

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 26th November, 2008

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

Report of the Departmental Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare on the Alcohol content of consumer product, Alvaro.

(By Dr. Monda)

Report of the Departmental Committee on Administration of Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration of amendment for the National Ethnic and Race Relations Bill (2008).

(By Mrs. Odhiambo)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON ALCOHOL
CONTENT OF ALVARO

Dr. Monda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House notes the Report of the Departmental Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare on the alcohol content of Alvaro, laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 26th November, 2008.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS PREMISES
FOR BEACH OPERATORS

Mr. Joho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Tourism the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister confirm that beach operators at the Coast have been issued with notices to vacate the beaches?

(b) Could the Minister provide an alternative place for the beach operators to conduct their businesses, considering that the beaches have been their place of work since time immemorial?

(c) What plan does the Minister have to ensure that the beach operators do not lose their

source of livelihood?

The Minister for Tourism (Mr. Balala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! This Question was asked yesterday and you were not present! So, you must start from there!

The Minister for Tourism (Mr. Balala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very disturbed to hear that this Question was asked and I was not here. Truly, I was not physically here.

I was attending other Government responsibilities. It is recorded in the HANSARD that this Question was dropped by the Deputy Speaker. It is supposed to take a long time to come back to the House. We thought, because of goodwill and good faith, we are ready to answer it. But when we are given a short notice and we are attending Government business, then it is a problem. I am more than willing to answer the Question---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! You ought to know that Parliamentary business is Government business. The Government is comprised of three arms: The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. If anything, Parliamentary business comes first. This is the supreme organ of the Government. Mr. Minister, what is more, the Order Paper is now posted on the website by Thursday of the previous week. This was done on Members' request. By popular demand, we moved to update our website. So, Mr. Minister, you have no excuse! The easy thing to do is to apologise to the House for the inconvenience that was caused by your absence yesterday!

The Minister for Tourism (Mr. Balala): I absolutely agree with you. I agree that Parliament is also Government. The arms of Government are three and we are all one.

So, I beg to reply.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister!

The Minister for Tourism (Mr. Balala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise.

Mr. Speaker: You may now proceed!

The Minister for Tourism (Mr. Balala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware about the beach operators at the Coast who have been issued with notices to vacate the beaches although I am aware that it is illegal to trade on the beaches. I have, however, indicated that the operators would be required to relocate to a strategically placed tourist market when it is ready in about six months. The deadline is the end of March, 2009.

(b) I wish to confirm that the responsibility of relocation is not on the Ministry of Tourism. It is on the Ministry of Local Government. I want to confirm the commitment of the Government that it is working on modalities to provide conducive alternative places for the beach operators to conduct their businesses.

Kenya's tourism is fundamental to our economy. It is the main pillar for our Vision 2030. Therefore, we need to use it and protect tourism as much as we can. We have done an inventory of the beach operators at the Coast and there are approximately 2,000 beach operators. I want to confirm that we are committed to helping our fellow Kenyans on the beaches. We received negative publicity on Kenya's tourism, particularly at the Coast, because of bad governance in our local authorities and harassment by beach operators.

There are three major categories that are very important and they deserve to be protected. These are: curio dealers, boat operators and some of the safari sellers. The others who claim to be beach operators, idling around the beaches, are dangerous because they peddle drugs and are involved in prostitution. Those are the ones we want to eradicate. I want to assure you that the Government is doing everything possible. We, at the Ministry of Tourism, are helping in the overall responsibility of the Government to purchase 2.5 acres of land in the North Coast to build beach markets. We hope that, very soon, with the collaboration of the private sector, we will have these markets ready and we will relocate the beach operators.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also identifying road reserves, especially at the beach, where stalls will be put up to help the beach operators so that they can have a livelihood. This is a way of

creating employment and wealth. Thirdly, we want to protect beach operators at the Coast. At the same time, we also want to protect the Kshs1 billion revenue for the Government. We want to balance the creation of wealth and employment for our people.

Mr. Joho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for that candid answer. The Minister said that his Ministry plans to relocate 500 beach operators to a 2.5-acre land yet he has an inventory that talks about 2,000 beach operators. I want the Minister to be clear and lay the evidence of the inventory on the Table on when and how it was done.

Mr. Balala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total inventory of Coast Province is 2,000 of all those categories. I can lay that information on the Table. It is not a problem. It was done as per the Government request. What we are doing with this 2.5-acre land is to make use of it where the bulk of the beach operators are based in the North Coast.

*(Mr. Balala laid the documents
on the Table)*

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Mr. Gunda!

*(Ms. S. Abdalla stood up
in her place)*

Order, Ms. S. Abdalla! If you want to catch the Speaker's eye, you will have to stand up and not threaten to stand!

Proceed, *Mheshimwa!*

(Laughter)

Mr. Gunda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to point out three facts before I ask the Minister my question. First, these beach operators are fellow Kenyans doing an honest business to earn a living.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly, they have formed associations to regulate the activities of the various trades which operate at the beaches. Thirdly, people who can form an associations to regulate their activities should not be harassed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Gunda! This is Question Time! It is not debate time nor argument time. If you have matters that you wish to go on record by way of debate, information or argument, you have many opportunities to do so. Please, ask a question.

Mr. Gunda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. By taking the action of removing these people from a place where they earn an honest living, does the Minister have the interest of these people at heart?

Mr. Balala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course!

Mr. Mututho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, beach operators use Government land. Instead of settling them on a five-acre plot, could the Minister consider constructing decent shelters for them on part of that land?

Mr. Balala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I need to take the hon. Member to the beach and show him where we have the high water mark. With the climate change in this world, the high water mark is already on people's land. So, where is Government land? There is no Government land. That is why I am saying that just behind the hotels, we have purchased a piece of land where we want to construct a market for them. Also, through corporate collaboration, we will build market stalls for them on the beach accesses which are direct to beaches.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Mututho, consider accepting that offer by the Minister!

Ms. A. Abdalla: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I appreciate the Minister's answers. However, when he talks about having a strategic place for beach operators, could he be more specific about it? How accessible will that place be for both the beach operators and tourists? We all know that these beach operators represent over 2,000 families. The Minister has accused beach operators of being drug dealers and prostitutes. How can he prove that those beach operators are promoting prostitution and drug abuse instead of them seeking their livelihoods?

Mr. Balala: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to say that we have introduced the beach accesses as an alternative location for the beach operators. That is where they will access the beaches directly.

Secondly, the 2.5-acre land we have purchased is hardly 50 metres away from the beach. Therefore, it is directly accessible. I want to inform this House that we have agreed with the hoteliers that when these markets are established, we will have a shuttle bus that will pick tourists from all the hotels and take them there. We, as a Government, have resolved that in 2009, licences for curio dealers who want to have shops in the hotels will not be permitted. This is because curio shops will be managed by beach operators.

To complete answering the hon. Member's question, we have not accused anybody of being immoral. However, there is bad business conducted at the beaches which is creating a bad image that is causing our tourism to be perceived as sex tourism. This is the bad image we want to eradicate in our country. That bad business conducted there, is being camouflaged by beach operators who idle on the beaches. That is why we want to remove such beach operators. The good beach operators are the ones who will be given the opportunity to do honest business.

Mr. Njuguna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity to ask the Minister one question. Emanating from the spirit of the questions raised, it is almost clear that there are some notices which have already been issued to beach operators. Could he investigate the source of those notices, so that beach operators are not harassed between now and March, 2009?

Mr. Balala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said very clearly, on the Floor of the House, that there has not been any notice given. However, it has been indicated that beach operators will have to be relocated to save the beach destinations.

Mr. Joho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saddened that we have a Government Minister today who wants to ensure that 2,000 families lose their day-to-day source of livelihood. There is a reason why the beach operators operate on the beach and not on the hinterland. Their source of livelihood is selling curios in those hotels. I want the Minister to come out clear on this. We, as a Government, want to create employment for the youth. How can we do so, when we are removing these people from the beaches where they earn their livelihoods to an unspecified place? I want the Minister to tell us how much money it will cost taxpayers in setting up these stalls.

Mr. Speaker: Order! You have been in this House now for a period long enough to know the rules of the House. If you ask the last question, or a supplementary question for that matter, it has to be one question. I know we allowed Ms. S. Abdalla to ask two questions. That was in the interest of affirmative action because she was the only lady standing.

Therefore, Mr. Minister, could you answer one question from Mr. Joho?

(Applause)

Mr. Balala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we are an honest Government and that is why we have brought up these issues. These issues are dear to this country. That is why we are sensitive. As the Ministry of Tourism, it is not our responsibility to find an alternative location. I want to assure this House that we, as a Government, are working hard to make sure that we take care of the interest of these beach operators. However, we do not want to compromise the entire economy of this country.

CANCELLATION OF KENYA AIRPORTS
AUTHORITY ERP TENDER

(Mr. Magerer) to ask the Minister for Transport:-

(a) Could the Minister table before the House documents relating to the Kenya Airports Authority tender for the supply, installation, implementation and commissioning of an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP)?

(b) Is the Minister aware that the KAA Board has formed an oversight tender committee contrary to the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, which board has altered parts of the above tender's requirements to suit a company associated with some of the Board Members?

(c) Given that foregoing anomalies, could the Minister consider cancelling the tender and order the re-tendering for the tender?

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Magerer not here? That Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.328

FLOUTING OF TRAFFIC
RULES BY PSVS

Mr. Lekuton asked the Minister for Transport:-

(a) whether he is aware of the rampant disregard of traffic rules, including speeding and non-use of speed governors by passenger service vehicles on Kenyan roads;

(b) how many prosecutions have resulted from traffic offences and how much revenue the Government has collected in terms of fines in the last one year; and,

(c) what other urgent measures the Transport Licensing Board is taking to make sure that passenger service vehicles strictly comply with traffic regulations.

The Minister for Transport (Mr. Mwakwere): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that there has been an increase of traffic offences by Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) in the last few months. This has prompted intensive and consistent enforcement of the Traffic Act.

(b) The number of prosecutions from traffic offences and fines collected in the last two years is as follows:

The total number of cases detected in 2006 were 888,087; in 2007, the cases were 928,373. The total number of cases from January up to July, 2008, as requested, is 340,661. The total revenue collected for the year for 2006 was Kshs447,600,066. In 2007, we collected Kshs542,363,745. From January to July 2008, we have collected Kshs207,367,675.

(c) We will have continuous crackdowns on unroadworthy vehicles and other traffic offences to ensure road safety for all road users. In addition, we are considering the enhancement of penalties to deter traffic violators and promote long-term adherence to the law.

Mr. Lekuton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The figures the Minister gave us from 2006 up to date show us that there are increases in traffic offences. We have lost many people as a result of traffic offences. I would like to ask the Minister what happened to the so-called "*Michuki Rules*"? I remember when these rules were implemented, we had very few traffic offences. All of a sudden,

they have shot up. What has gone wrong, Mr. Minister? **Mr. Mwakwere:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg the hon. Member to elaborate further his question. In our records, we do not have any rules known as the "*Michuki Rules*".

Dr. Eseli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is there a cartel that runs from the Police Headquarters to the simple traffic policeman that collects extra-judicial fines, otherwise called bribes, and disseminates the same from down upwards? This cartel is the one that is making the Minister's work difficult. Is it true that this cartel has made the Ministry of Transport's work so difficult that it is unable to control traffic accidents any more?

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware about the existence of such a cartel. If it exists, I will be very pleased to receive details because that amounts to a criminal offence.

Mr. Mututho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at a place called Kinungi, on the main highway to Naivasha, pedestrians have been knocked by motor vehicles. In fact, the fourth person to die was knocked down by a car belonging to a Member of this House. With one million accidents being reported annually, what measures is the Minister taking to overhaul the Traffic Department, so that we can instil discipline in it as hon. Michuki did?

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has clearly indicated that he is talking about enforcement of traffic rules. That does not fall directly under the Ministry of Transport. However, we are satisfied with the work that is being done by the relevant departments in enforcing traffic regulations. It is up to drivers, road users, passengers and everybody else to ensure that each one plays their part in the enforcement of traffic rules.

Dr. Monda: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to misguide the House that it is the responsibility of members of the public and public vehicle owners and operators to control their own operations while it is his office that should oversee these activities? As much as these activities are economically generated to empower people, they should be done within the rules of this country.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Minister, you will have to come out clear on this. This is a matter of life and death. It is in the public domain that the rate of road accidents in the country, resulting in deaths of many citizens is on the rise. You cannot afford to pass the buck! Therefore, come out clear on this!

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am equally concerned, and probably, more concerned, than most of my colleagues, at the rate of accidents on our roads. There are certain issues that have to be clear in our minds; that is the question of roles and responsibilities.

The role of the Ministry of Transport has to do with legislation. That is contained in the Traffic Act Cap. 403. We give rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are not made for the Ministry of Transport. They are made for vehicle owners, vehicle operators and vehicle users, including passengers and pedestrians.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking about enforcement, which is the responsibility of everybody. The Ministry of Transport is not directly charged with the role of enforcement. We are charged with the regulations.

Enforcement, according to the Transport Act, is the responsibility of the people I have mentioned, including the traffic police, on a daily basis. The traffic police does day-to-day enforcement of road regulations. The Ministry of Transport only comes in to give regulations in the form of legal notices to improve situations as provided in the Transport Act. That is exactly what happened with the "*Michuki Rules*." It was observed that people were over-speeding and a legal notice was issued.

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Shabesh!

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

Mr. Speaker: You are not Mrs. Shabesh, hon. Bett!

Mrs. Shabesh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to

continue lecturing us on the ineffectiveness of his Ministry? He should tell us what action he will take to ensure that if this Ministry cannot safeguard the lives of Kenyans, it is scrapped or merged with another Ministry, so that it can be effective.

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe I was talking too fast. I would like to make it very clear that everything we do in this country---

Mr. C. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to think that we are of low Intelligence Quotient (IQ) that we cannot even understand him? Indeed, he spoke so slowly that we were bored!

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not underrate anybody, nor did I refer to individuals' IQs. We are all Members of Parliament. However, I am insisting that we must understand responsibilities as given by this same House. My Ministry's role in the road transport as far as traffic is concerned, was given by this House. It is under Cap.403 of the Traffic Act, Laws of Kenya. I am implementing every section of the Act to the letter. We need to understand that.

