

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 13th April, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

Annual Report and Accounts of Mount Elgon Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1991, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Mount Elgon Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1992, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Mount Elgon Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1993, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1994, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1995, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1996, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

[By the Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Sankori) on behalf of the Minister for Tourism, Trade and industry]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.030

THEFT OF DRUGS/EQUIPMENT FROM HEALTH CENTRES

Dr. Awiti asked the Minister for Medical Services:-

(a) if he is aware that drugs and other equipment were stolen from Adiedo, Wagwe, Miriu and Omboga Health Centres during the months of January and February, 1999;

(b) if he is further aware that no arrests have been made on such theft so far; and,

(c) what measures the Government is taking to provide security in these institutions.

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that drugs and other equipment were stolen from Adiedo, Wagwe, Miriu Health Centres, and Omboga Dispensary during the months of January and February, 1999. However, I am aware of thefts at these institutions on 22nd September, 1998, 9th November, 1998; 11th November, 1998 and 23rd March, 1999, respectively.

(b) Firstly, I am aware that two community employed watchmen were arrested and charged in court for the theft at Miriu Health Centre. Secondly, a community employed watchman was arrested, charged and sentenced to two

years suspended sentence for the theft at Omboga Dispensary. Thirdly, no arrests have been made for thefts at Wagwe and Adiedo Health Centres.

(c) The Government has elicited participation of the local community in the provision of security at these institutions. In addition, stronger doors have been installed and police patrols intensified.

Dr. Awiti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much surprised by the answer given by the Minister. I was in Omboga Dispensary and Wagwe

Health Centre just two weeks ago; and these health institutions do not have doors. It seems that these thefts are going on because the Provincial Administration, especially the chiefs and the police, are conniving with some of these people who are stealing the drugs and other equipment. Recently, we even had theft at Kendu Bay Mission Hospital and until now, no one has been arrested or taken to court. I am surprised that the Minister says that some of these people who were involved in the theft at Wagwe Health Centre were taken to court. Which courts were they taken to?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information I have and I have already said, that; in respect of Miriu Health Centre, two community employed watchmen were arrested and charged in court. I have also said that, at Omboga Dispensary, a community employed watchman was arrested and sentenced to two years suspended sentence for theft. These records can be obtained from the relevant courts and it is not within my jurisdiction to draw the relevant files to be able to submit them here. In respect of the statement that the Provincial Administration or chiefs are conniving with the staff at the hospital; that is an offence. Nobody is allowed to steal. If the hon. Member has any evidence, he should report that matter to the police station for action.

Mr. Magara: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think, the Minister is trying to evade a very pertinent question. Which courts were these people taken to and what is the case number under which they were charged?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information I have is that they were taken to court, charged and the sentence has been meted out in respect of a community employed watchman. I do not have the information in respect of the case number and in any case, that is not within my purview.

Mr. Otula: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the Minister tell this House, if he is aware that the security within these particular health facilities is not adequate to stop people from stealing from them?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since action was taken and the punishment that was due meted out, we have not heard any report from those health centres to the effect that additional thefts have taken place, unless the hon. Member can give information to the contrary.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister inform the House what happened to the exhibits? Did it suffer the same fate as some *chang'aa* which was produced in court as an exhibit and then later consumed?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not within the purview of the Minister for Medical Services to determine what happens to exhibits produced in court.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. A Minister is a member of the Cabinet. When a matter concerns another Ministry, relating to a Question to be answered in Parliament, he consults his colleagues to get the necessary information. Is this Minister in order to tell us that the decision on what should happen to exhibits produced in court is not in his jurisdiction when he is speaking for the Government?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dr. Kituyi, the Minister is not in order. In fact, the exhibits were the property of his Ministry. Since those drugs were stolen from his Ministry, the Ministry should have had an interest in them.

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I simply said was that when exhibits go to court, how they were disposed off within the court process, was not within my purview.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister!

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your indulgence, according to Standing Order No.35(1), I can only answer Questions relating to my Ministry.

Hon. Members: No way!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! Mr. Minister, in fact, Standing Order No.35(1) requires that you answer Questions on matters related to your public office. However, when property belonging to your Ministry gets stolen, it remains yours even after it is produced in court as exhibit. You have a right to claim that property from the court after the case. Hon. Members want to know what happened to the exhibits after the case had been completed?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for your guidance. I will make an effort to find out where those drugs are. I would like to have those drugs back, so that patients can be treated effectively with them.

Mr. Ayoki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us the names of the persons who were arrested and taken to court?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the names of those persons.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have seen that the Minister is not ready to answer this Question. As

much as I respect him, as a friend of mine, could we defer this Question, so that--

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojodeh! I have given you an opportunity to ask a question, and not to advise me.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am suggesting that we defer this Question, so that the Minister can bring to this House a satisfactory reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, let us be clear. We cannot spend 10 minutes asking the Minister supplementary questions, and then ask for the deferment of that same Question.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Sit down, Mr. Kiunjuri. Hon. Members, you really must have made up your mind fairly quickly, if the direction the Minister has been following was unsatisfactory. You cannot spend 10 minutes on a Question and then ask for it to be deferred; that is not fair.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know of a Standing Order which bars hon. Members to ask for the deferment of a Question after it has been discussed for 10 minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Angwenyi, I take it that you are not familiar with the Standing Orders of this House; if you were, you would have referred to Standing Order No.1. Could you, now, read that Standing Order for yourself, quietly, and see what it says?

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will not allow any more points of order on this matter; ask questions.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think, to be fair to both the Chair and the House, this is an important Question; drugs have gone missing. Somebody may have made money out of those drugs after the court had disposed of the matter. After all, the requirement is that the drugs should have gone back to the Ministry of Medical Services. So, would it not be fair that the Minister undertakes to bring the information being sought by hon. Members, as a matter of honour, and makes a statement to complete the reply to this Question? In fact, the Question has been exhausted; it does not make much sense to defer it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Minister, what is your reaction to hon. Anyona's suggestion?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have had a similar experience before; an hon. Member had asked me to provide a certain name to this House. In the course of my effort to do so, that very person said that he would not wish his name to be mentioned adversely in this House. The Speaker directed that if a person indicated that he did not want his name to be mentioned here adversely, it was only fair that we do not mention the name. I wonder whether that particular ruling by the Chair is relevant in this respect?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, in fact, those persons have been charged in court, and there is nothing that is more adverse in mentioning their names here. Their names already appear in court records. This House is fairly honourable, and anybody whose name is mentioned here should be thankful. So, would you like to confirm your undertaking to bring those names to the House, Mr. Minister?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to bring those names here even tomorrow.

Mr. N.M. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Cases of disappearance of drugs from public health institutions are very rampant in this country. Three months ago, the Minister's office directed the Embu Provincial Medical Officer (PMO) to investigate the loss of drugs worth Kshs250,000, which had been stolen by M/S Priory Chemist. Those drugs were later on taken to Embu Law Court as an exhibit. However, the culprit colluded with the court, and was fined a mere Kshs1,000 for the offence. So, could the Minister take appropriate action against that particular employee, who stole those drugs from Embu Provincial Hospital?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I confirm what the hon. Member has said with respect to that particular case and the facts pertaining to it. However, the problem is that the Pharmacy and Drugs Act prescribes very lenient penalties against offenders. So, there is limit to the punishments the courts can met out to offenders. We hope that, in due course, we will review the Act and improve on the penalties prescribed therein, so that there can be adequate deterrence to situations of this nature.

