of the road.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is high time that this country delinked itself from the political overtones. For me, as an hon. Member coming from the pastoral areas, the issue of the Hague and, post-election violence – I want to say it here on the Floor of this House – is secondary. What is primary to me is the people of Dujis and northern Kenya who are today losing their livelihoods; their livestock and their people because of scarcity of pasture, water and their economic activities. For how long are we going to discuss The International Criminal Court (ICC) and a man called Ocampo? For how long are we going to have more sessions in Parliament and the Cabinet designed for a particular community? There was the post-election violence and there were the internally displaced persons (IDPs). This Grand Coalition Government, this nation, allocated close to Kshs3 billion for few Kenyans in the IDP camps. This same Government does not want to allocate a Ministry that serves 75 per cent of the people of this country. It is ridiculous, immoral and dishonest! It is not honest!

Mr. Chanzu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to support this very important Motion. My view is that this Motion is not only important for the northern region alone because if you look at the geography or the physical nature of this country from 1920, 1950 and now, particularly if you fly over the country, you will see what we have done as leadership in this country, to make it arid and semi arid. The forests

which were in this country have been destroyed because of reckless leadership. So, I think the Motion is more important not only for northern Kenya but for the whole of this country. The wording here that drought is cyclic in nature is very key in the Motion because we have had food shortage because of drought not only in northern Kenya. The areas that produced food like what we used to call the high potential areas like Kitale, Eldoret and other areas have not been able to produce food because of drought. So, I support the Motion, not only for northern Kenya, but for the whole country. Agriculture being the mainstay of the economy, we really must put in place, measures which can make us produce enough food for the country. We can only do that with a Motion like this one.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think the Government is fair by creating a Ministry for a certain region. It is good for a start, bearing in mind what we went through during the elections of 2007. But I am sure that the Minister is doing a good job. I have seen him and I know him. But I believe that anybody else who can be able to perform better in the Ministry should be able to run the Ministry. I am sure that the Minister, like any other Minister, would be thinking, maybe, of getting a promotion to some of the positions that I see in this country. He is not going to remain just there, just managing the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Areas! He may become a Deputy Prime Minister, a Vice-President and eventually, the President! So, it is not abnormal.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must prepare Kenyans to be all rounders to run the Ministries. So, just like we heard that more than 70 per cent or 80 per cent of the country is Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), we need to put more resources to mitigate drought in the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to plead with the Government to allow some hon. Members to visit some of the countries which are living on very, very small areas of arable land. It should become compulsory for some hon. Members to visit countries like Israel. They can see how a country can live on a very small area.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard of water that leaves Lake Victoria and goes all the way to Egypt. Egypt is living on the resources that come from this country. That is why it is important that we must have an authority that caters for those aspects.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, weather forecasting is also going to be very important in that aspect. I think it is also going to be important for the Government to strengthen departments like the Meteorological Department by putting in more funding so that we are able to predict the weather in the country.

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

(Applause)

The Minister for Higher Education (Dr. Kosgei): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this very important Motion. In my view, we are talking about setting up an authority. That is a noble and correct step because we want to focus on what really matters. So far, drought and the problem of livestock owners is taken for granted and yet, that is their livelihood.

However, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya, like the rest of the world, has been suffering from the effects of climate change. In this country, I constantly get a feeling that when we talk of climate change, we are talking about it in abstract. The effects of climate change are here with us. If anyone is in any doubt, they should actually travel around the country

because what they will see is a country that is burning. There are very few places in the country now where we can say the rains have not failed. If they have failed in areas which are considered actually as high potential areas, then what is it that we expect the livestock owners to do? There is a problem.

When we talk about climate change and what we need to do, we always think that only means the forests. Of course, we need to restore the forest land. This Motion talks about setting up an authority so that it can be funded to do something. But, in my view, at the moment, something needs to be urgently done! Today, as we are talking, there are livestock which belong to some pastoralist communities, in the Amboseli Forest. They have gone there and they are displacing the wildlife so that, tomorrow, we shall say: "The wildlife has escaped to Tanzania".