Mr. Rutto: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to continue insisting on sleeping on the job? We all know that this is the second time that he is giving us very shoddy answers. He is running away from his responsibility. He has referred to the "*Michuki Rules*." When hon. Michuki was handling this docket, there was order in the transport sector. This House should recommend that this Minister be allowed to go and sleep outside the Ministry and Mr. Michuki can still act in three Ministries!

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! First, the hon. Member is out of order! There is nothing in everything that you said that amounts to a point of order! Mr. Rutto, please, ensure that you acquaint yourself with the Standing Orders that are relevant to what a point of order is. The Chair will not take kindly to this kind of thing henceforth. Please, note that you are liable to be penalised.

Mr. Minister, you need not respond to that.

Mr. Mwakwere: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for your protection and ensuring that Members make comments or ask questions with respect and decorum and in a manner that befits the high positions that they hold.

Mr. Bett: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister seems to be locking out the other Ministry and refusing to accept that there is collective responsibility within the Government.

I want the Minister to tell this House how many times he has met with the Minister in charge of the police to discuss the issue of the many Kenyans who are dying on our roads, unless these Kenyans are of no consequence to him.

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we meet, at least, once every month.

Mr. Lekuton: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will go a little easy on the Minister. Christmas festivities will be next month when there is usually an escalation of road accidents. What short and long-term measures has the Minister put in place to reverse this tragic and worrying trend?

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for that supplementary question which contributes positively to the Question. The rate of accidents in the country is very high. The unfortunate thing here is that this is virtually the same trend in the developing world. However, we want to be better than others.

The numbers may be seen to have increased but, unfortunately, they are proportionate to the 6,000 vehicles that we register every month in this country. Mathematically, the number has not really increased in ratio. The number of vehicles on our roads has been increasing by 6,000 vehicles per month.

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

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I, please, have your protection, so that I may finish this?

However, we, together with the Police Department, have worked out a programme,

particularly for the Christmas and the New Year seasons, to ensure that we have greater enforcement and deliberately so. Our statistics show that, in December and January, we have the highest number of casualties on our roads. Secondly, the biggest problem is the nature of our roads, but I am pleased to state that more and more of our roads are being improved to a level, which we are sure will reduce the number of accidents.

Thirdly, we intend to come up with a programme that will be used by the Ministry of Education to sensitize school children and others on the importance of the knowledge of the Highway Code and the utilization of our public roads. Fourthly, we are coming up with electronic driving licences, which should be in use from March next year. That will make a lot of sense to careless drivers. These are the driving licences that are used in developed countries including the United States of America and Britain. We are trying to use their standards. I am sure that will reduce the number of accidents on our roads.

However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are ready to receive the hon. Members' suggestions on what we should do. This is not a matter that should be dealt with by an individual Ministry or a small group of people. It is a concern for the whole country and I will be very grateful to receive the Members' suggestions on this matter for us to be sure that we are safe on our roads.

Dr. Nuh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister has said that he holds meetings with the Police Department once every two weeks. Would I be in order to request him to give us a Press briefing every time they hold such a meeting to give us the status of our roads?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I did not hear the Minister say that he holds meetings with the Police Department every two weeks.

Mrs. Shabesh: Once every month!

Mr. Speaker: Okay, Mr. Minister, respond!

Mr. Mwakwere: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that we consult with the Minister, at least, once every month. However, I am prepared to do exactly what the hon. Member has requested. Whenever I meet the Commissioner of Police, I will make it public. We will appear on television and other media houses.

Mr. Waititu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Saturday 24th November, there was a very serious accident along Thika-Gatanga Road, where we lost about ten people on the spot and about 40 people were injured. All these people are from Embakasi Constituency. A year ago, about 40 students lost their lives at the same spot.

Why can the Minister not take some steps to eliminate that black spot? He should either erect bumps or something like that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Waititu! I have indulged you because you are still relatively new. But can you go and look at your Standing Orders, particularly with respect to provisions relating to what is a point of order? You should find out what happens to a Member who rises on a point of order that is not a point of order, then we will deal with it next time.

Mr. Minister, you need not respond to that.

Question No.141

TARMACKING OF WATOYA-ELINJA
-BUMALA ROAD

Mr. Were asked the Minister for Roads when he plans to tarmack Road C30 Watoya-Ejinja-Bumala Road.

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

My Ministry is currently tarmacking a 30-kilometre section of Road C30 between Bumula and Luamba. The remaining section of the road between Bumala-Ejinja to Watoya, which is about

28 kilometres, will be included in my Ministry's Bitumenization Programme during the coming 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Mr. Were: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that before the tarmacking of this road was started, design works were done on the 70-kilometre road. What is the total projected cost of upgrading the whole of this road to bitumen standard? How much money does he anticipate or project to put in the 2009/2010 Budget?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this project will cost Kshs1,037,068,118.40 and it is expected to be completed by early next year.

Mr. Were: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I even ask the next question, the Assistant Minister has said that he is going to factor this amount into the 2009/2010 Budget to complete this road. At the same time, he has said that this road is expected to be completed by early next year. How is that possible when he will not have factored the amount into the next financial year's Budget? That is based on what he has said.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, why did he start tarmacking this road from the middle rather than from the end? Why did he start tarmacking it from Bumala and not from Watoya or from the other side?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road is in two parts. The amount of money that I have quoted is for finishing the first section of the road. The money that I intend to factor into the next financial year's Budget will be for the second section of the road.

Mr. Were: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I had asked for the total amount of money that is required to complete the road and how much is required to do the other part that has not been done.

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are in the process of carrying out the necessary budgeting for this road in view of the escalating prices of construction materials. We have to keep on reviewing the prices of our projects. It is wise for us to do so. The Member should be happy that we are considering the changes in the prices, so that we can have a proper cost of the project in the next Budget. Investment planning for all the roads is being carried out for a complete bitumenization and some of the road projects that we have. We must have a continuous analysis.

Question No.334

TENDER AWARD FOR TARMACKING
OF MOSORIOT-CHEPTERWAI ROAD

Mr. Koech asked the Minister for Roads:-

- (a) whether he could confirm that the tarmacking of the Mosoriot-Chepterwai Road was tendered for and awarded in 2007; and,
- (b) whether he could give the name of the construction company which won the tender, confirm when the tarmacking will start and indicate how much was allocated for the project in the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

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

(a) I confirm that Mosoriot-Chepterwai Road was advertised for tender on 25th October, 2007. My Ministry received three bids and the lowest evaluated was at a cost of Kshs2,490,007,607 compared to the engineer's estimate of Kshs1,726,499,659. That was well above the engineer's estimate and, therefore, no tender was awarded.

(b) No tender was awarded for construction of this road as the prices submitted were well above the engineer's estimates. The Ministry is reviewing the implementation of the project in view of the increasing construction costs caused by the escalating prices of petroleum products.

Mr. Koech: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I thank the Assistant Minister for his answer, I do not know whether he has two sets of answers, because the answer I have here has a statement that he

has not read out to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, do you have two sets of the answer?

Dr. Machage: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have only one answer. The last bit that he wants me to mention is that I have already allocated Kshs100 million for the purpose of construction of that road this year.

Mr. Koech: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while appreciating the Assistant Minister's response, and in view of the fact that the construction of this road was promised to the people of Mosop by His Excellency the President on the ground, and in the company of the First Lady, could he confirm when he is going to re-tender and give a specified period?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very much aware that this is one of the roads that caught the attention of His Excellency the President and he did mention that it should be constructed. The Ministry is planning to re-tender the works for the road, with a reduced scope as from December this year.

Mr. Mwathi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to know whether the Ministry has a comprehensive programme for tarmacking roads in every part of the country, and whether the Assistant Minister could avail that kind of programme to the Members of Parliament for the benefit of knowing which roads are going to be tarmacked in the period they have planned to work on them.

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every hon. Member is free to visit my office, or any office in the Ministry, for any further questions to be clarified on his or her area. There is a continuous assessment and re-allocation of funds according to need. We may not have a very static programme. Sometimes we work on roads that need emergency management, and that may not appear in our programmes.

Mr. Mwathi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thank the Assistant Minister for the answer, but instead of every hon. Member going to queue in the office of the Assistant Minister, could he put that document in the pigeon holes, so that we can know and advise our people on roads that are going to be tarmacked?

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you look at the Budget statement that every hon. Member received, all that information is in black and white. So, I only invite questions for clarification, because hon. Members already have those documents in the book cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: Last Question, Mr. Koech!

Mr. Koech: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an amount of Kshs100 million allocated to this road. Our roads are impassable and by March next year there will be a lot of rain. Could the Assistant Minister release that money, or confirm that he is going to release it immediately, so that the road is worked on between now and February next year.

Dr. Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is new information to me. I will investigate and if that is so, I will not hesitate to use that money to make that road better.

Question No.190

UPGRADING OF GILGIL SUB-DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mr. Mututho asked the Minister for Medical Services:-

- (a) given the size of the population around Gilgil Sub-District Hospital, whether the Government could upgrade the facility to a District Hospital; and,
- (b) what steps the Government will take to improve the hospital's theatre, casualty, laboratory, X-ray Room and surgical ward to help the hospital cope with serious emergencies on the Nakuru-Nairobi Highway.

The Minister for Medical Services (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) As the term implies, a district hospital is meant to be a referral centre for each district. For Naivasha District where Gilgil Sub-District Hospital is, the Ministry's priority is to upgrade Naivasha District Hospital. However, facilities at Gilgil Sub-District Hospital will also be enhanced to improve services for the population.

(b) To cope with serious emergencies on the Nakuru-Nairobi Highway, the Ministry is in the process of setting up an emergency response centre in Naivasha District Hospital, and the Provincial General Hospital in Nakuru. In the long-term, Gilgil Sub-District Hospital will also be incorporated in the emergency response grid through construction of a casualty, a theatre and a surgical ward since it already has a standard laboratory and X-ray facilities. In the mean time, the facility will be linked to Naivasha and Nakuru through an effective referral system.

Mr. Mututho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that answer has a sense of seriousness. I am saying that because these days hon. Members fly to Kisumu, but millions of Kenyans still use the road and need to be told when those facilities are going to be done, so that we do not lose our beloved persons in things that could be managed.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right. If you look at the number of accidents on the roads, building such emergency response centres is long overdue. Again, as I said yesterday, the Ministry is usually constrained by budgetary allocations in the House.

We have put, in our budget for the next financial year, the building of emergency response centres along the major highways, particularly on the Naivasha-Nakuru Highway, because of the figures that we have regarding the accidents that have occurred there. Most of them have been extremely fatal. To transfer people from Naivasha to Nairobi, you run the risk of losing lives. So, Naivasha District Hospital must be one of those areas where we have an emergency response centre and another one in Nakuru. I confirm to the hon. Member that we have that in the plan and we hope that, the budget allowing, we will implement this in the coming financial year.

Mr. Mureithi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the answer by the Minister for Medical Services but I would like to request him to do something very urgently for Naivasha Hospital since it is necessary. I have had a personal experience where I took some people after a car accident to the emergency section and there were no staff to attend to these victims. There were no doctors and emergency trolleys to wheel them to the emergency section.

As the Minister looks forward to the long-term measures, what is he doing in the short-term, considering that majority of these Members of Parliament use that highway?

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hospital staff establishment at the moment is as follows: One medical doctor which is not enough for a size of that hospital because two have already resigned leaving one. So, the hon. Member is right. We need at least three medical doctors in Naivasha. We have six clinical officers, eight nurses, four laboratory staff, two record officers, two radiographers and two persons in the pharmacy department.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I realise that there is a shortage of doctors not just in Naivasha Hospital but in many other places. We have hospitals like Moyale District Hospital and Siaya District Hospital which do not even have doctors.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so, there is a serious shortage of doctors and I hope that as we get more resources, we shall hire more doctors. However, it is a crisis in the nation and I cannot hide it from the hon. Members. We have district hospitals which do not even have doctors at the moment.

Mr. Mututho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again thank the Minister for Medical Services for showing a lot of seriousness on that Question. I would, perhaps, ask the Prime Minister's office or himself to get some money---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Mututho! Your Question is directed to the Minister for Medical

Services. You have thanked him profusely. Why would you want to bring in the Prime Minister? If you have no further questions, please rest and rest in peace!

(Laughter)

Mr. Mututho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I rest in peace, I am recommending his promotion because when he is promoted he can get funds from the Ministry of Transport who are causing this problem so that we can have---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Mututho! This is Question Time! This kind of conduct is not going to be tolerated henceforth. Minister, you need not respond!

Next Question by Mr. Gitau!

Question No.477

STATUS OF LAND LEASED TO SOUTH
NGARIAMA COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

Mr. Gitau asked the Minister for Lands:-

(a) whether he could state the lease period in respect of the land leased to South Ngariama Co-operative Society Limited LR.No.13963 within Mwea Constituency; and,

(b) whether he could also state the current status of the land in respect to ownership of LR.No.13963.

The Assistant Minister for Lands (Mr. Rai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to seek the indulgence of the House to answer this Question on Tuesday next week.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! It is so ordered. Mr. Gitau, are you fine with that?

Mr. Gitau: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister had indicated to me that he wants the Question deferred until next week. Considering the seriousness of the controversy surrounding the said land, I have no objection to that.

Mr. Speaker: It shall be so. The Question is deferred to Tuesday next week.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Dr. Eseli!

Question No.372

UNAUTHORISED DEDUCTIONS
FROM TEACHERS' PAY

Dr. Eseli asked the Minister for Education:-

(a) whether he could explain the unauthorised deductions from teachers' pay by the Teachers Service

Commission (TSC) to insurance companies and hire purchase firms;

(b) whether he could also explain why it takes an inordinately long time to forward retiree teachers' files to the Pensions Department for processing of terminal benefits; and,

(c) whether surcharge could be levied against all those responsible for the delays in order to eliminate them once and for all.

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mr. Mwatela): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg the

indulgence of the House. I had an answer but I found it very unsatisfactory and so I talked to the hon. Member and asked him to allow me two weeks to answer his Question.