Dr. Awiti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the Minister brings the names of those who were charged in court with the disappearance of those drugs, could he also tell us what is being done about similar cases regarding Adiedo and Weguye Health Centres? Could he also bring the case number?

Dr. Anangwe: Agreed, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you; let us go to Mr. Katuku's Question.

Question No.52

REHABILITATION OF EQUIPMENT

AT MWALA HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. Katuku asked the Minister for Medical Services:-

- (a) whether he is aware that power generation and X-Ray machines at Mwala Health Centre in Mwala Constituency have not been working for the last three years;
- (b) what the estimated cost of rehabilitating these machines is; and,
- (c) what he is doing to rehabilitate the said machines as a matter of urgency.

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the power generator and X-Ray equipment at Mwala Health Centre have not been working for the last three years.

(b) The rehabilitation of the power generator will cost Kshs189,760.

(c) The power generator will be repaired when funds become available.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Minister is very interesting. The Government spent a lot of money putting that machine there. Also, the X-Ray machines are going to waste because of lack of electric power. I filed this Question a long time ago. It is more than five years, now, since that generator broke down. I would like the Minister to tell us when funds will be available. Five years down the line, the money has not been available. Where will he get the money to repair that generator from? It appears that the Ministry has no programme to repair that equipment.

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me assure the hon. Member that in respect of the X-Ray machine, it is in safe hands and measures have been taken to ensure that when the generator is repaired it will be very easy for it to be restored and it will be in working condition. Secondly, in respect of the money that is required, as you are all aware, I can only be empowered by this House--- This House has so far not empowered me with Kshs189,760. We are trying our level best to ensure that we can secure the requisite funds to do the necessary repairs in respect of the generator.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, you did hear hon. Members raising concern over the fact that there was drastic reduction of the Vote of the Ministry of Health in the Supplementary Estimates. Here we are talking about Kshs189,000 which is required to repair a generator so that the X-Ray machine can function. Some of us who are familiar with that area know that Machokos Town is very far from Mwala Constituency. Mr. Minister, during the Supplementary Estimates, why were there no provisions made to ensure that more items, like this one, which are so simple and, yet, so important for the functioning of that health centre--

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, there were general cutbacks in nearly all the sectors and Ministries. There are many other demands in addition to his which are legitimate. But what can we do when that is the general trend? What I may say is that, as a way of assisting the hon. Member, while he is still awaiting the requisite funds from the Government when they become available; if I were him, I would organise a quick Harambee to raise Kshs189,760 to do the necessary repair work.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! You know your Standing Orders state quite clearly that you must not be standing when another hon. Member is on his feet.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that this hon. Minister expects the hon. Member for Mwala Constituency to support him in June when he will present his budget here and, yet, he cannot afford to give him Kshs189,000 to repair the generator. When does the Minister intend to give him this money? During these Supplementary Estimates, he can re-allocate him this money. Why can he not do that to save himself the embarrassment when he brings his Budget here?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Estimates have been made and passed in this House and there is nothing I can do to revise them as of now.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of hospitals concern the health of people. So, the X-Ray machine which cannot work without electricity is a matter of priority. It is normal for the Minister within his voted provisions to revise his own priorities because of the urgency of the matter; hence he can put such a proposal to the Treasury to be allowed to use monies he already has for this purpose other than the original purpose.

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that his Question assumes that the resources that he is making reference to and which can be re-allocated are available. We have not gone through the process of spending the money. So, in that particular respect, when the time comes and there is a possibility for that kind of re-allocation, I confirm that I shall consider it.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it has been a habit of some Ministers to answer Questions as if, of course, the Questioners are asking for favours. The Mwala people have got their own rights. They are taxpayers and they are asking for their right. Could the Minister tell us why he is talking about Harambee when, of course, the Mwala people want this machine to be repaired with the money they pay in form of tax? Let the Minister go and do Harambee in his own constituency, but give the people of Mwala the money they desire.

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is talking as if raising money through Harambee in Ukambani is a strange phenomenon. The other day, I was at Kangundo where I participated in a Harambee and raised Kshs5 million towards the development of the wards and other medical facilities. Therefore, it is not a strange occurrence in that part of the region. We are all doing it including the Minister for Health.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard a Minister of this Government clearly abuse the taxpayers by indicating that once taxpayers' money is paid, we should go round again and hold Harambees for the same. This is a common phenomenon with this Government which has been treating people badly especially, the Kambas. In the same way, they have refused to provide water for the people of Ukambani so that during the general elections they will give them relief food. Now, here is another case where a machine breaks down, and the Minister does not want to repair it; he wants to go and hold a Harambee there so that he can get votes from Ukambani. He will not get them. The Minister seems not to be serious about having this generator repaired. He is not promising that he will have the figure in the Budget, but he is talking about a Harambee. Meanwhile, we have the cost-sharing money. This health centre generates money and this Minister gets the same money and he does not allow it to be used in the repair of the generator. Could the Minister order, because he appears not to be ready to repair the generator, that the money that is collected from the patients should not be sent to Machakos and then to Nairobi, but it should be used to repair the generator?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of Harambee is a national activity and it is done everywhere.

Hon. Members: No!

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to answer his Question in respect of cost-sharing, Mwala Health Centre does not generate enough revenue to fund such a maintenance cost.

Question No.060

STATUS OF KWAMBURI LAND IN NANYUKI TOWN

Mr. Kiunjuri asked the Minister for Local Government the status of Kwamburi land in Nanyuki Town, formerly occupied by squatters.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Affey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to seek the indulgence of the Chair because this Question was not sent to the correct Ministry. This Question should have been filed with the Minister for Lands and Settlement. So, I will request that it be redirected there.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not hear what the Assistant Minister said. Could he speak loudly the way he does when asking for votes from his voters?

Mr. Affey: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that this Question should have been directed to the Minister for Lands and Settlement. So, I will request the Chair to redirect it to the Minister for Lands and Settlement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The procedure which you really ought to be familiar with now is that if a Question is directed to your Ministry and you do not consider yourself competent to answer it, you should forward it to the Ministry you think should answer it and send a copy to Parliament so that our records are put right. So, next time, please, send it to the Ministry you think should answer it. You should not come and seek my indulgence from the Dispatch Box?

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Ministry of Local Government is trying to abdicate its responsibility because all the land within the municipalities belongs to that Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Not necessarily!

Mr. Ndicho: Yes, but this is land I know in Nanyuki and it is within the ambit of the Ministry of Local Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! The Assistant Minister stood up in the House and told us that this matter ought to go to the Ministry of Lands and Settlement, which makes us assume that this is Government land. If he has, in fact, told an untruth, we will take him to task when the Minister for Lands and Settlement stands up and says that this land does not belong to the Government.

Mr. Mwenje: Both Ministers are here!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Mwenje! He will not have seen this Question.

Mr. Kiunjuri: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The land in question belongs to squatters. It is true that letters of allotment have already been issued by the local councils, meaning that the Assistant Minister for Local Government is aware of the title deeds. The people who have already been allocated this land are very senior people. The DC, Kakamega, Mr. Mohammed Tale, has 10 acres now and he is the one who shared out the land. Julius Kamotho, the son of hon. Kamotho has---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Assistant Minister, you have told the House that this Question ought to be answered by the Ministry of Lands and Settlement. I will allow that to pass for the time being, provided that you make sure that this Question is with the Ministry of Lands and Settlement today. The Question will be put for answer exactly this day next week. This Question must be answered on Thursday next week by the Ministry of Lands and Settlement and you must transfer that Question to them today.