Over the years, we have known that when the drought hits, people who live in marginal areas not only lose their livestock, but they also lose their lives. The children stop going to school, parents even migrate to other countries because by that time, you want to survive. You will go to Southern Sudan if you are on that border and, if that is where the grass is. So, today, as Kenya is burning from a drought, it is the time for us to take this Motion seriously and those of us who are in the Government – I will not say: "Tell the Government" because I am in that Government – are happy to support the setting up of an authority but with seriousness. That is because it is extremely urgent. Food production, as we know it in terms of maize and the rest of those other cereals, is going to fail. But at the same time, maybe, we shall eat bananas from that side. But the people who are dependent on livestock are dying! They are leaving this country and escaping into Somalia! You have to be totally desperate to want to escape into Somalia today, because the prospect of dying from starvation is probably worse than going across the border to be able to survive on the other side.

So, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not something that we come here to pontificate about because we want to be heard. It is a serious matter for us. Let us, for once, relate what we say to what we do! Funding will be needed. The Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Areas is criticised for not having enough funding. But there are so many other sectors of the economy which are extremely urgent and are extremely important to so many people, but they are under-funded. We just have to see what resources we have and the priorities. If the priorities do not include saving the lives of people, then, obviously, we are not serious and we are not thinking about them! Sometimes, when images come through the television of those dying women--- Women aged 30 years look like they are 90 years and children whose eyes are popping out because they can no longer get anything--- No milk from the cows! We have to ask ourselves: "What can be done? Are we not in a position to do it?"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want the Ministers to reduce the number of vehicles that they have. That is fair enough. But what are we doing with that money if we are not taking care of that kind of thing? What are we doing when we write a budget that is limited by what is at hand? Are we ever in a position to say: "This year, we have a crisis and we want to deal with that crisis once and for all?" Kenya did not start off as a desert, but we are quickly moving towards that direction. If the Egyptians are concerned that the water that is going into Lake Victoria has reduced, are we totally oblivious to the fact that we are responsible? It is not only money; how often do we tell our constituents that, in fact, plant the trees? We should be long past telling people not to cut trees because we have lost! We have no enforcement agencies! Today, we are talking about planting trees and yet, every time I fly across some of our forests, there are forest fires going on, charcoal is being burnt all the time and we are talking! Every time

one wants to ask a foreign person to help us with the climate change, they will tell you quite openly: "Start by preserving and conserving your own environment. They are all related."

So, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have asked for the Floor to support this Motion but to urge that we move with speed. At the moment, it is an emergency; it is not something for tomorrow!

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Mrs. Shebesh: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support this Motion and to start by saying that it is an unfortunate situation we are finding ourselves in, when an hon. Member has to bring this kind of Motion, which is solely the work of the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the work of the Government is to ensure that the people have basic needs. That is basic! On the issue of drought, I want to agree with my colleague and Minister---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Shabesh! I am seeing that there is a lot of interest by hon. Members. Could you agree among yourselves to use a maximum of five minutes to allow other hon. Members to contribute?

Mrs. Shebesh: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will not take more than five minutes.

I agree with Dr. Kosgey that the issue of drought is related to that of climate change. It is important that the Government steps up to the opportunities that arise around the world. This is because climate change is not an issue for Kenya; it is a global issue. Within this climate change conversation, this is an opportunity for us to, once and for all, deal with the issue of drought as a disaster.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, drought may be a way of life in Kenya, but it is being exacerbated because of climate change. Within the issue of climate change, there is Disaster Risk Reduction Fund and the Climate Adaptation Fund. I am not sure how the Government plans to come across these funds. If the Minister for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands would want to benefit from this fund, it is important that he works with the Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources and the Minister for Special Programmes who are involved in the issue of climate change.