The reason for that request is that this issue of teachers' pension is a very burning one in this country. There are very many teachers out there who have retired. Some of them have been out there for more than a year and they have not received their benefits. I would like the Ministry to bring this to an end so that teachers get their dues in time and those who have already retired get their dues before probably the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Mr. Assistant Minister. You are asking for indulgence. Dr. Eseli!

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes indeed, we had a discussion with the Assistant Minister and I agreed to that. As the Assistant Minister has explained, this is a serious issue that touches on the remuneration of teachers where they are getting deducted money without authority. So, we are all agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! So, the Question is deferred to two weeks from today.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Mr. Kombo!

Question No.583

ANCHORING OF KENYA'S TRADE POLICY
IN THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Kombo not here? According to our records, hon. Kombo is away on parliamentary business as part of an international parliamentary association delegation. The Question will be deferred until his return.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Mr. Mbugua!

Question No.534

NON-COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF
EASTLEIGH SECOND AVENUE

Mr. Mbugua asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the road construction on Eastleigh 2nd Avenue, which was tendered for five years ago is yet to be completed;
- (b) what steps he has taken against the contractor, in view of the shoddy and sub-standard work on the section done so far; and,
- (c) whether he could confirm that the contractor has already been paid and state when the works will be completed.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government here?

The Minister for Medical Services (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government is not available.

So, we are requesting that the Question be deferred to next week. He is attending an official function.

Mr. Speaker: Let me defer this Question to Tuesday next week. Mr. Mbugua?

Mr. Mbugua: It is okay, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Mr. Mwathi!

Question No.199

BENEFICIARIES OF YEDF
MONEY IN LIMURU

Mr. Mwathi asked the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports:-

- (a) whether she could state the number of youth groups and individuals who have received funds from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) scheme in Limuru Constituency since its launch, indicating the amount received by each; and,
(b) what measures he will take to ensure that ongoing businesses as well as needy youths without bank accounts access these funds.

The Assistant Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports (Mr. Kabando wa Kabando): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Twenty youth groups from Limuru Constituency have received Kshs20,000 each from the YEDF through the---

Mr. Mwathi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to reply without giving me a copy of the written response?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mwathi, it is not in order if you do not have a written answer.

Mr. Mwathi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation obtains that I get a written answer to this Question.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, what is your response to that? Why does the Member not have a written answer?

The Assistant Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports (Mr. Kabando wa Kabando): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the office informed me that he had received a written answer by yesterday and I am actually surprised that he has not received it.

Mr. Speaker: You now have heard evidence that the hon. Member does not have the written answer.

The Assistant Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports (Mr. Kabando wa Kabando): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so, could I seek your indulgence to answer this Question irrespective of that fact for the benefit of the whole House?

Mr. Speaker: No! I have made communication on this matter previously and you must all be prepared to comply with that communication. Ministers must ensure that their written answers are in Parliament timeously and in the same form as they would raise the answer in the House. So, this Question will have to be deferred to tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Mwathi, is that fine for you?

Mr. Mwathi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is fine but I also wish to let the Assistant Minister know that this Question was deferred on 8th October which was last month because the Assistant Minister was unable to answer it.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Assistant Minister is remorseful. The Question has [**Mr. Speaker**] taken him by surprise and he is normally a very compliant Assistant Minister. So, we will have to

accommodate him. The Question is deferred to 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

(Question deferred)

Next Question by Mr. Cheruiyot!

Question No.544

NUMBER OF WOMEN GROUPS IN KURESOI
WITH LOANS FROM WEDF

Mr. Cheruiyot asked the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Development:-

(a) how many women groups in each of the four administrative divisions of Kuresoi Constituency have received loans from the Ministry through the Women Enterprise Development Fund (WEDF); and,

(b) whether she could provide a list of women groups, indicating the amount of money received by each group.

The Minister for Gender, Children and Social Development (Ms. Mathenge): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to reply.

(a) As of now, none of the women groups in the four administrative divisions in Kuresoi have received any funds from the WEDF. These are the divisions of Kamara, Olenguruone, Keringet and Mau Summit. However, we received a total of 23 applications which are under process with effect from this month. Out of these 23 groups, we have seven which may not be attended to because they have shortfalls in their application forms. I will be able to tell you which ones they are so that you can go, assess and discuss with the women.

(b) As already indicated, there are no women who have received any WEDF funds from this group. However, I think before 15th December, we will be able to consider the 23 women groups who have already applied.

Mr. Cheruiyot: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister for giving a candid answer which shows that her Ministry has not done their work properly. It has taken them long to help these poor women of Kuresoi. Could I know the reasons that have occasioned the delay?

Ms. Mathenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the problems with dispersing the funds in Kuresoi area was the political unrest after the general elections. That was a handicap in the area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other reason is that this is a new district and to date, we do not have a Social Gender District Officer in the area. Therefore, we are using the Social Gender District Officer from Nakuru. That has been a handicap between the office and the women groups. However, I think the matter is now under control and that is why we have 23 women groups being considered for funding from the Women Constituency Enterprise Development Fund and not from the main Fund.

Mr. Washiali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to tell this House who the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Women Enterprise Development Fund is. And also---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Washiali! Ask one question at a time!

Madam Minister, please, proceed!

Ms. Mathenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we employed a new CEO from 3rd November. He is a Mr. Wainaina.

Ms. S. Abdalla: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us why she is coming to tell this House the shortfalls of the seven groups instead of taking action and dealing with them? Why should she wait for this Question to come to the House in order for her to tell us that?

Ms. Mathenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought hon. Members wanted a genuine answer. I have

23 applications and out of those, seven may not be approved because they have shortfalls. However, my officers are handling that.

Mr. Cheruiyot: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has a honest face, therefore, I will take her answer.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Very well!
Next Question by Mr. Kiilu!

Question No.505

BREAKDOWN OF POLICE RECRUITS
IN MAKUENI

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kiilu is not here! Therefore, the Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

Next Question by Mr. Mbadi!

Question No.480

ERADICATION OF TSETSE
FLY IN GWASI

Mr. Mbadi asked the Minister for Livestock Development:-

(a) whether he is aware that many farmers in both Gwassi East and Ruma locations of Gwassi Constituency lost several herds of livestock as a result of tsetse fly infestation;

(b) what steps he is taking to eradicate the pest in the region; and,

(c) when the Government will compensate the affected livestock farmers.

The Assistant Minister for Livestock Development (Mr. Duale): Mr. Speakers, Sir, I seek the indulgence of the Chair so that I answer this Question tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mbadi, is that okay with you?

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with his request. I do not even have a written answer. So, I am sure he is not ready.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! The Question is deferred to tomorrow afternoon! That brings us to the end of Question Time.

(Question deferred)

POINTS OF ORDER

TABLING OF KNCHR REPORT ON
POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Mr. Kioni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs as to when she will lay on the Table the

Report which was prepared by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). The Report is entitled: *"Back from the Precipice"*. I would want the Minister to give us a detailed account of the events that took place, particularly with respect to the abuse of human rights as compiled by the Commission. That Report is dated 7th August, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Report also contained the names of those who perpetrated the violence and also the recommendations and the way forward.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Minister here? How about the Leader of Government Business? Is there any Minister who can take responsibility for that Ministerial Statement?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will communicate with the relevant Ministry to see if the Statement can be given early next week.

Mr. Speaker: Early next week is when?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker: The Statement will be delivered on Wednesday next week!

TABLING OF THE WAKI COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Kioni: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Last month, we were promised that the Waki Report will be in the House in ten days time. However, to date, we have not had a Ministerial Statement on this.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that the Waki Report is on its way to Parliament if the precedence on the Kriegler Report is anything to go by. I believe that the Report will pass through the Cabinet and then it will be laid on the Table. I believe that it is likely to be before the Cabinet either this or next week.

Mr. Speaker: Was a promise made to the House that the Report would be laid on the Table?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I am holding brief for the Minister and I am sure she will table the Report. However, I am taking into account the precedence we took through the Kriegler Report which is a similar report.

Mr. Speaker: Are you in a position to make any indication to the House as to when it will be laid on the Table?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure it cannot be more than two weeks.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! That has gone on record! So, the Report will be laid on the Table two weeks from now.

ARREST OF SOMALI MPS

Mr. C. Kilonzo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about three weeks ago, I sought a Ministerial Statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding a Member of Parliament from Somalia who had been arrested and the stranded Members of Parliament from Somalia. However, this Statement has not been forthcoming.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statement could have been requested for when I was not in the country. However, if you have time for me, I can respond now.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, I do not have time for you now. However, I will have time for you tomorrow.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Tomorrow afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: Yes!

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**NOTICE OF MOTION FOR
ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.20**

FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Eng. Gumbo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order No.20 to seek leave to move that the House do adjourn to discuss the dire food situation in the country.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Hon. Members, I am satisfied that the hon. Member for Rarieda has complied with the provisions of Standing Order No.20 and that the matter raised is definite, urgent and of national importance. I, therefore, order that the debate shall be heard beginning 5.30 p.m., today!

(Applause)

Next Order!

BILL

First Reading

THE APPROPRIATION BILL

*(Order for First Reading read - Read
the First Time and ordered to be read
the Second Time today)*

Mr. Speaker: Next Order!

Second Reading

THE APPROPRIATION BILL

The Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 2008, be now read a Second Time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President has signified his consent to this Bill. The Appropriation Bill, 2008, seeks statutory approval from this Parliament of the expenditures contained in the Recurrent and Development Estimates for the Financial Year 2008/2009, which were laid before this House on 12th June, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the authority sought include the issuance of funds out of the Consolidated Fund as approved by this House on 25th June, 2008, through the Vote on Account in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the busy schedule of this House, the Committee of Supply was only able to debate, in detail, and approved eight votes as follows:-

1. Vote 06 - Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030.
2. Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Vote 12 - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government.
4. Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy.
5. Vote 31 - Ministry of Education.
6. Vote 36 - Ministry of Lands.
7. Vote 42 - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and Sports.
8. Vote 57 - Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development.

The rest of the votes were approved through the Guillotine Procedure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to thank hon. Members for their continued support and constructive debates on the above votes. I also thank hon. Members for approving the Vote on Account that has enabled the Government to continue to provide services to the Kenyan people without interruption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 12th June, 2008, the Minister for Finance tabled to this House the Budget for the Financial Year 2008/2009. The Estimates that amounted to Kshs761.7 billion are made up as follows:-

1. Recurrent expenditure - Kshs308.89 billion
2. Development expenditure - Kshs196.2 billion
3. Consolidated Fund Services -Kshs174.6 billion
4. Contingency reserve - Kshs2 billion

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the above expenditures were to be financed as follows:-

1. Ordinary revenue - Kshs467.9 billion
2. Appropriations-in-Aid - Kshs44.4 billion
3. Donor projects grants - Kshs33.8 billion
4. Loans - Kshs47.4 billion
5. Privatisation proceeds - Kshs8 billion
6. Domestic borrowing - Kshs35.9 billion
7. Sovereign bonds - Kshs33.6 billion
8. Domestic loans bond - Kshs18.5 billion
9. Debt roll-over - Kshs66.8 billion
10. Other financing - Kshs5.7 billion

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been implementing the Budget on the basis of these estimates and assumptions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whereas we expect that our projections will remain generally on course, there are risks and challenges that could threaten to derail our commitment to operate within our fiscal framework.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members are aware, financial discipline and strict adherence to hard Budget constraints are ingredients that are critical to maintaining a sustainable macro-economic framework and, indeed, a sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, risks and challenges are likely to emerge from the following:-

1. Overall, our revenue performance has, so far, been slightly below target, reflecting a slow-down in economic activities in the first quarter of this year, following the aftermath of post election skirmishes in the country. But we have put in place administrative measures to ensure that we are back on track. We are confident to achieve the revenue receipts targeted for the whole financial year.

For example, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the operation of a 24-hour Port and also the administrative changes that have been made in the place have increased collection of revenue from Customs, considerably. That is an example of the administrative measures we have put in place.

2. With respect to our domestic borrowing, we are below our programme target due to under-performance in the Treasury Bill (T-Bill) market, mainly in October, this year. However, recent developments in the market indicate that we shall be able to reach our target by the end of the fiscal year. Nonetheless, we have adopted a cautious domestic borrowing strategy to minimise debt servicing costs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also monitoring the situation in the international market to launch the Sovereign Bond. In this regard, we are encouraged by the aggressive and co-ordinated measures to mitigate the global financial crisis that were announced by the Group of 20 countries during their summit in Washington DC on 15th November, 2008, a meeting at which Africa had only one country present, South Africa.

If these measures work as expected, we may be able to go to the international market before the end of the fiscal year. In the meantime, we are going ahead with preparatory work on the issuance processes as we await the appropriate timing.

Notwithstanding the above challenges, spending Ministries continue to request additional funding to finance emerging priorities that were not anticipated during the preparation of the current Budget. However, should there be need for modifications in the Budget, we will do so in the context of the next Supplementary Estimates. In this regard, we will pay special attention to strategies, which are expected to provide the impetus for continued growth of the economy. These include:-

(i) Sustaining macro-economic stability and strengthening the financial sector to ensure low interest rates, a low rate of inflation and a stable currency in order to foster rapid sustainable growth and creation of jobs;

(ii) Improving the investments environment by reducing the cost of doing business;

(iii) Expanding infrastructural capacity that will encourage investments, thereby facilitate faster growth.

To this end, we are urging the spending Ministries, particularly the Ministries that have infrastructure, to expedite the contracts they have already granted. For example, the Ministry of Public Works has over Kshs62 billion, which, if spent on time, should create the necessary multiplier effect within the economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Appropriation Bill, 2008, contains details of supply for each Vote, including the amount that shall be applied as Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A). However, I wish, at this juncture, to mention some of the notable allocations to various Votes.

Vote 01 - Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security. For recruitment of officers, Administration Policemen (APs) and the General Service Unit officers (GSU), we have provided Kshs1.86 billion. For purchase of motor vehicles for security operations, we have provided Kshs1.279 billion. For purchase of police and security equipment, we have provided Kshs1.32 billion, and for risk allowances for police officers and APs, we have allocated Kshs4.6 billion.

Vote 03 - Ministry of State for Public Service. For the last phase of voluntary early retirement scheme, we have provided Kshs220 million.