Next Question!

Question No.053

ELECTRIFICATION OF IKAATINI MARKET

Col. Kiluta asked the Minister for Energy:-

- (a) if he is aware that Ikaatini Market has never been supplied with electricity;
- (b) if he is also aware that as a result of lack of supply of power in this market, residents have lost a lot of business opportunities; and,
- (c) what action he is taking to ensure that this market is supplied with electricity.

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

- (a) Yes, I am aware.
- (b) I am also aware that lack of supply of power in markets may have affected the business opportunities.
- (c) The Ministry is looking for funds to facilitate rural electrification in various parts of Kenya. When the funds are acquired this particular market will be considered for rural electrification and power will be provided.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, did you hear that answer? It is almost next to nothing. The Minister did not say anything! When is he going to have this money? When he tells us that this will be done when funds are available, when is that? Can he tell us something that makes sense? When is he getting the funds?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to become a prophet and say when I am going to get the money. The hon. Member knows how the Government gets money. Therefore, when the money becomes available, we will definitely consider providing electricity.

Mr. Murathe: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This Government is just wasting our time. For all the Questions which have been asked here, the Government says: "When money becomes available". Is it in order for these people to waste the country's time here as if there are no budgetary provisions?

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

Mr. Murathe: They should stop wasting our time. It is not in order for every Question to be answered: "When funds are available". The money has been allocated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, he is asking you when this money will be available. Now you have a three-year budgeting horizon. Are you making it available this year, next year, the year after or after you have been voted out?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the planning is complete, as you have rightly put it, but the money is not available yet.

Mr. Mwenda: The Assistant Minister says that he is looking for money which implies that he has already planned and budgeted for supply of electricity. How much money is he looking for, for this purpose?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need Kshs7 million for this particular project.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If the amount required is only Kshs7 million, is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House that the whole Government of Kenya cannot afford Kshs7 million?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Kenya is not only doing a project for this particular place. The Member of Parliament for Imenti knows that some projects are being carried out in his area using Government money. That does not mean that Kshs7 million will be used to do all the projects in the country. I am saying that Kshs7 million is required to do this particular project.

Mr. Munyao: If the Assistant Minister is serious and he knows that this project is going to cost Kshs7

million, is he in a position to tell us how he intends to complete this project in phases and when it will start?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the planning we have, we have not phased this project. The project does not cost a lot of money, but we are looking for this Kshs7 million to implement the project.

Mr. Too: The Ministry of Energy and the KPLC are charging a lot of money on tariffs. So, for him to say that Kshs7 million cannot be made available is wrong. According to the hon. Member, there is a huge business involved there and you can generate that money within three months.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, do you want to accept or deny the allegations?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my position is that Kshs7 million is a very little amount of money, but it is not available now. The money that is available has already been allocated to implement projects in other places.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks like there is a deliberate attempt by the Assistant Minister not to answer this Question because yesterday I brought to his attention the fact that they are supposed to give two per cent of whatever money is generated from the dam to the Masinga Constituency. Can he tell us how much money they have set aside out of this two per cent for installation of power in Masinga, now that I have made him aware that they are supposed to give us two per cent?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could say that the Government has budgeted to spend K£1,080,000 to rectify the electricity problem in Machakos District as a whole. Masinga will be included in this programme when the money is available.

Mr. Parpai: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister talked of money being available. How does he know money will ever be available, when the accounts of the Rural Electrification Programme in this country have never been audited ever since it was opened in Kipande House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I am not going to allow hon. Members to stand up on a point of order and proceed to ask questions. You know what the Standing Orders say when an hon. Member stands on a point of order.

Next Question.

Question No.010

ALLOCATION OF PLOT ALONG KILINDINI
PORT ENTRANCE CHANNEL

Mr. Mwakiringo asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

(a) why plot No.MSA/MS/Block 1.1674, measuring 3.196 acres, along the entrance channel into Kilindini Port was allocated to a private developer; and

(b) since the plot borders the area in which the pillars with leading marks into the port are located, if he could revoke the allocation immediately as any buildings erected on the said plot would impair visibility for vessels docking in at night.

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Plot No.MSA/MS/Block 1.1674, measuring 3.196 acres, was allocated to a private developer in 1992 for the purpose of residential development. Prior to the allocation, the area was vacant. It was a Government land.

(b) The allocation cannot be cancelled or revoked as it was lawful and the lease was registered. The land is now private property, but any proposed developments must obtain the approval of the relevant technical authority, to ensure that they do not impair visibility.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the reply given by the Minister. This land belongs to Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and it is a protected area. On this land, we have leading marks for ships coming into our country. Those marks direct ships to dock during the day and night. So, for him to say it is a Government land, I beg to differ because if that private developer is allowed to develop this land, then no ship will come into our country. So, most ships will be diverted. What is so special for this allocation not to be revoked, so that ships can come to our country?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in keeping with the laws of Kenya, once a title deed has been issued, the revocation is a lengthy and complicated process. In order to address the concern of the hon. Member, authorities concerned in approving development on such a site give appropriate conditions that would ensure ships would come in and out of Mombasa Port safely.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us whether this land has been developed? Who was the allottee?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the allottee was Shazimia(?) Enterprises Limited. It is owned by a

former hon. Member of Parliament, Mr. A.A. Mwidau.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while accepting the answer given by the Minister, the original intention of the allottee was to develop some residential houses on that Government land. We are now asking the Minister, because he is the custodian of public land, and the land in question is the one that has to do with safety of navigation of vessels that dock at the port; and the owner has actually charged it for Kshs10 million, which means the intention was not to develop the land, but charge it; for the public good, could he not revoke the allocation and repossess back the land?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in keeping with the accepted international practice, when a situation like this arises; it has risen in many parts of the world; normally, the developer has to meet certain conditions. For example, the current one might be six feet, but with an agreement with KPA and other authorities concerned, we will put caveat in the files to ensure that, that developer will be responsible to make sure that those leading marks are visible from the regular distance that the law allows. So, it is in keeping with the accepted international practice, that if you develop around a similar mark and access roads, you must make them visible. That will be done.

Mr. Kamolleh: Asante sana, Naibu Spika. Merikebu au meli zote zinazolingia bandari ya Mombasa ni lazima zionyeshwe kwa taa kabla ya kutia nanga. Kwenye ardhi hiyo, kuna mnara wa taa ya kuongoza meli katika bandari ya Mombasa. Hata hivyo, Bw. Waziri anatwaambia ya kwamba mtu mmoja alipewa ardhi hiyo bila kujali kama zaidi ya abiria milioni moja watapata ajali. Je, mtu huyo ana bahati gani ya kupewa ardhi hiyo na ilhali, jambo hilo linaweza kuleta hasara kwa watu wengi? Ni lazima Serikali yetu ichukue ardhi hiyo mara moja.