Maybe, this is the reason why we are not doing very well on this issue because there are too many Ministries competing for the same resources and work. That is why we really do need to support the issue of reducing Ministries. We can then get a Ministry that can deal with one issue comprehensively. This is money that is being made available to countries through the World Bank and countries that are called Annex One; those that have brought about the issue of climate change. This money is being collected by other developing countries, but Kenya is not doing so. This is because there is a Ministry for Environment and Mineral Resources somewhere, another one for Special Programmes and now this one for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. Who will collect this money on behalf of Kenya? Why do we not sit down as the Cabinet and not waste time speaking about the Hague which is really not about Kenyans? It is about five or six people. Let us speak about Kenyans. Kenyans need this money to survive. Livestock needs to be protected because this is the livelihood of the Kenyan people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak about this Ministry. The issue of arid lands is not only for northern Kenya. Northern Kenya was put there because it is the

biggest populace that continues to be affected by this issue. There are areas in the Rift Valley, Turkana, Pokot and Baringo areas that are also suffering. There are also areas in eastern Kenya like Ukambani and Isiolo. There is also an area in Central Province like Murang'a. These are areas that have the same problem, but we seem to think that this Minister's work is only in one region. It is not. Therefore, this issue of disaster and drought must be looked at as a Kenyan issue; not an issue for the north eastern people. It is not fair that when we are always discussing an issue of pastoralists or drought, we think that it is only affecting one area. It is affecting the whole country. Therefore, this Ministry must be taken seriously.

It is not about politics. It was not meant for politics. If it was, then it should be scrapped. If it was meant for Kenyans and to save Kenyans' lives, then it should be given the kind of allocation that it deserves. It certainly does not deserve the kind of allocation of budget that it is being given.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to support the formation of this and ask for quick implementation of the same.

Mr. Abdirahman: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank Mr. Chachu for having brought this Motion to the House which I can only describe as very timely, relevant and ideal for us to be able to deal with the problems of drought and under-development in northern Kenya.

For a long time, we have complained in this country that policy makers and planners have not been able to address our problems as expected. That is why in less than 10 years after Independence, people in northern Kenya were put on food aid which they still receive today. About 40 years down the road, we are still asking for alternative options besides food aid and no Government, including the current one, has been able to address our problems.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when some people hear about drought, they just view it as a common occurrence. It is not a common occurrence because those who feel it, will always want it addressed and will speak about it very passionately.

Drought cycles have now become shorter. We are virtually in drought every given year. In the past, it was 10 years, 15 years, but now it is virtually on annual basis for those who live in northern Kenya. We know drought affects the whole country and responses have not been forthcoming.

Just to give you an example, His Excellency the President declared famine a national disaster on 16th January, 2009. Six months down the road, if you go back to the regions where we come from, you will still find that there are no responses in terms of mitigation, particularly on water and food. It is a pity! It is because of the isolated responses from line Ministries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have now the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands and the Ministry of Special Programmes which are both co-ordinating drought and emergency issues. What is the output? Virtually nothing. We would want these centralized. That is why I am saying that the Drought Management Authority proposed by Mr. Chachu is very ideal. We would really want it done as quickly as possible because the Drought Management Authority will be autonomous in the sense that it will not be able to get these problems of financial deadlines. As at 30th June, we were told that all accounts had been closed. I think it will be more autonomous in terms of meeting its own targets.

As other speakers before me have said, northern Kenya is not a place where you cannot grow things. In the place where I come from, the Uaso Nyiro Development Authority is not doing anything meaningful. River Uaso Nyiro goes through my constituency, although we do not see any water now.

We must try alternative approaches to help people improve our livelihoods. The livestock breed can be improved and irrigation can be undertaken. There are many options that are available, but the seriousness of the Government has not been obtained to date.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, going back to the response of the Ministry of Livestock Development, the Kshs500 million which they now call a soft loan, which they had planned for livestock off take strategy, has not been of any use to the people in northern Kenya. That money should have been channeled through the Arid Lands Resource Management Project if this Government was serious enough. They were not serious because they have not thought about it carefully. You talk about livestock off take and you give it to the AFC. Does that help the people? The AFC is just giving loans. What our people need there is not loans. They need money directly injected into the economy, so that they are able to fund even their boreholes.