Vote 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - construction of buildings in Abuja, our office in Nigeria, we have provided Kshs200 million; we have also provided Kshs1 billion to the Ministry, whose Minister is sitting near me here, to buy buildings in Tokyo.

Vote 05 - Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs - for salary adjustments and risk allowance we have provided Kshs2.8 billion; for construction of buildings and prison houses, we have given Kshs551.5 million. For specialised materials and supplies to the prisons, we have allocated Kshs1.422 billion.

Vote 06 - Ministry of Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 - the

Constituencies Development Fund is allocated Kshs10.1 billion, while preliminary preparation for the population census gets Kshs500 million. The Census is going to be next year, and the preparatory work, which will begin this year, is estimated to cost Kshs500 million.

Vote 07 - Ministry of Finance - equity participation in Telkom has been provided with Kshs2.5 billion; equity participation in the National Oil Corporation of Kenya has Kshs500 million, and the Kenya Revenue Authority is allocated Kshs7.1 billion. Salary awards for civil servants in JG "D-L", is allocated Kshs3 billion. Arbitration fees in connection with Exim Bank and others, is allocated Kshs670 million. Emergency relief and refugee assistance is allocated Kshs1.7 billion, while payment of Duty for the disciplined forces as per the East African Customs Management Act, 2005, is allocated Kshs600 million. Purchase of scanners and other capital expenditure for the KRA is allocated Kshs600 million.

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture - the Coffee Development Fund is allocated Kshs250 million. The Tea Research Fund and the Tea Board of Kenya have been allocated Kshs77 million. The restructuring of the Coffee Board of Kenya has Kshs110 million and farm machinery services is allocated Kshs195 million. The National Agricultural Accelerated Inputs Access Programme is allocated Kshs300 million, while *Njaa Marufuku* Food Security and Management Programme has been allocated Kshs150 million.

Vote 11 - Ministry of Medical Service, whose Professor is in this House, if he has not gone out as I was speaking. Purchase of drugs and non-pharmaceutical for health facilities, Kshs3.810 billion; purchase of medical equipment, Kshs420 million; and, salaries for medical staff in public health facilities and national referral hospitals, Kshs18 billion.

Vote 12 - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government: Construction of roads, Kshs640.2 million; construction of buildings, Kshs767 million; construction of buildings, Kshs1.207 billion; and, grants to other levels of Government, that is, the Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF), Kshs9.250 billion.

Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads: Settlement of pending bills, Kshs1.1 billion; counterpart funding, Kshs2 billion; and, construction of roads, Kshs20.4 billion.

Vote 18 - Ministry of Gender and Children Development: Grants to orphans and vulnerable children, Kshs546 million; and, grants to Women Enterprise Development Fund, Kshs315 million.

Vote 20 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation: Dam construction, Kshs1 billion.

Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources: Nairobi River restoration and rehabilitation programme, Kshs35.1 million; which I would like this House to know is not enough. Acquisition of aircraft for the Department of Resource Survey and Remote Sensing, Kshs170.5 million.

Vote 24 - Ministry of East African Community: Contribution to the East African Community, Kshs126.6 million.

Vote 29 - National Assembly: Mortgage Scheme Fund, Kshs1.4 billion; 1963/1983 Members of Parliament Pension Fund, Kshs200 million. We have provided for those who went through this House and are still alive. Also, money can be paid to their dependants. Refurbishment of Parliament Chambers, Kshs360 million; purchase of specialised equipment, including radios and others within Parliament, Kshs213 million.

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy: Rural Electricity Authority, Kshs8.8 billion; expansion of power transmission, Kshs500 million; emergency power supply, Kshs3.4 billion; tax refunds, KPLC, Kshs3.5 billion; and, geothermal expansion, Kshs4 billion.

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education: Salaries for District Education Services, Kshs943.4 million; grants for free primary education, Kshs8.46 billion; subsidies for free secondary education, Kshs11.22 billion; construction and refurbishment of buildings, Kshs634.14 million; and, School Feeding Programme (food rations), Kshs414 million.

Vote 32 - Ministry of Information and Communications: Kenya Transparency Communication and Information Project, Kshs1 billion; business process outsourcing, Kshs900 million; and, Brand Kenya Board, Kshs203 million.

Vote 33 - Electoral Commission of Kenya: Provisions for by-elections, Kshs386.4 million.

Vote 35 - Ministry of State for Special Programmes: Purchase of Strategic Grain Reserves, Kshs3.4 billion; family relief services, Kshs1 billion; and, humanitarian fund for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Kshs750 million.

Vote 40 - Ministry of State for Immigration and Registration of Persons: Integrated Persons Registration System has been allocated Kshs270 million. Identity Cards material has been allocated Kshs386 million.

Vote 42 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports: Construction of roads, Kshs900 million; and, grants to Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Kshs500 million.

Vote 43 - Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology: Grants to technical training institutes, Kshs550 million and grants to universities, Kshs13.9 billion.

Vote 44 - Ministry of Housing: Purchase of BP and Shell House, which is going to be the Office of the Prime Minister, Kshs700 million.

Vote 49 - Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation: Purchase of medical equipment, Kshs419 million and purchase of drugs and non-pharmaceutical for health facilities, Kshs3.498 million.

Vote 55 - Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife: Construction of roads in the parks and other civil works, Kshs663 million.

Vote 57 - Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development: Construction of roads, Kshs750 million.

Vote 58 - Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands: Construction of civil works and water, Kshs420 million.

Vote 60 - Ministry of Industrialisation: Industrial research, Kshs395 million.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure the hon. Members that the funds allocated to the Ministries and departments shall be utilised efficiently to achieve the purposes and provide services for which this House has approved. Financial discipline and economy will be our guiding principle to achieve macro-economic stability that will facilitate the achievement of the projected economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of a sum of Kshs492,868,495,680, and appropriate the funds to various services and purposes during the financial year ending 30th June, 2009. This sum includes the amount authorised by Parliament on 25th June, 2008, through the Vote on Account in accordance with Section 101 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Clause 3 makes provision for amounts to be applied as Appropriation-in-Aid (A-in-A) for various services and purposes.

Having briefly appraised hon. Members of the objects and reasons for the Bill, may I now request the House to pass it in order to authorise the issue of funds from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure as contained in the Recurrent and Development Estimates for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to, once again, thank hon. Members for their co-operation and insightful debate during the Committee of Supply. I am sure that today's debate will be constructive and very informing. In this regard, I want to assure hon. Members that I will take their views seriously and, as much as possible, take them into account at the appropriate time.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this

Bill.

This is a Bill borne out of the foundations in the Constitution that requires this House to play its role of approving Government expenditure. I believe that hon. Members will pass the Bill as presented ably by the Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources, who is also the Acting Minister for Finance. In so doing, he has outlined various allocations of large resources in Kenya Shillings to various Ministries.

It is important for us all here, and Kenyans in general, to understand and appreciate that Kenya's economy is not mineral-based. We do not have gold deposits, oil, diamonds or any other minerals, which other countries are luckily endowed with. We are an economy whose backbone is services. We have done reasonably well since Independence, with the economy growing to where it is today, with a GDP in excess of US\$30 billion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in pursuing this growth, I would want to urge all of us - Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public - to ensure that the funds and resources being allocated to each Ministry and each sector of the economy are put to good use. It is only that way we can maintain and sustain the momentum of growth of our economy.

I want to particularly urge the Ministry of Roads to focus on the dilapidated infrastructure that we see around the country. Whatever limited resources allocated to them should, not only be put to good use, but be put to good use in good time. We can turn the wheel of the economy by moving our products from areas of production to areas of consumption, or from areas of production to points of export. This is the only way that the turnover can be translated into economics of scale that will give this country greater growth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to urge the Ministry of Transport and the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) to speed up the expansion of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). The JKIA is no longer a point of entry and departure for Kenya alone. It is a hub for the region, augmented by Kenya Airways. We need to see the KAA move speedily and get off the eyesore that we see at the airport, commonly misdescribed as Duty Free Shops when they look like *kiosks* in a bazaar.

The core function of the KAA is not, and cannot be, to litter the airport with the so-called Duty Free Shops selling the same things, including whiskies, cigarettes, chocolates, briefcases, *et cetera*. The service expected of the KAA is to provide decent transit lounges, waiting lounges and facilities for travellers. They should provide decent facilities for women and children who sometimes stay at our airport for 24 hours. Let them be provided with those facilities to clean up themselves, get a decent meal and find it necessary to travel through Nairobi again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you travel a great deal, and you must have been appalled by the number of "*kiosks*" littering the First Floor of the JKIA Building, misdescribed as Duty Free Shops.

I also want to urge the Ministry of Transport to continue what they are doing to streamline the management of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), a resource that is capable of contributing immensely to the GDP of this country. The KPA is a major player in our economy and our hinterland covering Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern Congo and Southern Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I laud the move to open up the Port of Mombasa to operate for 24 hours. However, the operations of that port will not be complete without the capacity and ability of the railway system to roll stocks. We have seen that we have new highways being constructed. Construction of the Mai Mahiu-Nakuru section of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba Road is now complete. Work on the Nakuru-Timboroa section is ongoing. Works on the Nairobi-Mombasa section are nearly complete.

However, as long as the railway system is not functional, these roads will be dilapidated within no time. We have to get heavy stocks off the road and roll them through the railway system. Again, I want to urge the Ministry of Transport to focus on the improvement of our railway system.

It must move away from the traditional gauge that we have, which has no capacity to handle heavy cargo, and upgrade it to a standard gauge railways line. We should extend the same line to the emerging and growing economies of Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern Congo, Southern Sudan and northern Tanzania.

It is exciting to learn that there is a very advanced programme to construct a railway line from the Port of Lamu to Addis Ababa. That, again, will augment the very backbone of our economy because our income or GDP is borne out of services. If it is borne out of services, then we must, as is expected by everybody, be able to provide the best of those services. We must have the Port of Mombasa being the port of choice against alternatives along the East African coastline.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, tourism is another major player in our service-based economy. I would like to encourage ingenuity in the Ministry of Roads. They should not wait for Parliament to allocate money, but to go out of their way and negotiate the build operate transfer (BOTs), concessions and so on. One would imagine a situation where we have a dual carriageway from Vanga to Kipini along the coastline. The level of development and tourist facilities that would follow that infrastructure would be enormous.

The level of income to develop and improve our economic growth would be admirable. I would want to encourage my colleagues to go out of their way. I am sure that this Parliament will play its role and rise to the occasion and sometimes even give sovereign guarantees where arms of Government, in terms of Ministries, are able to demonstrate that the money they are looking is for the benefit of the people of this country and for the growth of the economy of this country.

If we can maintain and sustain a 10 per cent minimum annual growth rate - it is doable - this country will not be choked by unemployment. This country will be able to join medium-developed countries. We have been told many times, and you know so, that at our Independence, the per capita of a country like South Korea was US\$267; Kenya's was about US\$360 to US\$400. Today, the per capita income of South Korea is US\$11,400 while that of Kenya is US\$600. Definitely, we stand to ask ourselves where we took the wrong turn. This is because the South Korean economy was also not based on any minerals. Their's has been a service economy and so is Singapore. Dubai is growing on services. We can, certainly, also grow phenomenally like all those countries.

This country spots the best educated and developed workforce in the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa. If you go to any African country today, you will find that doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers and other professionals are Kenyans. If the engine of growth of our neighbours is in the hands of Kenyans, we should be able to do even better in our motherland. It is us here that have a duty, more than anybody else, to allocate funds, to provide oversight and ensure that when we provide money to buy drugs, those drugs must be bought. When we buy those drugs, they should not be put in the pockets of doctors masquerading as private doctors to go and run private clinics. They must be available to assist mwananchi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me mention something about the sugar industry because it is the backbone of the economy of western Kenya upon which in excess of 10 million people rely. I want to urge the Minister for Agriculture to continue the momentum started to mitigate the problems that the sugar-cane farmers in this country have had.

Sometimes you feel embarrassed as a Kenyan when you hear people in the sugar sub-sector crying that we must close off sugar from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) coming into Kenya so that we can protect the sugar industry. If you look at COMESA, really, between the Kenyan farmer and the one in Malawi or Swaziland, all things being put on scale and being equal, which farmer in which country needs protection from the other? I think it is a whole question of management. Have we managed our sugar industries well? Is it justifiable that we stand here to cry that we must protect the Kenyan farmer from a farmer in Swaziland and

Malawi? I do not think so. We need major structural legal reforms in the sugar industry.

If you go to Mauritius, which is also a service economy, sugar production is a by-product from the sugar industry. The primary products are generation of power and ethanol. Sugar is the third product. I think we need to adjust and change our technology so that the farmer can be paid better from a triple product from one factory where there is ethanol, electricity and sugar as a third product. That way, the farmer will walk away with sufficient income and the cry to protect the Kenyan farmer from his counterpart in Malawi will be a thing of the past. This can be done because technology is available.

There is nothing new there because it has been embraced in Brazil, Mauritius and other countries. If we did that, the people that Mr. Okemo, Mr. Washiali and I represent will be more comfortable than, perhaps, tea and coffee farmers in this country. I urge the Minister for Agriculture to double the momentum and call all of us who come from the sugar-growing areas to have our input and see what can be done. If it requires a sovereign guarantee to enable these factories access credit, I am sure this Parliament will not hesitate to do so. That way, we will be in a position to help our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to end by making a comment on the cost of farming in this country. The cost of fertiliser, seed, and ploughing is way beyond the affordability of the ordinary person. I want to urge the Ministry of Agriculture--- I said it here this morning that this country and all African countries fell into the trap of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, when they came trading all over Africa with programmes called Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), which they have now run away from. They do not even mention them. They kept on telling every Government: "You have no business being in business."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you and I know that only the Government can provide affordable cattle dips to wananchi. Only the Government can provide affordable Artificial Insemination (AI) services to wananchi. Only the Government can be able to provide affordable fertilisers and seeds. Otherwise, we hand over our country to middlemen whose drive is greed and profit and nothing else!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you buy fertiliser from a dealer of whatever race or community in this country, he or she is only driven by one thing: Greed and profit! Even if the prices fell--- Look at the price of oil, crude oil has dropped from US\$162 to US\$51. But look at the pump prices, they are, again, driven by greed and profit. One would expect that when the price come down from US\$162 to US\$51 or US\$52, those traders and middlemen will have the moral capacity to realise that it is dangerous, immoral and unacceptable to live on the sweat of others by choking in obscene profits. But do they care?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a believer in the free-market but, sometimes, I sit back and say: "Price controls sometimes help." It is the only way we can cushion the poor man from avarice, greed and profit mongers. If we do not do that; and unless you regulate the prices, you will not be able to sustain the lives of ordinary people. You wait until next year. Fertiliser is a chemical-based product. Oil prices have dropped from US\$162 to US\$51. This year, they sold fertiliser to the farmers at a cost of up to Kshs4,000 per bag. Even with that drop in fuel prices, they will raise it, perhaps, to Kshs5,000, unless there is a State intervention.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are an agricultural country. If we cannot produce enough food to feed our people, and sell some out there, then we will have difficulties in addressing other sectors of the economy. I want to urge the Ministers for Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade to assist this country by coming together and seeing how to control excessive greed in our public and trade affairs.