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall reply in Kimbeere! As I stated, it is quite normal for this kind of development to take place, even on leading marks. However, KPA has indicated to us that they will be very strict in terms of development, so that risks that would be associated with what the hon. Member is talking about do not arise. It is not in the interest of KPA to let this happen. They have assured me that this will not happen; otherwise, they would lose business and they are not ready to do so.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the interest of this country, could the Minister not consider revoking that allocation or compulsorily acquiring the land? Could this be done, considering that this land is only benefiting an individual and we are putting to risk the interests of one million Kenyans, as hon. Kamolleh has put it? What is more important; one million Kenyans or one individual Kenyan who has secured a loan from a bank? Could the Minister acquire the property compulsorily?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but there is no risk to ships. I do not see any problem because the ships will arrive safely. The issue that raised questions was the alleged risks posed to ships. So, I will not revoke the plot allocation.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the concern of the hon. Members, and the fact that it has now been proved that even the Minister is reading out a reply he has been given by his own civil servants who have not been to Mombasa, would I be in order to ask the Chair to direct that this Question be given to the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources so that they travel to Mombasa, see for themselves and, then, come back and report to this House? This is because the Minister is just reading out an answer, and has not been there. It is dangerous not to revoke the allocation of this plot.

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir---

Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. J. Nyagah: I have been allowed to speak! I wish to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Ordinarily, the Chair does not have to rule that a matter be referred to a Committee for it to be done so, but in this particular case, since serious doubts have been raised, I am also convinced, in my mind, that, that matter needs to be---

(Applause)

Order, hon. Members! I have not finished. Since the House is interested in getting to know the truth, and the House even includes the Minister for Lands and Settlement, it is in our interest that this matter be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Housing.

(Applause)

Order, hon. Members! Really, the Committee should bring to us a report as to whether the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) have also connived in the allocation of this plot when, in fact, it is them who should have objected to it the first place.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have made a landmark ruling about that particular issue. Could we be assured that the supremacy of this House will be upheld, and your ruling will not be revoked by powers which are even beyond the Minister?

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, of course, a ruling has been made, but we have had similar cases in the past, where the Chair has ruled that a matter be referred to a Departmental Committee and we never ever had a report brought back to the House. Would it not be prudent that the Committee is so directed and given a specific period within which they must report to the House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! The Liaison Committee is working on a programme of meetings of all Departmental Committees but, more importantly, the Chair has directed the Clerk to go through the HANSARD and come up with decisions that have been made in this House, and answers which have not been received, so that the Ministries concerned may be required, or directed to comply with that.

Questions by Private Notice.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

OWNERSHIP STATUS OF SHAURI MOYO ESTATE

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

(a) What is the ownership status of Shauri Moyo Estate, comprising of 197 houses in Kamukunji Constituency?

(b) Could the Minister give names of all head tenants associated with the estate and further state who authorised the sale without the authority of the full council minute?

(c) In view of the above, could the Minister inform the House the action the Government has taken to address this issue?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there any one from the Ministry of Local Government? I thought that there was someone from the Ministry of Local Government. Well, the Question is---

Mr. Ndwigwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very clear that the Minister for Local Government ran away from this Question, but because we have the Deputy Leader of Government Business here, could he tell us why this Question is not being answered and yet this is the second time it has been asked?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! The Question is deferred to Tuesday, next week. It has to be answered on that day and I will ask the Clerks-at-Table to make sure that the Ministry is made aware that, that Question will appear on Tuesday afternoon.

(Question deferred)

WATER SHORTAGE IN WAMUNYU MARKET

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Water Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Wamunyu Market in Mwala Constituency has been without water for the last three months (January - March, 2000) due to power disconnection as a result of non-payment of the electricity bill by the Ministry?

(b) Could the Minister consider handing over the Wamunyu Water Project to the local community?

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kofa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware. The Ministry has, of now, paid Kshs130,669.70 towards off-setting the bill, and is in the process of clearing the balance of Kshs89,923.

(b) Wamunyu Water Project is among the projects earmarked for handing over to the beneficiaries in accordance with the national water policy.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is another abuse to Mwala people. A few minutes ago, we were talking about Kshs180,000, and now we are talking about Kshs89,000. This water project has not been supplying water to this market for the last four months or so, since December, because of Kshs89,000. But from the same water project, in the month of December alone, the beneficiaries paid through their metres over Kshs600,000, yet the Ministry cannot pay the bill for electricity of just Kshs80,000. Is that not an abuse to Mwala people? Could the

Minister, as a matter of urgency, consider paying this bill today and not tomorrow, because it is only Kshs89,000, and we paid that money to the Ministry?

An hon. Member: Ama uende ufanye Harambee!

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, it is not true that the beneficiaries paid their dues on time. That is why the Ministry cannot pay for the electricity bill.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware that water is essential. You might even have read recently in a newspaper, where monkeys fought with residents of Mandera over water for two hours, and chased the residents. Could the Assistant Minister consider taking a water tank full of water there as a matter of urgency, and provide these people with water?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government sympathises with the situation. In fact, the Minister visited Wamunyu Water Project towards the end of last year, but the bottleneck is that the beneficiaries do not pay the water bills in time. That is why there is that deficit in payments.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, really, if the Assistant Minister is serious, we are only asking for Kshs89,000. Could he tell us how long the arrangements will take, or tell the House when the Ministry will provide that money? This is because he made a statement to the effect that arrangements are under way.

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it will be as soon as the beneficiaries pay their bills.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since water is an essential need of human beings, could the Assistant Minister consider giving the people of Wamunyu water relief so that they get water without paying for it, just the same way we do with food relief?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, the Ministry is very sympathetic about the situation. We will go back to our books and see what can be done for Wamunyu residents for the time being.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, way back in the 1970s, it was Government policy to provide water to all Kenyans by the year 2000. Here is a situation where the Government has pipes and all that is necessary to provide water to this area, and the only predicament is unavailability of Kshs89,000. How can the Minister assure Kenyans that they will all get water, if Wamunyu Market alone cannot be supplied with water because of Kshs89,000? Is he complying with Government policy?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a very severe drought. Even if Mr. Munyao is the Shadow Minister for Water Development, the Ministry in power is trying its best to provide proper services to all Kenyans.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question has two parts. The Assistant Minister was asked whether he could consider handing over this water project to the local community. Evidence all over the country, and particularly where I come from, has demonstrated that when water projects are handed over to local communities, they are better managed, and they provide better services for which they were established than when they are managed by the Ministry of Water Development, or by the National Water Conservation Corporation. Could the Assistant Minister consider handing over this project and all other water projects in the country to the beneficiaries?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, the local people have applied to the Permanent Secretary (PS) to be allowed to manage the water project and arrangements are being made to hand it over to them.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue the Assistant Minister is raising, of handing over this project to the local people, has been the story for many years. In fact, we managed to get a donor to train the local community on how to handle the project and they are quite ready to manage this project. Could the Assistant Minister tell us when he is going to hand over this project to the local people? I was there with the Minister the other day, and I wonder what he went to do there because, since then, that water has never been used. I understand the Minister is the owner of the Keringet Water Project and would prefer the people of Wamunyu to buy that water from his company.

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many procedures to be followed before a project like this is one is handed over. But as I said before, the application to hand over the project is with the PS, and arrangements are being made to hand it over to the Wamunyu Water Project Management Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That marks the end of Question Time!

POINT OF ORDER

MIWANI SUGAR COMPANY BOARD MEETING IN DUBAI

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Agriculture on two issues regarding Miwani Sugar Company.