As I speak, people are not able to pay for the fuel which they used to water their livestock and for domestic use. It is a shame on this Government to have kept these loans. Let them know today and many other days to come that the people are alert. Days of political hoodwinking are gone. We are watching to see the next days ahead.

Thank you, very much.

Mr. Magerer: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Let me start by thanking Mr. Chachu for thinking on behalf of this Government which seems to be asleep.

We have been able to see previously that this Government works only on emergencies. You know very well that our current President and the previous Presidents have been very quick in making declarations of national disasters; one of them being famine. I do not know what the significance of declaring a situation a national disaster helps. If this helps the situation, then the Government should declare arid lands and other semi-arid areas national disasters too. This will ensure that they are able to benefit from whatever this Government believes they can benefit from.

I want to support the creation of the Drought Management Authority (DMA) as quickly as possible. The Motion talks about the drought being cyclic in nature. So, it is no longer an emergency. This Government is aware that during certain periods of time within our calendar years, we expect drought. Of utmost importance is this: What have they been able to do? We have agencies that have been able to help this Government to predict. It seems we are not able to make use of these agencies. Even animals have been able to indicate to us that there are certain weather patterns that will come over. We have birds that keep on flying around, and this tells us to expect this kind of a situation. The Government must be able to rise to the occasion and address this kind of situation well in advance. It is sad that every now and then, we see the Government seeking help to help its own people. A Government that always seeks help cannot help its people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is sad that every now and then, this Government sits down to plan how to do what I know the hon. Minister knows; what is called in the world of NGOs "sustainable hunger". Every year, we have to ensure that there is hunger for work to be there in the following year. This is a habit that must stop. The response, in terms of intervention, that we expect from the creation of the proposed Drought Management Authority is very important, in terms of rehabilitation of infrastructure like dams. If such infrastructure is there, then it should be rehabilitated. If it is not there, we should see the Government creating dams.

In the Budget that was presented to this House a few weeks ago, the Government allocated more money for the rehabilitation of Nairobi River than the total amount that has been

allocated to the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. I do not understand the “gymnastics” in that.

(Laughter)

We should be able to treat a Ministry as a Ministry we formed for its intended purposes. If it is a Ministry that was approved by His Excellency the President, then it needs to be considered.

Mr. Minister, I sympathise with you because you were given a Ministry, and not tools. I even think that the Kshs2 billion that you were able to receive is just for your salary, the salary of your staff and other recurrent expenditure. This shows the level of lack of seriousness in this Government.

I want to join my colleagues in urging the Government to be serious about its work. In the last few months, we have been treated to some circus. In three or four Cabinet sittings, they were not able to agree on who is going to lead the others to The Hague. We know that all of them will be going to The Hague. So, what is the big deal in deciding who starts the journey?

They should stop wasting Kenyans’ time and just agree: “This is how we will go. As we go, how do we leave Kenya?” That would be more important to us. They should give the attention that is required to issues that will help the people of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I conclude, it is important for my colleagues to note that the issue of drought in this country is not only directly proportional to the responsibilities of Members of Parliament of the North Eastern Province. When I look around, I find it funny that it is only about Members of Parliament from the North Eastern Province who are here, trying to support the Motion before the House, which is going to help the whole country. So, I would like my colleagues to appreciate that we are in the National Assembly to provide solutions on behalf of all Kenyans.

With those many remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Members, it is now time for the Government Responder to reply.

The Minister for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands (Mr. I.E. Mohamed): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I respond, I would like to donate three minutes to hon. Kamama and two minutes to Dr. Nuh.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Very well, Mr. Kamama!

The Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Kamama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to thank the Government Responder for donating this time to me.