Finally, for the maize farmers, in the old days, we used to have a department called Weights and Measures. That department designed and regulated the measures through which

cereals were sold. You went to sell your cereals, there was a measure called *Kibaba*. Then there was another one called *Arobaini*. There was another one called *Themanini* and another one by another name. You were paid a just price for your just produce. Today, the middleman again, when he is buying, the container is twice the ordinary size. But when he is selling, the container is shrunk less than half the ordinary size and the price is the same. Where is the department of Weights and Measures?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Trade to revive the Department of Weights and Measures, so that it can go out there in the field and protect the local producer. My grandmother, your grandmother and your mother is at the mercy of middlemen who come and take what she has toiled and mowed for nine months at a pittance. Then, a month later, she has to go and buy the same at ten times the price the middleman took from her. That is immoral and we should not condone it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the House to pass this Bill, so that the Government can get enough resources to continue turning around the wheel of development.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I was wondering; as you made your contribution on the oil industry, where is the National Oil Corporation of Kenya is?

(Question proposed)

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to support the Appropriation Bill. While supporting the Appropriation Bill, I would like the Minister to take into account the differentials between the Recurrent Expenditure and the Development Expenditure. When you have a differential ratio of 1:2, where the entire Government expenditure is Recurrent--- While appreciating that, unlike ordinary organisations, the Government might incur a bit more in terms of the Recurrent Expenditure, but there must, at least, some proportionate ratio between the Recurrent and Development Expenditure. When you look at the Vote that the Minister has read, you will find that all the money is going to Recurrent Expenditure.

Mr. Minister, that must change. You cannot have Kshs400 billion for Recurrent Expenditure and less than Kshs200 billion for Development Expenditure, and still want to realise a country that is properly developed and with enough income, according to Vision 2030. Mr. Minister, you cannot be able to realise that. I fear that when 2030 comes, it will be another song like those good old days when we used to sing: "Water by the year 2000." Of course, you know that in the year 2008, there is no water anywhere for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to encourage the Minister to seriously look at the criteria for identification and funding of Government projects. While appreciating that this year, the Ministry of Roads has got a bit more money, it is not enough. Infrastructure is the basis upon which we can do all the development that we want. Only this morning, and every day in this House, Members raise Questions about the states of their roads, poor workmanship and inability of contractors to complete their assigned tasks in record time. This House must get angry with the Minister who claimed that you cannot do anything to a contractor, because there is no law. There is the law of natural justice. You should tell the contractor: "I gave you an assignment. These were the terms. You did not deliver." Take them to court, charge them and get back your money. It is that simple. We can do that with our current existing laws.

The other common song which this House must be extremely angry about is when a

Government Minister says: "I am going to bring a new legislation. I am going to bring a Bill." We do not need more Bills, Ministers. You will find that the SACCO Bill is on the Floor. You will find every Minister saying: "I will fix this problem with a new Bill." Why can we not manage the existing legal framework? We do not need anything new to fix this economy. We want to translate to reality the kind of things that we are committing ourselves like the Rapid Results Initiative which was to ensure results within 100 days, *huduma bora ni haki ya mwananchi, najivunia kuwa Mkenya*. These are slogans that we keep singing about but have never translated into reality.

It is my plea to the Acting Minister for Finance and other Ministers, that, given that they are already many, they should make a difference with the kind of money this House is going to give them.

While appreciating Government's commitment to northern Kenya and the creation of the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, which is a welcome measure for a very long, I want to believe that it is going to make a very positive contribution to the lives of some of the most marginalised and forgotten people in Kenya. But what has been allocated is so small. They have allocated only Kshs2 billion! What is Kshs2 billion? What will Kshs2 billion do for the entire northern Kenya?

Our growth potential, as a country, is now going to be in those extensive lands that have been ordinarily outside of production. We need to invest in technology. We need to do more research in order to make those lands more productive than ever before. I encourage the Minister to ensure that in the future that Ministry gets the prominence it deserves by being given adequate funding.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the priorities for this country, there is a road leading to Sudan through Lokichoggio and Lodwar in my constituency. I have just confirmed my worst fears in this country, that unless your political muscle is big enough, you will never be allocated money. I cannot understand why this Government cannot give the road to Southern Sudan a priority. Kenya has done extremely well in terms of bringing peace to Southern Sudan and the Sudan generally. We have also made our modest contribution to peace in Somalia, although it is still fragile.

For Sudan the peace is holding; so, for us to enjoy the peace dividend from Sudan, we need to open up this road so that Kenyan goods and commodities can be accessed by this virgin land. That land is occupied by people who are naturally inclined to co-operate and to do business with Kenya. Instead of Ministers looking at how they can tap that potential and make it part of our extension services, we are busy looking at how we can tax people. You will get more money by encouraging business people, and giving them a good road to take them to the Sudan to do business there. They will take beer, sodas and all the good things that Kenyans enjoy to the Sudan. Those things could be availed there more cheaply than we are doing now, because they have to go through Uganda. That is a longer route, thus making the commodities more expensive. If the Minister could prioritize that road, it will be good not only for Sudan but also for the good people of Turkana Central.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Ojode has been answering Questions in this House every time. We have even given him the name "Mr. Fix-it", because he fixes things verbally but on the ground, you do not see the same fixes. The excuse is that Parliament had not given them money. We are going to give you money and we hope that the vehicles for the police that you have promised all the police stations in this country will be availed. You will be surprised that there are new districts without an Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD) or a police vehicle.

The OCPD in Turkana Central District is working for two districts: Turkana Central and Turkana South Districts. You know the kind of calamities that come when we have the clashes like cattle rustling. People get killed and the police can hardly go there. I am hoping that the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, Prof. Saitoti, being a professor of

mathematics, will do simple arithmetic and ensure that every police station--- Actually, do not create a new district if you are not ready to post a District Commissioner (DC) and an OCPD there. Spare us the trouble. If you are going to create a district, which is a good idea, then make sure that there is an OCPD so that the security of the citizens is assured.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security will tell us if they got the money. It is very possible that the Government can enter into a contract, even without the physical cash, with suppliers and procure goods and promise to pay the money in good time. We have even entertained that kind of a story for a long time when businesses dictate otherwise. We have granted them their wishes, but I hope that they will not take advantage of that for too long. We now have the money, anyway.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding energy, the Rural Electrification Programme is one of the good programmes that the Government has implemented. We want to appreciate the good job done by the Government in certain sectors. There is the whole element of solar. A country like Germany, which hardly gets any sunshine, can produce enough electricity from solar sources while a country like Kenya, which is traditionally known to have sunshine throughout the year, is unable to generate meaningful energy from solar.

Somebody like me from Turkana, which has abundance of solar energy, can make a meaningful contribution to this country. We do not need to be depending on rainfall, knowing that this is a country that is deficient in rainfall. We can exploit other resources that are in abundance. Solar and wind can save this country all the trouble and money that we are spending. I would like to urge the Minister to consider some of the sectors that are of priority. Those are the sectors that will ensure that Vision 2030 will be realised as promised, so that it does not remain a pipe dream.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, two weeks ago, we were privileged to be visited by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources from Parliament. I want to thank the Committee for taking the trouble of going to Turkana for a whole week. They looked at various issues that relate to food security. The one thing that you will realise in a district like mine is that there are only five extension services officers in the Livestock department. Do you expect any good work to be done by only five officers?

I would like the Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, which has the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, to ensure that the money that is being sent to the Ministries is monitored. They should ensure that there is enough staff to do the job. Even with limited staff, we should ensure that Government officers go and work. There are scenarios where you will find a public servant has hardly visited his or her station of work. They treat posting to our areas like punishment; so, they only go there when the Minister for Finance has sent the Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE), and once it is cashed, they go back to sleep. It shows that there is no supervision by the Government. We plead with the Minister not to just give the money, but to also ensure that the money is properly used by the people doing the job that is intended to be done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, again this is an issue where you might need money. Political muscle means better roads and goodies. This is where Lomedat Abattoir in Lokichoggio which only requires Kshs30 million has not got that money. It has been promised this money for the last five years and yet we do not see it in those books. However, the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), because of the political muscle, and we are grateful, was allowed to operate for Kshs400 million. Even its debts were paid. Do we have to continue seeing Kenyans dying, on television, for us to take action? When Kshs30 million alone can do an abattoir, the Government, through the Ministry of Livestock Development, is planning for another abattoir in Wajir. We are grateful for it. It is planning for another one in Isiolo. Why do you want to plan for new ones when there is one already existing and requires Kshs30 million to make it operational?

These are the questions we would like the Ministers of Government concerned to

appreciate and really understand. It does not make sense to do new things when you already have one that you can start. I am not saying that do not do the new ones. We want them but it is more cost-effective to start giving operational money because a donor in the form of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) called the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) has already built the facility to international standards.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another one is the Turkana Fishermen Co-operative Society in Kalokol. The Norwegians built a good facility. It only requires another Kshs20 million to make it operational. I thought for a moment, my good friend, the Minister for Fisheries Development, being an able Minister and a first timer in Government, will display some of that energy to places like Turkana and make these kind of factories operational in order to make more fish available to Kenyans. I am glad the Minister is here to listen to me. With these kind of resources, little according to Government figures, you can transform places like Turkana. They will have enough food in terms of meat, fish and will not need the Kshs2 billion we are spending on famine relief every year.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill.

Mr. Okemo: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In seconding this Motion, I wish to thank the Minister for the presentation and also commend the Ministry in terms of the composition between the Development budget and the Recurrent budget. If you look directionally, actually, the Ministry has done very well in terms of increasing the proportion of the total budget that goes to Development Expenditure. Directionally, I think it is a positive move and we would like to encourage the Minister to continue to increase the proportion of the total budget that is going to Development budget.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to comment generally that the way the Appropriation Bill has been treated, starting from the time we debated the Printed Estimates, I think there are a lot of improvements that we need to make. That is not the fault of the Ministry. It is the fault of the parliamentary calendar; that we do not have sufficient time allocated for debate until we end up with so many votes and we only have six debated and we end up with over 20 votes being passed by Guillotine. That to me, is rubber-stamping because we have not had an opportunity to scrutinise and look at each of these votes. This is because we know how the Guillotine system works whereby you lump all Ministries together and you give it a blanket okay.

I hope that with the change in the Standing Orders of this House, that in the future, beginning with the next Budget, we will have each of these Votes allocated to a specific committee so that they are able to scrutinise them and even if they go through the Guillotine, at least, the committees will have had an input. Since they will be acting on behalf of Parliament, I think there will be some element of scrutiny.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think at this point in time, it will be relevant to comment on the Fiscal Management Bill which has been on the drawing board for a very long time. I know that the Minister for Finance has a lot of misgivings about this Bill but if you look at the history of the Fiscal Management Bill, there are very many reasons why it must be there. The Fiscal Management Bill basically is talking about parliamentary consultations and interrogations of the budget-making process. Therefore, I think that the role of Parliament in the budgetary process, that is the budget preparation, must be looked at and Parliament must have an input. The reason

why I am saying this is that if, for example, the Budget that was presented by the Minister had an input from Parliament right from the time of the process up to the time the Printed Estimates are made, Parliament would purely come as a formality on the Floor of this House to pass it because it would already have had an input. Therefore---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Okemo! You will appreciate that the Bill is already published and so do not anticipate debate.

Mr. Okemo: Very well, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The point is taken but I am sure the Minister has heard what I have said. Having said that---

The Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources (Mr. Michuki): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade to talk about a Bill which I personally consider is against the provisions of Section 100 of the Constitution of Kenya?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Michuki! Are you referring to the Fiscal Management Bill? Hon. Michuki, you rose immediately I had just warned hon. Okemo not to anticipate debate. It applies equally to you and you can hold your views until the time the Bill is on the Floor of the House.

Proceed hon. Okemo!

Mr. Okemo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for your protection. I wish to bring to the attention of the House the fact that 50 per cent of the Budget was approved via the Vote on Account. This means that we gave some blanket approval to the Minister to spend 50 per cent of the Budget. You remember we had a very heated debate here on why it had to be 50 per cent because it is the maximum. Every year, we have always given the maximum. In fact, the Minister was not able to justify the 50 per cent and why we could not give 20 per cent or 30 per cent. However, ultimately, he was able to get his way.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, coupled with that, I believe the thrust of the argument at that time was that how do we know whether it is 50 per cent, 40 per cent or 30 per cent? I remember, and I am sure it is in the HANSARD, we demanded that the Minister should produce some kind of performance data to show us, for example, at the end of October, how much has he actually spent to prove to us that 50 per cent is, indeed, what he needs to get and not less? We have not seen a single statistics to show us implementation of the Budget. We are now basically two-quarters of the year - we are almost coming to the end of the second quarter - and we have seen nothing from the Ministry to show us how they spent the money. I think it is important and necessary for this House to see how the Government is implementing the Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity also to comment on how the Government plans to raise the money. Besides ordinary revenue, the Minister has told us that part of the money is going to come from privatisation proceeds and grants from overseas donors. He has even mentioned that he intends to float a sovereign bond to raise some of the money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, anybody who watches the Cable News Network (CNN) or even has an opportunity to watch international news, knows that the international economic situation paints a very dark picture on the developed economies. I do not know whether the Minister, in his optimism, really believes that most of these donors who have been affected by the current economic crisis are going to be able to give us the grants they have said they will. I have a feeling that the Minister needs to re-look at that situation. Of course, we know that the time is not appropriate for the question of the sovereign bond. I think the Minister is aware of this and he also knows that it is going to be a while before we can see an improvement in the international economic situation. The sovereign bond literally means that we are raising capital on the international market. However, I do not think that the international market has the capacity at this

point in time to raise capital that we are looking for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the privatisation process, at one point, I raised an issue on the Floor of this House and asked the Minister to tell us when, in accordance with the Privatisation Act, he is going to bring the privatisation programme to this House. That is provided for in the law. The law provides that a privatisation programme must be made available to Parliament or a Committee of Parliament. The Minister promised that the Cabinet was going to work on it. However, it is now about three months and we have seen no evidence---

*(Mr. Michuki consulted
with Mr. Orengo)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope the Minister is hearing what I have to say.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Michuki!