From Thursday, 6th April, 2000, until 10th April, 2000, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of

Agriculture, led a team of directors of Miwani Sugar Company, in obeying summons to attend a board meeting in the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, the domicile of Mr. Ketan Somaia. I would like him to state to this House why it was necessary to convene a Miwani Sugar Company Board meeting in Dubai before a person who has ignored summons to appear before a Parliamentary Committee of this House; how much it cost the company, and why they did this when the company has failed to pay workers' salaries, and farmers for cane delivered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, in the course of last year, the Minister for Agriculture promised this House a comprehensive statement clarifying the structure of shareholding in Miwani Sugar Company because of concerns that Mr. Ketan Somaia has not paid a cent for claimed ownership of up to 49 per cent of Miwani Sugar Company. Up to now, the Minister has not provided that Ministerial Statement. Could he in the same breath, give that clarification?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ABDUCTION OF MR. MICHAEL KIPKOECH

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Hon. Munyao, yesterday, asked for a Ministerial Statement on the alleged abduction of a DP civic candidate for Chepsikok Ward in Keiyo District. I hereby wish to make that Statement.

Mr. Michael Kipkoech, a Democratic Party of Kenya candidate for Chepsikok Ward, Keiyo District, was last seen in Iten on 10th April, 2000, at about noon. He is alleged to have boarded a vehicle, whose registration number was not taken. There is no evidence or information to corroborate the allegation that the District Commissioner, Keiyo District, or any other Government official, was in the vicinity, or in the vehicle that Mr. Kipkoech boarded. It appears as if the civic candidate knew the occupants of the vehicle, as he willingly entered without being forced to. I also wish to state, as this point, that the alleged abduction has not been reported to the police or the provincial administration by Mr. Michael Kipkoech's next of kin or any other concerned party, in order to facilitate Government action on the matter. If any one has any evidence that Mr. Michael Kipkoech was actually abducted, he should report the matter to the police for the necessary action.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with all humbleness, I would like the Chair to request the Minister to take this House and the Ministerial Statements sought in this House seriously. There is no police station in Kenya with more powers than this august House. I made it very clear to the Minister that on the evening of 10th April, at Tambach, the said candidate was kidnapped by the area DO, Mr. Mbaruk, and driven in a car registration No.KDV 466, belonging to the Chairman of the County Council, Iten. The same night, at 8.00 p.m., this candidate was produced before the DC of Keiyo District, Mr. Abdani. I gave all those details, and went as far as recalling the incident of Baringo East, where a DP candidate, Mr. Riko, was kidnapped on 27th March, 2000. He went through the same process up to when he resurfaced at State House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister be more serious and tell the House the truth, so that he can instil some confidence in the people of Keiyo, Baringo East, and all over the country, so that they can feel free to join parties of their choice? This beating about the bush is not auguring well for us. How can the Minister ask this House to refer matters to the police?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Munyao! You should merely seek clarification of the points raised, but you are now engaging in a debate. The Chair cannot allow that. Mr. Minister, do you have anything to say in response?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have nothing further to say, other than what I have said.

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We must be taken seriously, as hon. Munyao has said. Can the Minister, on the grounds that have been presented to him, then and now, state where the DC took this man? The registration number of the vehicle in which he was taken away has been given, and this has not been forthcoming from the Minister's statement. Those are factual things that we, as a party, would need to be told about in no uncertain terms.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I checked on what the hon. Member had said about the location of the DC and the vehicles he had talked about. Those facts have not been proven.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not think that the Minister is being serious enough. We have given him the registration number of the car and the owner. We have given him the name of the man who kidnapped this candidate and we have said where he was taken. The Minister has now said that these points have not been proven. By whom are they supposed to be proven? Those people who kidnapped this man cannot prove those points because they would want to hide them. Can the Minister institute some investigation, independent of those DCs and DOs?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got the police to investigate this incident. I have personally talked to the DC and there is no truth in that story according to him.

Mr. Wambua: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We will have to take things seriously. It was in this august House that it was reported that the late Mr. J.M. Kariuki had gone to Zambia when he disappeared. In this case, when a civic candidate has gone missing, we have been told that he boarded a car of his own choice and yet the details of the case were given. Can the Chair direct the Minister to give adequate information? This is a matter which is affecting our people's lives.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am serious in what I am saying because even the wife was contacted and she was not willing to say where the husband was.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I think the Minister misdirected himself a little there. The wife cannot know where he is, if he is, in fact, somewhere---

(Several hon. Members stood up in this places)

Order! I will not allow debate on this issue because this was a Ministerial Statement after Question Time. However, if there is concern over this matter, I will be quite willing to allow a debate on it and, indeed, we should, if there is general insecurity in the country affecting Kenyan citizens. So, we cannot continue debating this matter now under this item. But if Mr. Munyao has to pursue it further, he had better come and confer with me and see how best we can take it forward.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say that the wife did not tell us that she feared that her husband had been abducted. She seemed to know where her husband was, but she was not willing to tell us about it. She did not come to us to say that her husband was abducted.

POINTS OF ORDER

DISAPPEARANCE OF THREE MEN ACROSS RIVER TANA

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President. This concerns three men who disappeared in Alasa Trading Centre in Hola. These are Mr. Hamisi Jala and Mr. Salim Jala, who are brothers, and a Mr. Mohammed Awath Bakomwoye. These people crossed the Tana River searching for thatching materials across the river. Since then, they have not been seen despite the fact that policemen from that area went to search for them. It is rumoured that Somali pastoralists, who are living in the nearby villages of Guraswen, might have abducted them. Later on, the DO, Masalani, promised to deliver these men after having consulted the Somali community, but the nearest Somali community, which is of Guraswen, has already been evacuated; hence, to date, we have not known the whereabouts of these three men.

When people go across the Tana River, pastoralists beat them up, do all sorts of things to them and sometimes even abduct them. Perhaps, when the Minister brings his statement to the House, could he also confirm to us that stringent measures will be taken to make sure that these people can be freely crossing the river up and down, going about their businesses without any harassment, from any other community whatsoever?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the incident, and I will make a report on it next Thursday.

VARYING COMMENCEMENT DATES FOR PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS ACT

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Attorney-General with regard to the Parliamentary Pensions Act which we passed here. The amendments as to the effective date which the Minister had proposed were defeated on the Floor of this House. He has gone ahead to publish the effective date as 1st July, 1994, when, in fact, that amendment was defeated and the original day of 1st July, 1984 stands. Could he issue a Ministerial Statement as to what happened?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Do I understand you correctly to say that the HANSARD shows a different record from what is appearing in the Act as published?

Mr. Obwocha: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will write to you about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is the preferred course of action. If it is purely a typographical error, then the Speaker, has got powers to correct it without necessarily it being brought to the House.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to raise a general issue of procedure regarding the business on the Order Paper today as shown in Order Nos.7,9,10,11,12 and 13. For purposes of proper

management--

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Anyona! We have not--

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was going to explain that. For purposes of proper management of our business, it may be better to set the principle at the beginning rather than do each one at a time when it arises because the principle is the same. This House started extremely well in the new millennium. The Presidential Address and the debate thereafter on it went on extremely well. The Supplementary Estimates and Statement of Excess also went very well yesterday. It is very important that we maintain that tempo. This Order Paper, today, if allowed to go the way it is, would create a discrepancy in that process.