I want to say that all of us are not oblivious of the fact that in the military, we have what we call “radar system” that detects the presence of an enemy or any foreign material that endangers lives. We should also not forget the fact that the Government of the United States of America (USA) has a system of detecting cyclones, hurricanes and all other bad weather situations in that country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in our case, we need a Drought Management Authority that will detect similar situations in the entire country, more specifically in the ASAL areas, which constitute about 80 per cent of the entire land mass of this country. That region has been forgotten right from the colonial time. The colonialists started by introducing a pass to make sure that people who were interested in development could not access those regions. So,

we need to come up with a new paradigm. We need a paradigm shift, so that we can take care of the lives of the people in ASALs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want that office as a matter of urgency. We want it established in Lodwar, East Pokot, Isiolo or even in Garissa. When you look at what we have been doing since Independence, it is like there is a conspiracy between the successive regimes and nature to eliminate the pastoralists from this country. This Motion has come at the right time and we need to support it as a matter of urgency because that is what we deserve. Let us save the lives of our people. Right now, we have a serious drought that can actually decimate the entire livestock population in those regions. What are we going to do? After the livestock, we will have to lose human beings. Quite a number of people have died as I speak because we have not had a monitoring or an early warning system that is more credible. We need that as a matter of priority.

On the issue of Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), it should operate like Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA). It should be privatized and pastoralists should be allowed to buy shares. That is the only way KMC can be meaningful to the people who depend on the beef sub-sector. For us to depend on the KMC, it has to be privatized, so that we can buy the shares and get rich like other people. I want us to learn from the people of Israel. I know that the budget of Israel is usually subsidised by the United States of America by almost 100 per cent, but the late Ben Gurion who was the first Prime Minister, advised the Israelis to go and develop the Negev Desert. Through example, he left his will that he and his wife would be buried in the Negev Desert, so that, that desert will not be forgotten by the Israelis. We have forgotten---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Kamama, you are exceeding the generosity of the donor.

The Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Kamama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Nairobi Metropolitan Development (Mrs. Ongoro): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will not talk about what has been presented before, but I want to just make a statement that if it is true that Kenya is 80 per cent arid and semi-arid, then that fact alone should tell us, as a Government and as a nation, what level of importance we should attach to the establishment of the Authority that, in my opinion, is long overdue. It should not be formed only as a corrective measure to correct all the consequences of drought that have been suffered by ASALs, but also as a preventive measure to ensure that our semi-arid areas do not eventually become arid.

That, notwithstanding, in the establishment of the Authority, we should ensure that there is adequate allocation of resources, both financial and human, to put in place the right policies that will ensure there are mitigation measures. It is quite interesting that the same regions that suffer perennial droughts also suffer perennial floods. With the kind of expertise and human resource that we have in this country, why can we not have an Authority with the right policies and resources to engage in an extensive programme of dam construction? That way, every year, we can harvest enough water to be used in irrigation throughout ASALs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting this Motion, I would like to say that we should not limit ourselves to thinking that Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL), as being only within northern Kenya. If it is 80 per cent of Kenya, then we know we have pockets of ASALs all the way from the coastal region where we have one of the poorest constituencies in Kaloleni and Ganze, all the way to western Kenya and Nyanza Province where we have

constituencies like Rarieda. We always suffer the consequences of drought. This is a national problem and a national shame.

If anybody accesses our Budget, which we supported so vehemently in this House, and see the allocations given to a Ministry that is supposed to take care of 80 per cent of Kenya, surely, if you compare it to allocations that are given to Ministries taking care of aspects, it is really--- I do not want to say much.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would urge this House and Government to put a timeframe not only in the establishment of the Authority but also a time within which we want to see positive effects after the establishment of this Authority that will translate to production of more food, planting of trees and all other mitigation measures against drought.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands (Mr. I.E. Mohamed): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I would like to thank Mr. Chachu for bringing this Motion before this House. I want to support the Motion and inform the House what we are doing as a Ministry.