Mr. Okemo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is so important and the Minister needs to pay full attention. If he does not pay attention, he will not be able to respond.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that---

The Minister for Lands (Mr. Orengo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If Mr. Okemo cannot chew gum and walk at the same time, he cannot assume that the Acting Minister for Finance cannot consult and hear him out. That is what we were doing. We were consulting about what Mr. Okemo is talking about yet he is making the presumption that we are not paying attention. Is he in order to assume that?

Mr. Okemo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am wondering why Mr. Orengo is speaking on behalf of Mr. Michuki whom I thought understands English and can communicate in the same. So, if Mr. Michuki felt what Mr. Orengo is saying, he would be able to say so for himself.

*(Mr. Orengo moved towards
the Dispatch Box)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Orengo! I have not given you the chance!

*(Mr. Michuki stood up
in his place)*

Order Mr. Michuki!

Mr. Michuki, when Mr. Okemo brought it to the attention of the Chair that you were not being attentive, you responded in a very positive manner. I do not know why you are allowing Mr. Orengo to make you not continue the way you had done yet you had done well! Please, let us maintain it that way!

Mr. Okemo, please, proceed!

(Laughter)

Mr. Okemo: Thank you very much Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for that protection again.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the privatisation programme which the Minister made a commitment that he would bring to the House or to the Departmental

Committee sometime earlier so we can then be able to discuss and understand what is in the plans of the Government as far as privatization is concerned.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to bring to the attention of the House the observation that the Minister, earlier in the year, made a commitment to this House that he would give us an update on the Government's legal framework on the public-private partnership arrangement. I think the House would want to know how far the Government has gone with this framework. It is important as part of the conditions for raising money that would go towards meeting this Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to comment a little bit on the sugar subsector which affects many of our constituencies, particularly from the western region where sugar-cane is the mainstay of our people. Mr. Wetangula very ably brought out the issue of how the sugar-cane farmer has literally been reduced to a beggar. They grow sugar-cane and it takes 24 months or more before harvesting. At the end of that period, they receive statements with debit balances. Is that the Kenya we want? Is that what the Government intends the sugar-cane farmer to get out of his sweat?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is all well to talk about coal generation and producing electricity which is sold to the national grid. However, the benefit that comes out of coal generation only form the bottomline for the sugar millers. It is reflected as a huge profit at the end of the financial year and they declare dividends. The farmer who is producing the raw material that produces this electricity gets nothing out of it. Could the Government ensure that they give assurance to the sugar-cane farmer in this country that, where, like in Mumias Sugar Company, electricity is produced and sold to the national grid, part of the benefits will go directly to the sugar-cane farmer who produces the raw material? As it is, it is a raw deal.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the sugar-cane farmer; whose only source of livelihood is the money he gets from the sugar-cane and at the end of 24 months, he does not even get some money but a negative balance, what is the message we are passing to the farmer? Is it that he is condemned to poverty until he dies?

So, the Minister, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade, should come up with an economic policy that will make sure that we do not have Mumias Sugar Company declaring profits of Kshs3 billion yet the majority of farmers get debits instead of some money in their pockets. That is a lopsided arrangement and it cannot work. Farmers, ultimately, are going to give up. What they are going to do is to stop growing cane. If they stop growing cane, Mumias Sugar Company cannot function. If Mumias Sugar Company cannot function, it will not rake in those billions of shillings it is raking in today! So, they ought to know that they exist because there is the farmer. The farmer produces the raw material that enables them to make the billions!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also believe that there are measures which can be taken very quickly to alleviate the plight of the sugar-cane farmers. That is because about 60 per cent of what is deducted from the farmers' payment goes to transport. The Sugar Act, in its present form, specifies that cane must be weighed on the farm by the farm gate.

Mr. Muthama: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Taking into account that the House has to adjourn at 5.30 p.m. and now, looking at the clock, it is 5.15 p.m., could I kindly request you to call upon the Mover to reply?

Mr. Okemo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think hon. Muthama understands the gravity of what I am talking about!

(Applause)

He is from Ukambani and has no clue about what the sugar-cane farmer goes through. So, I must finish this contribution because it affects my people, the same way the pastoralists are affected--- You had ample time to express yourself!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Okemo! Do not draw the Chair into the arguments. You are perfectly right to demand that you are making a contribution. I think after your final contribution, then we can respond to Mr. Muthama's point of order.

Mr. Mbadi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Given the fact that this is the Finance Bill and hon. Okemo is the Chair of the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade-- One of the Whips of the Government is challenging his contribution. Is it in order to ask the Government to induct the Whips before--

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Mbadi! It is actually in order for the Chair to rule you out of order!

Proceed, Mr. Okemo!

Mr. Okemo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, the issue of the plight of the sugar-cane farmers is so important to over 10 million Kenyans who depend on it for their livelihood. I would like to suggest to the Minister for Finance, in liaison with the Minister for Agriculture, and in consultation with the Kenya Sugar Board, to look for ways and means of--

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

Mr. Okemo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now this is--

Mr. Muthama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to refer to Standing Order No.80. I just want to read the first few lines---

An hon. Member: Mr. Muthamia!

Mr. Muthama: You may mistake my name by calling me "Muthamia", but I am Mr. Muthama!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Muthama!

Mr. Muthama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Standing Order No.80(1) reads:-

"After the question on a Motion, the Mover of which has a right of reply has been proposed, a Member rising in his place may claim to move `That, the Mover be now called upon to reply---"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just following the Standing Orders.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Very well! Mr. Muthama, I have to come to your defence! You are just being on the guard! He is right to make that request. But you have requested an important consideration and the Chair is sympathetic. Let us conclude and then we can deal with that issue.

Proceed, Mr. Okemo!

Mr. Okemo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have been extremely helpful today!

I just want to conclude by suggesting what I had started to do, that the Minister for Finance, in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, could consult KSB and see ways and means of raising capital to put up a sugar factory in Busia, which has been a Government project for the last over 20 years! This will really go a long way in improving the lives of very many farmers.

So, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to end by saying that I am very grateful to have seen hon. Michuki nod. It means that he has taken what I have said into account.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Very well! By virtue of Standing Order No.80(1), I now wish to put the Question.

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

The Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank very much hon. Members who have contributed to this Motion and, in particular, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade, due to the suggestions he has made on the sugar industry. I can respond immediately and say that, already, there are intensive consultations going on about the sugar industry as a whole, between the Treasury and the Ministry of Agriculture. It is good that we be kept reminded from time to time that there is a problem. As hon. Okemo has said, we know there is a problem, including even the factory that was proposed many, many years ago, but has never been built!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to get on with the other implementation duties. We have sat talking, but there are certain things we want to implement. I ask this House to approve a Service Bill to release me to go and work.

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

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Members! Given that the Speaker had made a ruling that by 5.30 p.m., we should go for the Motion for Adjournment, I now wish to put that the Appropriation Bill be read a Second Time.

(Question put and agreed to)

*(The Bill was read a Second Time and
committed to a Committee of
the whole House tomorrow)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Members! We cannot move to the next Order by virtue of the ruling by the Speaker that we should start the other business at 5.30 p.m. I, therefore, want to use the discretion of the Chair and say that we will not move to the next Order. We should start the Motion for Adjournment.

Proceed, Mr. Minister!

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.2

FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to

move that the House do now adjourn.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): seconded.

Eng. Gumbo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the early part of this Sitting, I asked the Chair that this House should adjourn the Order Paper business under the provisions of Standing Order No.20 to discuss the dire food situation in the country. Our country, Kenya, is facing a food crisis and urgent steps need to be taken to stop this matter from taking social dimensions.

All Kenyans, wherever they are in Kenya and outside, have a right to afford, at least, one plate of Ugali a day. I have heard debate about the prices of a two-kilogramme packet of ugali unga in our supermarkets. However, for some of us, who come from fairly marginalised parts of this country, that debate has no relevance. Recently, I had a chance to walk to the major grain market in my constituency, Aram Market, and was dismayed to find that a two-kilogramme tin of maize, which is popularly known in those places as "gorogoro" was costing Kshs80.

The average family in this country, including mine, requires two such tins per day as basic food supply. What we are doing here is that we are asking all Kenyan families, even those who cannot afford, to put aside, at least, Kshs500 every day to afford the most basic of foodstuffs in this country. Not only is this untenable, it is unacceptable. It is inhuman and inconsiderate!

(Applause)

My belief is that this Government knows what to do. There is no rocket science required here. We know that the small country of Malawi has been able to have food surplus for quite a long time now. I would have expected that by now we should have seen senior Government delegations from Kenya going to study the Malawi example. Chronic food shortage in Kenya is a matter that is known to everyone. Why are we not learning from examples that exist in Africa?

The Government also knows that one of the reasons we are unable to afford a good supply of cereals and other foodstuffs is the fact that inputs are too costly. I would have expected that this Government took urgent steps, because a lot of our farmers are small holder farmers. We want to hear what the Government is doing to promote the use of natural manure. None of that is coming through!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also know, and it has been discussed in this House a number of times, the conflicts between a liberalised economy and the basic needs of our people. Are we going to allow liberalisation to make our people starve? A measure of price control must be brought into effect to make Kenyans afford basic foodstuffs.

A lot has been said about over-dependence on rain-fed agriculture. Those are long-term measures but, again, we want as a country, to feed our people now, tomorrow and in the years to come. We must also now, as a country, start to distinguish the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB)--- As for me, it has become nothing more than a maize storage board. Why are we not hearing the Government promoting alternatives that can truly help our people deal with the pangs of hunger? Where I come from, for many years, millet was the choice foodstuff for the people. We know millet and sorghum are more hardy than maize; why are we not hearing programmes from the Government to promote alternatives, so that Kenya stops being identified with maize as the only foodstuff?

In my submission and view, the current situation that we are facing today in this country--- The biggest agents fuelling it are the cartels, those greedy faceless, selfish and heartless people. They are people without feelings!

(Applause)

This is the reason we are here today. It is known, and it is in the public domain, that the NCPB should be selling a 90-kilogramme bag of maize to the millers at Kshs1,700. That works out to a mere Kshs40 per two-kilogramme packet. Why and how then is it possible that after maize leaves the NCPB by the time it ends up in our supermarkets, the price has exploded three times? It must be because of these greedy and selfish people! This House has a duty to unmask these people. This House owes it to the people of Kenya to get to know who this is; who is so heartless that they do not care whether a family in Rarieda is going without food? We owe it to this country!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call upon the various Committees of this House, and even the Executive--- We have the Public Investments Committee and the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade. We owe it to the Republic of Kenya and the people of Kenya to unmask these people.

In conclusion, I want to say that the Government must ensure that all Kenyans, wherever they are, are able, as a minimum, to afford basic foodstuffs. This is a matter of life and death! If we think that we are going to sit here as hon. Members - we are the privileged lot, no doubt about it - and

ignore the plight of Kenyans, who cannot even afford the most basic of foodstuffs, then I can tell you, without any doubt in my mind whatsoever, that what we are creating is a fertile ground for social implosion.

With those few remarks, I beg to move and ask Dr. Eseli---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Eng. Gumbo! That is not for you! Dr. Eseli!

(Laughter)

Dr. Eseli: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is coincidental.

This is a very serious moment because we have said this in this House before, that there was going to be a food shortage in this country and the Government refused to listen. If a Government cannot feed its people, why are you building them roads? If you cannot feed your people, why are you building them airstrips and airports? What game is this? I have said this before and I will repeat it:

In 1962, at Independence, we conceived two twins, impunity and corruption. They were delivered in 1963 when we became a Republic under a President. These two twins are now in their prime 40s, stealing left, right and centre. We have to slay the dragon now! I do not understand it. How do you impoverish your own farmers? You buy maize from farmers at a throwaway prize of Kshs1,700, then, using some cloudy and shady middlemen, the maize from the NCPB ends up with the millers at Kshs2,400 plus. The person making the profit in between is the middleman, and the farmer has hardly made anything. When the flour gets to the mwananchi, it is beyond their reach! Why are we doing this? Have we lost all sensitivity? Is the love of money so great that we cannot just avoid it? We just have to have money, irrespective of who suffers, even if it is our voters? If that is the case, then I think the Government has no business calling its self the Government.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Dr. Eseli! I just wanted to let you know that in order to allow more hon. Members to contribute, we will limit the debate to five minutes per hon. Member, except for the Minister who will reply.

Continue, Dr. Eseli!

Dr. Eseli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have failed to cushion farmers. I said it here that all the farmers were not the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and was accused of being callous, because we were giving farm inputs to the IDPs. I said that the majority farmers were not displaced. The inputs were too expensive for them. Well, they did not plant and now, we do not

have enough maize. Do not say that we did not tell you.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the Mover said, what we need to do now is to request the Chair to go out of its way and rule that the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources and the Public Investments Committee (PIC) get their teeth into this and sink them deep. We cannot have Kenyans who are unable to have a meal a day while some people are laughing all the way to the bank. It has to stop somewhere! It has to stop somewhere!

Thank you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Very well. At that rate, we will access more Members.

Hon. Onyonka!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Onyonka): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am actually happy and delighted to have heard such wonderful comments from my colleagues. The truth is that there is a problem out there. Many Kenyans are beginning to be very insecure and uncertain because of the food insecurity issue that exists in the country.