Under Order No.7, with the provisions of the Standing Order No.101(A), the requirement is that the Maseno University Bill should be read the First Time. Subsequently, it must be referred to the Education Committee, Committee No.C. That is the procedure concerning that one. Order No.8, Procedural Motion, is alright in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No.99, where the House grants leave for it to move on more than one stage. So, that procedural Motion is alright. Subsequently, under Order No.9, the Bill will then be read the First Time, if the House so allows. But after that, under Standing Order No.101 (a) paragraphs one, two, three and four, the Bill is required to be subjected to the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee. Therefore, it cannot go to the Second Reading under Order No.11. Similarly, there is no leave of the House, which is a mandatory requirement. Similarly, Order No.10, which is the next Bill, will be read the First Time, and then committed to the Finance Committee and stops there. Therefore, Order No.12 and 13 will arise. Therefore, in sum, it means that our business ends on Order No.10!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Anyona! I think you are really jumping the gun, if you are going beyond Orders which have not really been put before the House. I get the general gist of your argument, but I think to be procedural, which is the theme that you are trying to prop, let us follow the procedure. I am prepared to deal with each Order as and when it comes. So, let us proceed to the next Order!

BILL

First Reading

THE MASENO UNIVERSITY BILL

*(Order for the First Reading read - Read
the First Time - Ordered to be read the
Second Time Tomorrow)*

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is what I was anticipating! The Ministry might not even be aware that, it is required to commit this Bill to the relevant Committee! The Bill has been read the First Time and the requirement of Standing Order No.101 (a) paragraph two is that, the Bill be committed to the relevant Committee either by the Minister, or by a Member of the Committee. If neither of those two things happen, a Member of the Committee can also propose that the Bill be committed to the relevant Committee. So, if there is a Member of the Education, Research and Technology Committee, he can move that. But if that is not done, they will not have complied with the rules.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was expecting the Minister in-charge to commit this particular Bill to Education, Research and Technology Committee. But since he has not done it, I would like to commit it to the Departmental Committee on education, Research and Technology for discussion.

*(The Maseno University Bill was referred
to the Education, Research and
Technology Committee)*

MOTION

REDUCTION OF PUBLICATION PERIOD OF BILLS

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that the publication period of the Central Depositories Bill (Bill No.3), and the Capital Markets Authority (Amendment) Bill (Bill No.4) be reduced from 14 to 7 days.

Basically, the rationale behind this Motion is that, these two Bills had previously been committed to the relevant Committee of the House. It is only that, we did not have time to debate them during the last Session. So, what we are seeking is the House to pass this particular Motion in order to facilitate early deliberations of the two critical Bills.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is okay to ask this House to reduce the number of days from 14 to seven. But the Minister has not given any reasons as to why he wants to reduce the days from 14 to seven. He has merely stood up and asked the House to reduce the days. We cannot rubber-stamp this kind of thing. These two Bills are very important and hon. Members, would wish to go through them. The Bills deal with finance matters, which many Members are not conversant with. So, really, I would have expected the Minister to give reasons as to why he wants to reduce the period from 14 to seven days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that, hon. Members need time to look at the two Bills. To me, they appear related. We need to go through them. I do not think there is so much of a thing about 14 days. If we reduce the period of publication, from 14 days to seven, we are talking of seven days! So, I believe if the Minister could give certain pertinent reasons, this House is reasonable enough to give him that period.

Secondly, even at the time of referring these Bills to the Committee Stage, I do not know, but maybe, the Minister for Finance will tell us. But on my own, I think this House should not grant this reduction. We would like this matter to be referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade so that, it can be looked at and discussed properly. We will have more time to look at the Bills, consult the stakeholders in this game and probably, contribute more reasonably on the Bills.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I too, beg to oppose this Motion.

While we appreciate that, it is important to discuss the Central Depositories Bill, there is no reason here, either forwarded or that we can think of, of reducing the publication time of this Bill. There is nothing at all urgent about this Bill. We all know that, the Depository Committees have been there for many years. The details of what is included in this Bill are all known, and they can take effect any time, even after one year or so. Although it is important to have the two Bills, I do not see any reason why the Minister should come and tell us that, we should reduce the time, so that we can have time to discuss them. In any case, we need time to read the Bills. The Bills were only put in the Pigeon Holes yesterday! We have not even read them! I tried to go over them quickly, but I noticed that there are a lot of things that we need to know in the Bills. There are a lot of things that are included, that we need to read and understand. Let Parliament not be used as a rubber-stamp, just because we agreed to give in on the Supplementary Estimates yesterday! The Government now thinks we can do the same for every other Bill. There is no urgency in this matter at all! There is no necessity! There is no reason given! That is why the Deputy Leader of Government Business did not have any reason to tell us on why we should reduce the days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the whole House to reject this particular Motion now! We should give ourselves time to go and read the Bills! We should given the Government time to go and read the two Bills, so that when we come to debate them, we will all come out with a consensus that is acceptable in this country. But we should not allow this!

With those few remarks, I vehemently oppose this Motion.

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I did very well say that the rationale behind this requirement---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Mudavadi, you cannot stand to clarify what you had already said. You will have a timed chance to reply. Hon. Kariuki!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although I normally agree with friends on this side of the House, I would disagree with hon. Mwenje on the sentiments he aired against the Minister. This is a very urgent Bill that should be pushed through the House. It is a very important one, indeed, for the development of capital markets in this country. We have been talking about democratising the stock market so as to give Kenyans a chance to own shares. This is one of the measures that will help Kenyans to access ownership to foreign companies and, therefore, this is a very important and urgent Bill that should be pushed through the House as soon as possible.

An hon. Member: Can he declare his interest?

Mr. Kariuki: I declare my interest and that is, I am one of the participants in the market and I am speaking on behalf of other Kenyans who also do participate, hon. Mwenje being one of them.

Mr. Mwenje: No, I do not!

Mr. Kariuki: I think you are a shareholder in many companies. With due respect---

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can we get some guidance from the Chair whether the sentiments expressed by both the Mover of the Motion and hon. Kariuki that there is some urgency from some quarters--- I do not know whether it is the World Bank or the Stock Exchange. Somebody can actually come and place a gun here and say: "Can you go over this quickly", and the House is on fire.

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

Mr. Maore: My point of order is---

An hon. Member: That is not a point of order!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, I have said repeatedly that the Chair will not allow you to stand on a point of order and proceed to ask questions. You are arguing with the speaker on the floor. Hon. Kariuki, proceed!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Mwenje talks about other depositories being in place. There is none at all in Kenya. What we are doing is that we have been dealing with paperwork which is very cumbersome and wastes a lot of time. We now want to computerise and be in tune with other stock exchanges in the world and that is why Kenya is lagging behind. We are talking about Information Technology (IT). This is IT and it should be put in place so that we can be connected with London, New York and other stock markets. We should not lag behind and I think it is so important and so urgent that hon. Mwenje should be one of the first ones to support it.

Mr. Mwenje: No, I cannot support it!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is wrong with you, hon. Mwenje? Proceed, hon. Kariuki!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the only provision here is that I think Members should be given a chance to look at the Bill so that they can keep themselves abreast with the contents of the Bill. If they want to consult, they can come to me and I will advise them on the various aspects. With that, I would like to request my colleagues to support this Bill so that we can push ahead.

Mr. Mkalla: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would first wish to allay the hon. Members' fears that this Bill has just come in. The issue is that the Bill came in during the Third Session last year. Particularly, the Central Depositories Bill was referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance, Trade and Planning. We did have serious meetings with the stakeholders from Nairobi Stock Exchange, Capital Markets Authority, Institute of Economic Affairs and from Apollo Insurance. We made our recommendations to the Minister then and these recommendations have since been included in the current published Bill. However, due to the technical procedures which we must follow and which I do agree with as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, I have agreed that the Bill must be read first and it should be returned to the Finance Committee for scrutiny.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Mkalla: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all that I am saying is---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House agrees. So you do not agree but the House does.