I would like to shed light on some things that have been mentioned about my Ministry. I think it is true that like all other Ministries, this Ministry has been created politically. I think people should stop saying this Ministry has been created for politics. There is no single Ministry that has not been created for political reasons. We are a democracy and democracy demands that what people think is important should be done. I think that puts the record straight. We have youth problems and the Ministry of Youth and Sports was created. Governments all over the world use different mechanisms to respond to needs of the people. We have had projects to address the issues of northern Kenya. The Government felt that, that was not enough and decided to create a Ministry. So, we need to move forward.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also true that the budget allocation we have received in the last two financial years is a drop in the ocean, considering the problems we want to solve. I also want people to know that the problems of northern Kenya and arid lands will not be solved by budget allocations only. I am thankful to all the Members who have highlighted the fact that we have little allocation from the Budget. We, however, have other ways we intend to work. We intend to put up the right institutions, repeal some laws and change people's attitudes. The reason resources are not allocated to those areas is the mindset that has been created since the colonial time. We intend to change that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me come to the point we are discussing today, which is the setting up of Drought Management Authority (DMA). I am grateful to Mr. Chachu for bringing this Motion. The Ministry is already working on it. We have set up a team and we have draft legislation in place. We have a Cabinet Memo ready to be taken to the Cabinet. We will bring it before the House very soon. You can be assured that this time round, the Government will implement this Motion.

I would like to inform the House that the establishment of this Authority would first and foremost, provide the legal basis for the activities of drought management.

Since 1992, the Government of Kenya together with its development partners, have been setting up early warning systems and coordination structures up to the national level. Because of the lack of legal framework there are many gaps you will see today. So, this is one of the things which will help.

The Fund will have a number of things that it will do. It will provide not only the rationale process of being the legal framework but also an authority like that one will provide the

necessary flexibility. I will give an example. Government processes, should I say, the financial year, brings constraints. We have now closed the financial year and there is drought. It is more difficult to make the resources flow as they should. If there was an Authority, there would be flexibility. Having such an authority, like one which is dedicated specifically to drought and this is not only for northern Kenya but for the whole country, we could have better predictions. We will have people who constantly think about drought and improve it. We can also make sure that where development has failed, which is the underlying reason, in my opinion, and I agree with hon. Chachu that drought does not have to lead to famine--- It is only through development failure that we end up with famine. Therefore, the Drought Management Authority will work on that.

This Authority will also coordinate the relevant authorities. Not a single agency or Ministry can sort out the issue of drought. What needs to be done in terms of drought management applies to all Ministries. Having a single drought agency that coordinates all these activities, Kenyans can only expect, especially the areas which have been hardest hit, a more efficient system. My Ministry would like to go further than establishing this Drought Management Authority because such an Authority without resources would be of no good as hon. Members have said. At the same time, as we establish the Drought Management Authority, we propose to bring the necessary legislation and institutional framework to establish what we call a National Drought Contingency Fund. The Drought Management Authority coordinating all other institutions including non-governmental actors, will set up a Drought Contingency Plan together with early warning systems, which should trigger us to know that in spot "x", something is required and the Drought Contingency Fund should release those funds. We think that should happen since we are very aware of the resource needs. If the Drought Management Authority was to keep all the money except the one required to run its planned activities, then there would be no money to respond to the needs when there is a critical situation. Therefore, we want to separate those two, have an institution that is credible and funded by the Consolidated Fund and by development partners which will release funds based on agreed indicators. We want to move away from a situation where the noisiest constituencies or the ones that the media highlights most are the ones which get most resources. We want this to be based on scientific facts and agreed indicators and, therefore, the funds will be released. This should not be subject to politics.

Having been involved in drought management for the last 18 or so years, I am glad the days when a Permanent Secretary would say that the people who are dying are not Kenyans, are gone. At that time, chiefs would not say their people are dying for fear of action being taken against them. I would like hon. Members to appreciate the fact that as a country, we have come a long way. Today, we have an early warning system, although it is not perfect in Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). We are also allocated funds annually, although not adequate to respond to calamities. At least, some development partners and the Government are working together to make the situation better. We will cement that process by establishing the proposed Authority.

I would also like to thank hon. Members for praising the Arid Lands Resource Management Project under my Ministry. Our staff on the ground has done a good job, but the projects are not sustainable. I have heard some people say that, that is World Bank money. I would like to inform hon. Members that the money we borrow from the World Bank will be repaid by our great grand children. Therefore, it is our money and we should take care of it. So, the teams in the ASALs that have over the years developed the expertise of early warning and response will be what will form the backbone of this Authority when it is formed. I would like to assure hon. Members that when this Authority is formed, it will use the 10 years enormous

experience of the Arid Lands Resource Management. I would also like to inform the Members that we also intend to extend the Arid Lands Resource Management to another phase.