Through the Chair, I would like to ask my fellow hon. Members, that if need be, as Dr. Eseli has mentioned, a Committee be given the responsibility to go deep into the issue and find out what exactly has been going on. That may most probably be the case. But at the same time, I think that the interpretation that I am giving the scenario is that, if you look at our country today, there is a problem. Very many of our people have become very poor not because Kenya cannot afford to feed her own people, but because of mismanagement of our affairs.

We have mismanaged the way we grow our food, give it out to the poor and do business. Since Independence when some of us were born, why does this country not have a factory that manufactures fertilizers? Since Independence, this country does not have a food policy where we can have millions of tonnes worth of food which is kept just in case it does not rain tomorrow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have mismanaged this country. I ask fellow Members in this House that the conscience of the public is directly bestowed upon ourselves; to make sure that we change the way we have been doing business. We cannot do business as usual. There is an African saying: "When you go to an African home you learn those people and understand who they are. If you see people who keep their poor well, then you will respect those people." We do not treat our poor people well.

Lastly, I would like to ask this House--- I am happy that the Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources was here and I had whispered it to him. But I will repeat it because I know that he will get the report. Could we, please, just the way Uganda has done, get a safety net in this country, where we are able to give very poor Kenyans a certain stipend, on a monthly basis so that they are able to feed themselves, because many of our people are not able to afford a single meal a day? The culture of us mismanaging our business has to stop. I believe that Kenya has the capacity and capability and we will have to change this country.

Thank you.

Mr. C. Kilonzo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The truth is that the Grand Coalition Government has failed. The Grand Coalition Government has let down Kenyans. A situation has even evolved where the Ministers on the Government side have moved to the Back Bench. A clear evidence is Hon. Onyonka. They are now crying with the Back-benchers. Who is in charge of this Government? If Ministers are going to come here and cry rather than give us solutions, is there no collective responsibility or were the Assistant Ministers not inducted?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the biggest failures is the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry of Energy is a disaster. We know very well that as long as the cost of fuel remains high, then the cost of everything will shoot up. There have been empty promises. There must be Ministers who are in a cartel in that Ministry. In February or March, this House brought up the

issue of fertilizer. Fertilizer has become a chorus. When the Back Bench complains about fertilizer, the Ministers join in the chorus. One of the Assistant Ministers in the Ministry of Agriculture was also crying when the Back Bench was crying. He joined the chorus. Where is the Government? I wish it were us who were in charge. Things would move.

This country is 80 per cent agricultural. Then, how much did we allocate the Ministry of Agriculture? It was 4 per cent. What Government is in place? Give us the Government and we will plan for you. Agriculture should have not less than 40 per cent of the Budget. What happened to the agricultural extension officers? They are nowhere. Today, the common man cannot afford to buy *unga*. All we see is another policy where Ministers are busy invading the institution of Parliament. They are trying to divert the attention from the true problems in this country. I think that the Government needs either to wake up or we pray hard that they do not live long.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Eng. Maina: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that this House should, this evening, rethink on a few issues of this nation. This country could be faced with a more security threat than the military we know. When a people go hungry and do not know whether they are going to be there tomorrow, then they are capable of doing anything.

It is common to everyone of us that the common man today cannot survive in this country. Let me say that this is an issue because we must be following wrong national policies. This is also an issue because somewhere in our management, we have let cartels and even non-Kenyans to manage our real national security issues. When I say security, I am talking about food.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to remind this House that just after Independence, this country at one time went to beg for food, and yellow maize was imported. The then President, publicly, said: "I will ensure that my people will never eat yellow maize again." I want to tell this House that a policy was put in place and, the following year, *The Standard* newspaper on the front page read: "Kenya has a bumper harvest." That is true! Since then, Kenya never knew of hunger. That was because the Government came up with something called GMR. The truth of the matter in this country is that farmers are the most underprivileged. This Government does not approach agricultural farming like other countries. They think that there are people who will come with their money to invest in agriculture. It is high time that this country made those decisions and the Government carried them.

When should our food be managed by people who do not have Kenya in their hearts? There are people who, the moment there is violence here, they take a plane and fly out of the country. They are the main millers. They are just interested in raising the prices of packets of *unga*, irrespective of whether or not our people will die. They are after money. This country must reconsider its policies. It must come up with policies that will empower Kenyans. Dr. Mahati is a great leader. He has transformed Malaysia into a great nation in terms of development. Former United States of America (USA) President Roosevelt pulled the USA out of recession by putting American resources in the hands of Americans. We need to address this issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming back to the current situation in this country, there is no doubt that somebody, somewhere is playing games. He is trying to influence things to happen in his favour. Who is this person that the Government is unable to identify and control him? This means the Government must be implicated. Let us be clear on this matter. Why are some people allowed to go on increasing food prices under the guise of free economy? Free economy does not mean that we do away with our sovereignty and compromise our security. We must protect our security.

The Government must come up with appropriate measures to address the current situation. The question of saying that we are following free economy policies should not arise. This only encourages people to go on increasing the prices of commodities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, things do not just happen. They are caused by some action. There are some people sitting down and designing how to hike food prices. They know either way, it will be bought. However, I want to caution this House that we are playing with a very dangerous situation. For Heaven's sake, how do we expect somebody who earns Kshs100 to feed his four children and wife? How do we expect him tomorrow to go to his place of work? I call upon this House to direct matters affecting our people.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I agree that this matter is of grave national importance. Politics of the stomach are tough.

When it comes to upholding the priorities of this country, we have completely lost direction. There is no household in this country which does not feed on maize meal. So, when that foodstuff becomes unaffordable, then I do not expect anybody to take the matter lightly.

I want to put it on record that where the Temporary Deputy Speaker and myself come from, the situation we are addressing today has been almost continuous for the last 40 years. However, it has always been taken lightly. In those areas, residents are continuously given relief food. It is called "emergency" under the Emergency Management Operation Programme (EMOP). It is a very serious matter. It is slavery of the highest order.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now want to address a related matter. Look at the prices of fuel. Look at what a barrel of crude oil costs in the world market. The Government has also reduced taxation on oil products, but the fuel pump prices in Kenya are still very high. Again, this is reflected in food prices.

Under the guise of free economy, we have left uncontrollable people to do so much damage to the people of the Republic of Kenya. This cannot be accepted. It is high time that we addressed this issue. A country like Malawi has gone out of its way and introduced policies which have turned around the issue of food production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans are very hardworking people. They need to be supported to be able to produce food for themselves. We should not allow Kenyans to be exploited. We must move on in the right direction without wasting much time.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Nyambati: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to speak my piece. I stand here to very strongly support this Motion.

A nation which cannot feed its people is doomed. A government which cannot ensure that its people are fed has no business governing. So, if this Government is not ensuring that our people are fed, then it has no business governing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of us come from the rural areas, where there is abject poverty. Our people cannot afford to buy sugar. They cannot even afford to buy kerosene. The situation is terrible. I do not know what the Government is doing about it. The situation is very serious. This House has the responsibility of ensuring that we take care of our people.

The food policy in this country must be given first priority. However, we cannot do so, unless we fund the Ministry of Agriculture appropriately. I want to submit that the Ministry of Agriculture must not be given less than 10 per cent of the annual Budget. If we cannot feed our people, then will be creating a very serious situation in the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a country like India which has over one billion people does not import food. It can feed her people. The same case applies to China. China has a population of more than one billion people, but it feeds them. In this country, we are talking of a population of 38 million people, but we cannot feed them.

Our first priority should be to produce enough food for this country. This responsibility lies

squarely with the Ministry of Agriculture. I am happy that we have a very energetic Minister, who should ensure that we have food in this country. He is doing a good job and we must support him.

One thing I must say is that we spend billions of shillings to import food when we can spend only a quarter of that money to help our farmers produce enough food in this country. I urge the Minister for Agriculture to ensure that we introduce crop insurance in this country so that we help farmers when crops fail. Such an initiative will help the country to produce enough food.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kutuny: Ahsante, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Mimi kama mkulima mashuhuri nina masikitiko makubwa juu ya hali ilivyo katika nchi hii. Nimevuna zaidi ya magunia 1,000 ya mahindi. Sehemu yangu ya uwakilishi Bungeni ya Cherangany ina chakula kochokocho. Hata hivyo, malalamiko yetu ni kwamba Serikali haijaweka mikakati ya kuwezesha sisi wakulima kuuza mazao yetu kwa bei ya juu.

Sisi huwatazama kwenye runinga watu wa Kibera wakilalamika kwamba bei ya chakula imeongezeka maradufu. Kwa upande mwingine, tunataka Serikali inunue mahindi yetu kwa bei ya Kshs2,200 kwa gunia. Serikali ikifanya hivyo, itakuwa heri kwa watu wetu ingawa wanaoishi mijini wataumia. Jukumu kubwa la Serikali ni kuhakikisha kuwepo kwa usawa katika pande zote. Tunataka Serikali iwashughulikie ipasavyo wakulima wa nafaka na wanunuzi. Ningependa kuwaeleza waheshimiwa Wabunge kwamba kwa miaka mingi, Serikali yetu haijashughulikia kilimo ipasavyo. Pesa ambazo zinatengewa Wizara ya Kilimo hazitoshi. Hata kiasi cha pesa kinachotengewa shirika la kutoa mikopo kwa wakulima, AFC, ambalo wakulima wengi hulitegemea, ni kidogo sana.

Hata hivyo, mikakati ya hivi punde ya Serikali imewatia motisha wakulima. Mwaka uliopita, bei ya mahindi ilikuwa Kshs1,300 kwa gunia. Mwaka huu, gunia moja la mahindi linanunuliwa kwa Kshs1,700. Lakini changamoto kwa Wizara ni kwamba mkulima angependa bei hiyo iongezwe. Mnapotueleza kwamba bei ya mahindi itaongezwa, mtu ambaye yuko kule vijijini atalalamika hadi tuachwe vinywa wazi. Wakati Wakenya ambao wanaishi katika miji wanasema kwamba watafanya maandamano kupinga nyongezo ya bei ya unga, wakulima pia wanataka kufanya maandamano kushinikiza Serikali iongeze bei ya mahindi. Hii ni kwa sababu wakulima wameumia. Gharama ya upanzi imepanda. Haya ni mambo ambayo lazima tuyafahamu kama waheshimiwa Wabunge.

Tunapozungumzia juu ya mikakati inayowekwa na Serikali, waheshimiwa Wabunge wengine wanalalamika kwamba hatua za Serikali haziwafikii. Serikali ikiitisha mkutano katika sehemu zao, wao hupuuza na kuleta siasa ndani ya masuala ya ukulima. Kwa hivyo, tushirikiane bega kwa bega mithili ya mchwa na nyuki ili tutatue jange la njaa katika taifa hili. Tatizo letu kubwa ni kwamba Serikali--- Tafadhali muagize mbolea ili gharama---

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

Mr. Kutuny: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mbaazi akikosa kuzaa atasingizia jua!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Kutuny!

Mr. Midiwo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member is out of order to bring matters about the hon. Member who moved the Motion that he did not attend a meeting that was held in some place. Hon. Members and Ministers alike meet in this House. That is out of order. I do not think we should use the Floor of this House to disparage other hon. Members.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Midiwo! Proceed, Mr. Kutuny!

Mr. Kutuny: Ahsante, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Hata kama dawa ni chungu, lakini itakuponya ugonjwa ulionao. Ningependa sote tushirikiane. Sharti tufahamu kwamba janga la njaa katika taifa la Kenya ni tisho kubwa. Kuna wale ambao wanataka nafaka yao inunuliwe kwa bei nzuri na kuna wale wanaolalamika eti bei ya unga imepanda. Pande hizi zote mbili zinahitaji kukaa

pamoja na Serikali izungumze nao. Ukweli ni kwamba kulikuwepo na tatizo la ukosefu wa mvua mwaka huo.

Pia, tulikuwa na vita vya kisiasa ambavyo vimechangia kupunguka kwa uzalishaji. Ni lazima tuyazungumzie mambo haya kama viongozi. Sisi tunaotoka katika sehemu zinazozalisha nafaka, kwa sasa tumetulia huku tuingoja Serikali ichukue hatua. Lakini ninafikiri uvumilivu wetu utakapoisha, tutafanya maandamano kushinikiza Serikali iongeze bei ya kununua mahindi kutoka kwa wakulima. Naiomba Serikali ianze mipango ya kuagiza mbolea. Hatua hiyo itasaidia kupunguza gharama ya kukuza nafaka. Tunataka tujue bei ya mbolea mapema ili wakulima nao waanze kujiandaa.

Kwa hayo machache, ningependa kukushukuru, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ikiwa kuna walaghai walioingia katika Halmashauri ya Nafaka (NCPB), basi tupewe majina yao. Hali ya kupakana matope haitatusaidia kama taifa. Tutafute ukweli.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Muda wako umeisha, mhe. Kutuny!

The Assistant Minister for Tourism (Ms. Mbarire): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion. I want to begin by saying that, yes, I am a member of the Grand Coalition Government. However, I do not think we are saying anything new today. There is nothing we have not said about hunger. This is not the first time Kenyans are starving. We come here to talk as if it is happening for the first time. It is as if the price of commodities, including fertilizer, are high for the first time. We have got to be very honest with ourselves.

In the Ninth Parliament, and I was here, we had a Motion of Adjournment to discuss this very same issue. We discussed the matter just like today - passionately. But what have we done about it? Next year, we will do it again. The reason being that we have refused to think outside the box. It is "We" versus "Them"; that is, Government versus Back Benchers. All of us have a moral responsibility to make this our issue and not a Government issue. We have to point out where the weaknesses are. Even if we stand here and point fingers at the Government, again, next year, if you will be lucky to come back, you will point fingers at the Government. So, let us be honest with ourselves. Each one of us has a responsibility to sit and think.

How many of us today think of climate change and its effects on our people? Climate change is going to affect Sub-saharan Africa more than any other part of this world. What are we doing? We keep saying that "Our people cannot leave Mau!" And we are talking about climate change, people! So, I am telling you, "You have not seen nothing yet." Let us rise above politics and think about the future of this country. Let us not always see things from a political angle.