Mr. Mkalla: Sorry, Mr. Deputy Sir. I am saying that the Bill should be referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance, Trade and Planning. Since we have discussed and I have gone through the contents of the new Bill---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, we are discussing the Procedural Motion and not the contents of the Bill. It is the Procedural Motion to reduce the publication period from 14 to 7 days.

Mr. Mkalla: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support that we reduce the number from 14 to 7 days.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would clarify from the very outset that I do not oppose this Bill whatsoever.

I think in principle, one would like to support this sort of Bill being debated and being passed as speedily as possible. So, as a matter of policy, there is no objection. However, this is a very technical Bill. It has got very technical provisions. I have been reading it. I have telephoned one or two people. Nothing is more dangerous than for any person to put this signature on something that he does not understand. It is absolutely necessary if we as a House are going to discharge our responsibilities, to know what we are doing. I am pleased to hear about the indication from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Trade and Planning that it will go back there because we in this House who may not be experts in finance will then be guided by statements from Members of the Finance Committee who will have gone very carefully through each word and clause and certified that it is okay. I feel a little embarrassed about not being on the same side with my fellow Member, hon. Ngenye Kariuki particularly because he is very conversant with these things.

However, I am talking about the responsibility of this House as a House. We need those 14 days. You need to make sure there are other people in other jurisdictions who even organise seminars for Members of Parliament so that you can take them carefully through the provisions of the Bill so that they understand what they are passing. At the moment, if you rush us to reduce this period of 14 days to 7 days, then we will be passing something that we do not understand. I, for one, I am not able to do that. Unless, really, there are other convincing reasons as to what is going to happen if we pass this Bill in 14 days time rather than today--- Are the heavens going to come down? What is this urgency? We are going to pass it once we understand it. So, what is the rush? Where is the emergency? Let us have those 14 days so that we can understand it, debate it and then we pass it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Motion.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Procedural Motion under Standing Order No.98. Now, I think from what I said, we do want to stick to our rules strictly. I think, in future, if ever the Government requests to reduce the publication period, it must be something that goes without saying; it must not be a gimmick and this House will not allow gimmicks. On that basis, I personally would have been opposed to the reduction of the publication period. Now, I will not for this simple reason: That if it were not for the fact that at the end of the last Session, all business, including Bills that were before the House, whether in the Second Reading, Committee Stage or Third Reading, as long as they were not fully sanctioned, they did lapse. That is the law. That is, therefore, the reason why we would have to publish the Bills afresh. In fact, this is a very expensive exercise, but democracy is an expensive process. We have spent a lot of money in publishing a Bill which I believe is exactly the same as the one which was published in the last session. However, because we want to be democratic and follow our procedures, we spend that money. Where we can make a saving in the area of time under Standing Order No.98 which allows the House to allow the period to be reduced from 14 days even to one day as long as it is not a gimmick and the saving grace in this is this: That we know that it was published, read the First Time in the House and committed to the Committee of the House and, in fact, and that a report is ready. So, on that basis, rationally, I think the House would be acting contrary to the good interests of the House to say: "Let us take another 14 days". I think what the House must require, demand and insist on, and that is what I was raising, is that the Bill must be committed to the Committee so that members are able to look at their report, see if it meets the requirements of the standards of the House. If they so feel, they can bring it on Tuesday. If they feel that there is need to look at the Bill more closely and that is what the House is indicating, then please do not rush it. As hon. Muite said, the sky is not coming down on this issue or on other issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the Motion and persuade the House that, we be rational. These are House rules which we make for good reasons and as long as we are assured--- If we are not assured, then we are going to take a stand that, the two Bills will, indeed, be committed to the Committee. Then, I really think that the House would be acting in the best interest of the country, if we allowed the publication--- This is because you are not going to read the Bill, even if you are given another 14 days. You are not going to read anything more because you have read it! In any case, in fact, before the Bill comes to the House here, hon. Members do not even read it. So, I would really like to persuade hon. Members that, we allow the publication period to be reduced, but we insist that the two Bills are committed to the relevant Departmental Committee.

Thank you.

Mr. Kamolleh: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think as the Chairman of the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee has told us, these Bills were already subjected to that Committee and although they lapsed that time, they had already been looked into. Now, they did make their reports but they cannot give the report to the House because they have to wait until this particular Bill has passed the First Reading. Last time, when Roads Board Bill was brought to the House, we did subject it very vigorously to the relevant Committee and it was refined pretty well. By the time it came back to us, we were able to give it ago-ahead.

[Mr. Kamolleh]

I believe that, in this very case right now, since the Committee has already touched on it, and it is just a matter of refining it; perhaps, as hon. Anyona has said, why do we not let the Bill go for the First Reading, then it will go back to the Committee. Thereafter, I do not think we will need the 14 days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It shall not go through the First Reading unless it has been published for 14 days. Read the Standing Orders! That is the purpose of this Motion; to reduce that period of 14 days to seven days. That is the Motion before us!

Mr. Kamolleh: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Since the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee has already looked into it, I think the seven days period is quite enough and we do not need to simply say "no" for the sake of saying "no". Here, it is a matter of being considerate rather than simply being hard nuts.

I would really urge the House to give the Bill seven days, rather than simply saying "no" for the sake of it. There is so much business that we still want to do. So, seven days will be adequate.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Let us look for a voice of reason. Let us not look at the numbers that we have in the House right now. Let us look at why the Standing Orders were written. As hon. Anyona has rightly said, when the House adjourns *sine die*, everything dies including Questions, Motions and so on. The same applies to the Bills.

As a Member of the House Business Committee, let me accept that, I was present when this Order Paper was prepared. But merely, after listening to the voices of people today, I do not think there is anything of great substance that will go wrong with these very, very important Bills. I think what we are trying to do is to set the records straight so that in the future we do not take short-cuts. Two, most Members in this House are not financial-minded and they need time to read the Bills. Since I received these two Bills yesterday, I can assure the Chair that, I have had not a single minute to look at them. So, I do not even know what is contained in them. I would like to think that most of my colleagues are in the same position. What we are saying, is that, we want that Committee to meet, be it tomorrow--- Let it meet and go through this Bill, then can come and give us a report. Let them educate us, the way they were educated by those stakeholders who came forward and educated them. This is essentially what we are asking for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am asking for a voice of reason today. The Government side has got a lot of hon. Members. There can be another great hurdle that can be forthcoming, once this Motion is passed. So, we need both sides of the House to reason out together. I would also like to inform the House that, if we are not very careful, we may have no business to do on Tuesday next week.

With those few words, I beg to oppose.

The Minister for Mineral Exploitation (Mr. Kalweo): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will just be very brief. Technically, there is nothing to be discussed in today's Order Paper because if we follow the technicalities, we will just go through the Orders and then adjourn the House too early. That is my understanding of the Order Paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! If you look at the last Order, Order No.13, it is the Committee of the Whole House. That is the last order on today's Order Paper.

The Minister for Mineral Exploitation (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, I know that, but when we come to those questions that will be asked, you will find it difficult to move. So, if we oppose this Procedural Motion, I do not think we will be having any business to transact during the following weeks. I think this is the reason why we should reduce the days from 14 to seven. If the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee had gone through this matter at that time--- We should have known why they did that. This is why, maybe, we need to give the House time to discuss this matter further so that we can continue with the House business next week. That is my understanding of this Motion.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of substantive arguments have already been made. I just want to briefly make very few remarks.