I have covered most of the issues raised by hon. Members. I urge hon. Members to support the Bill when it is brought before the House. Hon. Members should also advance their ideas when we circulate the draft Bill.

I beg to support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): It is now time for the Mover to reply!

Mr. Chachu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I reply, I would like to donate two of my minutes to Mr. Wamalwa.

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank Mr. Chachu for giving me two minutes to also contribute to this very important Motion. Not long ago, there was an equally very important Motion brought to this House by Mr. Affey that proposed that we should have rotational sittings of this House. In fact, had we had this Motion debated somewhere in the northern part of this country, perhaps, we would have given it more weight because it would have impacted more on us as Members, by seeing the severity of the drought out there. We would have seen Kenyans suffering and their livestock dying. We would have walked by the carcasses of their animals. It is a serious matter. It is time that we had an authority to manage drought. Drought is something that has been experienced for many years and it will come again in future. It is not just drought, but we have also had floods in Budalang'i and Nyando. These are not emergencies because every year, we have experienced floods or drought. It is time that we had an authority, particularly to focus on the drought situation, act in time and help Kenyans who are suffering from drought all over the country.

We should focus on priorities which my colleagues have talked about. As a nation, we have not really prioritized certain areas such as the northern part of this country. Issues like drought have not been prioritised. As I speak here, we have a bloated Cabinet in a country faced with famine and drought. My time is up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion and urge the Government to take it seriously.

Mr. Chachu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank all my colleagues who have contributed positively to this Motion. I also would like to thank the seconder who is now in the Chair, for providing the policy framework necessary for this Authority to be established. I want to thank the Minister, who is a proven professional in his own right for seeing the need for establishing this Authority and for being proactive in his Ministry. I am glad to hear that a lot of good work is going on. I hope that this critical Authority, which will serve very many Kenyans, will see the light of the day very soon.

The assurance given by the Minister is very important because this problem of drought is affecting over 10 million Kenyans living in an area that is almost 80 per cent of Kenya's landmass. It is very critical to mention that we are talking of 75 per cent of Kenya's wealth; the livestock of this nation in arid and semi-arid areas of this nation. If we do not manage the drought, our wealth will go to waste. That is why it is so critical for this Authority to be established. I really do hope that when this Authority is established, it will be well financed and capacitated both in finances and human resource. It will be the only Authority of its kind in drought prone areas and I really do hope that the Minister will do what it takes to ensure that it is functioning.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I conclude, realizing the climate change phenomenon in the whole world, the Authority will go a long way in managing drought and the

urgency necessitated by climate change problems all over the world. I hope the Ministry will establish this Authority very soon. I do hope that the Prime Minister and the President will once again declare the current drought a national disaster, so that many Kenyans who are suffering at the moment are saved.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put agreed to)

ESTABLISHMENT OF HYDRO-POWER PLANTS
IN WESTERN KENYA

Mr. Chanzu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, acknowledging the fact that demand for electricity in this country far outstrips supply; further aware that small hydro-power generation plants can be used to supplement the Government's effort to provide electricity to its citizens and encourage establishment of cottage industries through lower electricity costs; cognizant that the western part of Kenya is endowed with rivers such as the Nzoia, Yala, Arror, Weim Wei, Moiben, Chepkaitit, Kaptetit and others; this House urges the Government to establish small hydro-power generation plants on these rivers to supplement the supply of electricity to the national grid.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why I brought this Motion is because of the experiences we have had in this country. You remember that in the year 2000, we had problems with power. As a country, we only rely on the Seven Folks Dam which is in Mt. Kenya region. At that time, we were imagining that if we had put very many generating plants on the rivers of the other parts of the country, we would have had---

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Chanzu! You will have about 18 minutes next Wednesday.

Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of the House. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until this afternoon, Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.