There are Members of Parliament here who have no clue what climate change means for our people. Our people are going to starve. The rains will either come to extreme and destroy what is in our farms or there will be no rains at all. What are we doing about it? We come here and talk very *kali*. So, what? We then leave the battle to one Minister for Agriculture. He cannot make it on his own. Let us support him. He needs more money for the Ministry of Agriculture. Let us talk matters of climate change without putting politics in them. I am telling you, today, we are here talking about hunger and starvation, but for as long as we are not ready to face the challenges of climate change squarely, and for as long we are not ready to sit down and talk about the Mau Forest and stop our country from facing perpetual hunger, we shall not have helped ourselves. So, let us be honest with ourselves and face facts as they are. Playing to the galleries will not help any of us.

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

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. A lot has been said. Food is one of the basic necessities of life. A country that cannot provide food to its citizenry, as one of us said, that country is doomed.

Since many of us have talked a lot, I want to take a totally different dimension and mention that we were made to understand that the Government was doing something to make sure that our

people do not starve. We were expecting the NCPB to sell maize directly to the millers so that we cut off the brokers who are fleecing this country. They are taking a lot of money from us and making our people starve because of their greed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really amazing that the leaders of this country are the ones who are making our people to starve; the politicians! To be precise, the Members of Parliament! Unfortunately, some of them who are even pushing for Grand Opposition to check the Government are the same ones who are buying maize from NCPB at Kshs1,700 and then selling it to millers at Kshs2,400. Today, they are seated here lamenting and complaining.

Dr. Eseli: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to cast aspersions without substantiating? I call upon him to substantiate what he has said; that, there are hon. Members here who deal in grain. Could he, please, substantiate his remarks?

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I expected my friend who comes from a maize growing area to really sympathize because this matter--- When the names are tabled here, you will be shocked. Very young Members of Parliament; some of them championing opposition politics in this country, are the ones who are getting 20,000 to 50,000 bags of maize.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! Order, hon. Mbadi!

The Assistant Minister for Livestock Development (Mr. Duale): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): I want to respond to another one. Mr. Mbadi, you were asked to substantiate. You have made serious allegations against Members of Parliament.

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I knew that somebody would ask the obvious like that, I would have come with the full list. But I know them! But I will not mention their names because I do not have the list here.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Mbadi. There are two ways to go about this. You substantiate or withdraw and apologise. I advise you that when you do not have the full information, do not even attempt the first course.

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will withdraw because I do not have the list but I do not regret saying that because I know it is obvious. The list will be here and it will be tabled.

The Assistant Minister for Education (Prof. Olweny): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for this House to ask the hon. Member to substantiate and yet, it is in the public domain that Members of Parliament are involved in that racket?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Professor! That is the more reason why you should substantiate.

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I expected the Minister for Agriculture to substantiate on my behalf because even him has said that he has a problem---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order hon. Mbadi! The Minister for Agriculture did not make the claims. You made them! The responsibility is entirely yours!

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the extent of naming, I cannot substantiate now. I withdraw. May I continue giving my submission.

Hon. Members: Apologise! Apologise! Withdraw!

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I find it a bit hard to apologise because those people are there. It is only that I did not carry the list!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Members. The rules of the House are very clear. You withdraw and apologise and proceed, Mr. Mbadi. You are squandering valuable time!

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I find it hard to apologise when I know there are Members of Parliament who have supplies. I cannot apologise. I can only withdraw because I do not have the list. But I cannot apologise because those people have---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, hon. Mbadi! You are a very good friend of the Chair. I do not know why you are pushing the Chair to take an action that the Chair does not really like. I give you the last chance, as an hon. Member of the House, to withdraw and apologise, or face the consequences.

Mr. Mbadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for not carrying the list with me. Thank you very much. Could I now proceed?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! Order, hon. Mbadi! I think you are looking for it and I will grant you your wish. Withdraw from the Chamber for the remainder of the time!

*(Mr. Mbadi withdrew from
the Chamber)*

Proceed, hon. Gumo!

The Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. Gumo): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to speak on this matter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is in a very bad state at the moment. This year has been a very bad year. Crop production has not been as good as it was expected. It was very early in the year when we started having a shortage of maize. By this time, we would be having a lot of maize and there would be no problem at all. But I am surprised that when we have a problem at this time in November, by the time we get to January, February and March, what will happen to our people?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is high time we, as the Government, made a decision. What is happening to farmers - and I happen to be one of the farmers--- Farmers today are subsidizing wananchi. They are paying more to produce a bag of maize than what they are paid. In fact, today, businessmen who buy maize from farmers make a lot of money than the farmers themselves. Very soon, unless we decide to subsidize farmers, we are going to have bigger problems than what you people are talking about.

The other day, I was reading something about Zambia. They had the same problems sometimes back. Today, Zambia is having more maize and food and they are now exporting it. It is just because they are being subsidized. Fertilisers are being subsidized. The price of fertiliser now in the market is Kshs6,000 a bag. Last year, it was Ksh4,000. The price of one drum of diesel is Kshs22,000; that is about Kshs102 per litre. How do you expect a farmer to manage that? It is not possible at all. So, unless we are ready to pay those farmers to produce maize, that is not going to happen. Very soon, me, as one of the farmers, will decide to reduce my production because I am not going to subsidize Kenyans. The Government must be prepared to do that. Otherwise, we are going to face bigger problems than what we are facing now. It is just November. I am lucky, at least, I can keep a few bags for myself and my many children. I might supply a few Members of Parliament who are my friends with a few bags. But the rest of the citizens are going to suffer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must decide. The Minister has talked very often of his intention to import fertilizers at a competitive price. Well, even if he imports that fertilizer and says: "One bag of fertilizer is going to cost Kshs4,000, it is still not enough. The Government must be prepared to pay more for the fertilizer and sell it to the farmers at a subsidized price.

Mheshimiwa Okemo talked about sugar. He said that Mumias Sugar had made a profit of nearly Kshs3 billion. I do not believe it because sugar farmers are not making any money. They

have been squeezed so much that, that profit that should have gone to the farmers is going to the shareholders. That is what is happening. You just forced my friend out there when he said that some people have been given allocations to buy maize from the National Cereals and Produce Board; people who are not even farmers! If you are not a farmer and you are allocated 25,000 bags of maize, what for? You do not even have a store for it. You do not even know where to take that maize, and you have been allocated 25,000 bags. To sell it where and you are not a miller? Just because you want to make a bit of money? That must stop.

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

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the House for taking this very decisive decision to discuss this matter, which is of grave national importance. As a country, if we cannot feed ourselves, indeed, we should be the last that should be discussing about sovereignty. It is also a shame that 40 years after Independence, we are still discussing the basics of how to feed our own people. That is why I agree with the hon. Members when they raise these matters; they are grave and serious.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it may please the hon. Members to know that the World Food Programme actually feeds about one million of our school-going children, 40 years after Independence. That is not something to celebrate about. I agree that we have faced very serious challenges on the issue of food security. Let me say about five things.

When I moved to the Ministry of Agriculture, the first thing I did was to persuade the Government to increase our strategic food reserve, which had remained at 3 million bags from 1963 up to this year. Our strategic food reserve has now been increased to eight million bags and the Government has provided money. We intend to, progressively, increase our strategic food reserve to 15 million bags, so that at any one time in future, we will not have a crisis like this, where if there is a small hitch, we quickly degenerate into an emergency situation. I want to assure this House that the Government has approved a budget, and put in money that is going to ensure that we raise our strategic food reserve to eight million bags next year and to 15 million bags by the third year.

Secondly, hon. Members have raised the issue of alternative food items. We should not be wholly reliant on maize as a source of starch for our food requirements. I want to tell hon. Members that a pilot project was started last year, where the Government distributed, free of charge, certified well researched seeds of sorghum, millet, sweet potatoes and cassava to 36,000 farmers. We intend to do a repeat of that exercise this year. As a mechanism of expanding our food base, so that whenever we have issues with maize, we do not quickly degenerate into a food deficit situation. That programme is going to be enhanced and next year, we are going to double the number of beneficiaries.

For your benefit, we have another programme; the National Agricultural Accelerated Inputs Programme. Last year, in 36 districts, we gave 1,000 farmers in each of them fertiliser and seeds for free under this programme. We gave these to very poor farmers.

Again, we are going to upscale this programme, so that this year, we target 100,000 farmers. The most vulnerable farmers who cannot afford to produce any food, we are going to give them one bag of fertiliser and one bag of certified maize seeds for free. I want to ask Members of Parliament, together with our Agricultural Extension Officers, to assist us in identifying the most needy farmers---

Mr. Kioni: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister has just said that in every district, farmers received free fertilizer and free seeds. Could he name the districts so that we can know whether we fall under that programme?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the list with me now here but I am prepared to provide it to the House. I am not only prepared to provide the list but I am also prepared to provide the names of the actual beneficiaries of free fertiliser and seeds. I am prepared to table it in this House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Minister, in addition to that, the point of order was also misplaced but it would be nice if the information is provided.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Thank you.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank Members who have spoken here very candidly about the way other countries have gone. There is no magic! There is no miracle that is going to happen. We just have to invest in the right place. There will be no guess work or we are not going to expect that things are just going to happen. We have to have a coherent plan on how we want to boost our food productivity.

This year, the Government again has set aside Kshs6 billion and we have ordered fertiliser that is going to be here in January. I want to assure hon. Members who have raised questions here that, that fertiliser is actually going to be sold to the farmer. The one that is being sold at the moment at Kshs6,500 will be sold to the farmer at Kshs3,500 because we realise that there will be no way that the Government has to invest in ensuring that farmers access inputs as a means of boosting our productivity. When we produce more, that is the only time the prices will come down and we can then be able to access food at affordable prices to the Kenyan citizenry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want again to inform this House that the Government has taken---

Mr. Kutuny: Jambo la Nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ningependa Waziri afafanue kama ni mbolea ya kupanda mahindi, kwa sababu vile vile, kuna mbolea pia ya kunyunyiza kwenye mahindi. Ningependa pia afafanue bei, ili mkulima amakinike.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have much time---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Bw. Waziri, umeelewa kweli?

(Laughter)

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have understood exactly what he is Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the specific fertiliser we are talking about here is Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP). The prices of the other kinds of fertiliser, that is the NPK, Urea and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) will be below Kshs2,000. I will be able at an appropriate time to provide the details to this House, if it so requests or directs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to inform this House that, in fact, our Government committed itself in 2003 to the Maputo Declaration where it was declared by African Heads of States and Governments that to be able to turn around our economies, we need to upscale the financing of the agricultural sector to 10 per cent of the Budget. It has been an elusive exercise for the last five years but I want to brief this House today that, indeed, on the 14th of this month, His Excellency the President and the Government approved that the Budget to the agricultural-sector Ministries be upscaled from 4.5 per cent to 8 per cent beginning next year.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is in realisation of the importance of the agricultural sector to the economy of this country. We cannot turn around the economy of this country if we cannot feed our people. We cannot create jobs if we do not invest in agriculture

because agriculture controls 80 per cent of all Kenyans who work in the agricultural sector. We cannot meaningfully deal with hunger or even poverty, unless we invest sufficient funds in the agricultural sector in both production, so that we enhance income to farmers, processing, value addition and the entire value chain of our agricultural products.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we realise that for better earnings to farmers, we have to brand, for example, our coffee and tea. There is no way we can brand and market our tea for the premium value it is, unless we put money there. At the moment, we are putting Kshs50 million in the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) and Kshs60 million to the Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK). With that approval, the Government is going to upscale the budget to the Ministry of Agriculture. I want to assure this House that in fact, we will take agriculture to the next level. The momentum has already been created because of the steps the Government has taken.

Mr. Mututho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If I heard the Mover of this Motion clearly, I thought he wanted to know whether we are going to feed our families during this Christmas or not. He did not talk about the future. Could the Minister spend the rest of the time to address the issue of whether we are going to have a packet of *unga* at Kshs40 or Kshs120?

(Applause)

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Samoei): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is exactly where I was coming to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now want to address the short-term issues. Tomorrow, I am taking a proposal to the Cabinet on various items. I am going to take a proposal to the Cabinet to:-

(i) Increase the subsidy element so that we can buy additional maize or import if we cannot source locally and enhance the supply to our millers so that we can bring down the prices.

(ii) Allow our millers to import additional grains once they have bought from farmers, if they do not have sufficient supplies, so that we operate our milling at full capacity. That way, the prices can come down to Kshs50 or Kshs55 per 2kg bag.

(iii) The global picture on the increased costs to millers because of increased energy cost.

(iv) Consideration on the meltdown on the economy that is also being passed on to us in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in a wholesome way, tomorrow, the Cabinet is going to discuss how it is going to take this country from where it is today to a better future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to assure this House that the Ministry of Agriculture, under my stewardship, has not issued any Member of Parliament with a letter or a written note even in pencil or even sent a short text message for them to be given maize anywhere!

(Applause)

I want to challenge anybody who has information, because I am also an interested party, to tell me how any Member of Parliament could have got a piece of paper from my office, or the Permanent Secretary or Assistant Ministers to go and claim maize anywhere. I am not aware that there are Members of Parliament who are millers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a register of all millers registered under the National Cereals and Produce Act. I think it is correct and I welcome the suggesting by Members that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Public Investments Committee (PIC) and the Committee on Agriculture, Land and Natural Resources take up this matter so that if there are any

grey areas, the people responsible can be put to the dock so that they can answer for their actions.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a very welcome move because we want to lift the agricultural sector to the next level. However, we cannot lift it if there are corrupt cartels in the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken decisive steps to deal with the sugar cartels and fertilizer cartels. I will deal with any other cartel without fear. It is in the best interest of this country that we turn around the agricultural sector because it determines whether we grow this economy by double digits or we do not.

The agricultural sector will determine whether we effectively deal with poverty or we do not. The agricultural sector, will determine whether we add jobs for our young people or not. I do not think by blame games in the agricultural sector, we will take this country where we want to take it.

With those many remarks, I beg to support.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order Members! Before we adjourn, the Chair has been requested to consider whether the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Land and Natural Resources and the PAC could investigate this matter further. However, I want to confirm that, that is not for the Chair. The Committees have powers to undertake whatever they wish, including investigating this matter further. So, do as you please!

Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 27th November, 2008 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.