It should already be clear to the Deputy Leader of Government Business that, if he wins, on his desire to have the Procedural Motion passed now, the main purpose of which the Motion is to allow for the subsequent business, reduction of period, leave of the House to discuss the same Bill, and he is being given reasons by both sides of the House that, we will not discuss the substance of this Bill before a report from the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee has been brought to us, it will be a pyrrhic victory. He will not be given leave by this House this afternoon. So, it is in the interest of the Minister that, since we are agreed on both sides of the House that we first receive a report of the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee before we discuss the Bill, since that is likely to take care of, at least, up to Thursday next week, this Bill can come as properly done within 14 days. There is no need for this leave!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened to a very good friend of mine, hon. Kalweo. He told us that, we should pass this Motion because if we do not pass it, there is no business to be transacted. I find it a very strange argument that, we should do something we find nonsensical because if we do not do it, we will have nothing else to do. That is an argument of a Minister of this Government!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Order, hon. Dr. Kituyi! Really, you must stand in your place to advance your arguments not to argue against what other Members have said. So, just advance your argument. You were doing quite well by the way, but now you are messing up your own case.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought the schools I attended when I was taught logic--- I was taught that, in an argument, you can prosecute a certain argument or you can also negate the contra-argument.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! This is not a school! This is Parliament which has got its rules; one of them is that, you stand up and advance your arguments. If the other Members talked nonsense, let the House decide because it will either agree with him or not!

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will leave you to judge this one. If I want to present my argument, part of the reason is to negate other arguments which are contrary to my argument and that is what I have already done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Are you engaging in an argument with the Chair?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to argue with the Chair, but I want to say the following: First, the hon. Musalia Mudavadi, who moved this Procedural Motion---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Address the Chair!

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fact that a matter was before the House at the time we adjourned the last Session last time, it means that we are starting from zero. But this does not in any way justify the reduction of the period of publication. So, the only reason presented for the reduction of that period of publication is nugatory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that the matter before us is very important for establishing the information super highway for purposes of share trading and also for consolidating the legal instruments for the management of trust and non-trust schemes. There is no doubt that this is a good Bill. I have enjoyed the privilege of listening to some of the caucuses discussing it. But that is not good enough reason to ask the House to give the Minister a pyrrhic victory. It will be in his interest to withdraw this Motion. If he does not, he can win it, which I doubt right now, but after winning it, he will not get the leave to proceed.

With those remarks, I beg to strongly oppose it.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are really worried because yesterday the Government sought leave of the House to reduce expenditure. Today, the same Government is seeking leave to reduce time. The next thing we are going to hear is the same Government seeking leave to reduce the life of this House. So, we are really worried by the trend which the Government has taken. In fact, I am privy to information that the Government wants to reduce the life of Parliament by calling for early elections for reasons that are better known by the ruling party. We want to support as many Bills as possible and as much business as possible. It is also true that by the close of the year we normally have so much business pending. So, we would like this House to do as much business as possible. But the trend of reducing everything which has been adopted by the Government is a bit worrying!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. W. Morogo): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. It appears to me that hon. Members have exhausted discussing this Motion. I beg to move that the Mover, be called upon to reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it does seem to me too that we are beginning to get a lot of repetitions. The points have been made clearly that there are dangers along the route we are going to take in that, hon. Members will not have had enough time to give consideration to the two very important Bills. Our Standing Orders do in fact, require us to go into Committee after the First Reading. We may find ourselves enslaved by our own rules. Unfortunately, that is what the Standing Orders say. In my view, it is a very badly written Standing Order. But for the time being it is what we have and it is the one which we must use. I will now call upon the Mover to reply.

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this was a Procedural Motion and maybe a lot is being unnecessarily read into it. I just want to assure the House that what we were trying to do here was to seek a reduction of the days of publication. Initially, we would not have had any business in the House because we just committed the Maseno University Bill to the relevant Committee of the House. So, there was nothing unusual in this Motion. I just want to say that we have no objection whatsoever, if it is the wish of the House that we revert to the 14 days. Therefore, I do not want to belabour it. If this Procedural Motion is splitting hairs, I can withdraw it. But I wish to reassure the House that our intention was to facilitate early debate on the Central Depositories Bill and the Capital Markets Authority Bill. Hopefully, when the Bills come up for debate, the hon. Members will give them the necessary support. At the same time, I would like to request that the Finance Committee meets tomorrow and hopefully, by next week, they will be able to present a report on those two Bills.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If the Minister withdraws the Motion, then the First Reading will not have taken place hence the Bills cannot go to the Committee. Do not request the Finance Committee to meet tomorrow. They will have to wait until the Bills mature and are brought here for the First Reading. If you withdraw the Motion, there will be a vacuum and we will have to wait.

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole issue here is that we were trying to make sure that we have business. But if it is the wish of the House that the Procedural Motion should not go through, then I do not want us to split hairs on it.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Speaker, Sir, I thought the Minister would pursue the idea of the period of publication to remain at seven days and then when it comes to seeking leave of the House, we decline and then by next week, he can bring these Bills here.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know why the Minister is frightened. It is only rational that this House passes the Procedural Motion to allow the Bill to be read the First Time so that it can go to the Committee immediately. If he withdraws the Motion, then there is a vacuum and we cannot move. So, I would

like to encourage the Minister to Move the Motion. We are appealing to the House to pass it so that we can commit the two Bills to the relevant Committee. We will not go to the Second Reading.

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I can say is that I feel very encouraged by the sentiments that have been made by hon. Anyona.

With those remarks, I beg to move the Motion!

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think there was a bit of over-excitement. In fact, Standing Order No.98 says:- "No Bill shall be introduced unless such Bill, together with the memorandum referred in Standing Order No.97 memorandum of objects and reasons) has been published in the Gazette as a Bill to be originated in the House, and unless in the case of a Consolidated Fund Bill and Appropriation Bill or a Supplementary Appropriation Bill a period of seven days and in the case of any other Bill, a period of 14 days beginning in each case with the day of such publication or such shorter period as the House may resolve with respect to the Bill has ended."

(Question put and agreed to)

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is the wisdom we were expecting from the House. We hope that, that side of the House will now concede and commit the two Bills to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! We shall now proceed to read the Bills for the First Time. Next Order!

BILLS

First Readings

THE CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES BILL

(Orders for First Readings read - Read the First Time - Ordered to be read the Second Time today by leave of the House)

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that The Central Depositories Bill be read for the First Time.

Hon. Members: No, it has already been committed to the Finance, Planning and Trade Departmental Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to correct that. In accordance with Standing Order No.101A(1), I wish to move that The Central Depositories Bill be committed to the Committee in Finance, Planning and Trade Committee.

(The Bill was referred to the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee today)

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

THE CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Orders for First Reading read - Read the First Time - Ordered to be read the Second Time today by leave of the House)

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in accordance with Standing Order No.101A(1), I beg to move that The Capital Markets Authority (Amendment) Bill be committed to the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee.

*The Bill was referred to the Finance,
Planning and Trade Committee)*

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi) seconded.
Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

Second Readings
THE CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES BILL

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Why do you not give the Minister a chance?

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the decisions that have been taken by committing the Bills to the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee; then the subsequent items appearing on the Order Paper do not hold. Therefore, we beg to move that, we look at other matters.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

THE CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the same applies.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. Therefore, the House is adjourned until Tuesday, 18th April, 2000, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.35 p.m.