

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 15th October, 2002

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WRONG REFERENCE TO MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, there is a little correction I want to make. I saw in one of the newspapers, a picture of the hon. Deputy Speaker. The paper referred to him as a former Deputy Speaker. I wish to bring to the attention of the Press and the country at large, that Mr. Job Omino is still the Deputy Speaker of this House.

(Applause)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.436

FUNCTIONS OF FAMINE RELIEF FUND

Mr. Speaker: Is Dr. Ali not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No.484

ILLEGAL LAND ALLOCATION IN KASARANI

Mr. Muchiri asked the Minister of State, Office of the President, why he has failed to assist the owners of LR.No.57726, Ex-Kentity Limited, situated at Githurai Zimmerman, and LR.No.22899 Kasarani (opposite Kasarani Police Station) from the invaders who are obtaining thousands of shillings under the pretext that the Government has allowed the allocation of the said parcels of land.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not know the import of this Question because it does not make sense to me. So, I do not know what to answer. Just read it, Mr. Speaker; it does not make sense.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Under what provision of our Standing Orders does a matter which has gotten the clearance of the Speaker and the Clerk's Office have to make sense to hon. Dr. Anangwe?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Questions reads:-

"Why has the Minister failed to assist the owners of LR.No.57726, Ex-Kentity Limited, situated at Githurai Zimmerman, and LR.No.22899 Kasarani (opposite Kasarani Police Station) from the invaders who are obtaining thousands of shillings under the pretext that the Government has allowed the allocation of the said parcels of land."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know exactly what I am being asked to do.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think we are demanding too much from the Assistant Minister. You know, Mzee looked at him: "*Akaona anarudi chini, na ndio sababu akamteua kuwa Waziri Msaidizi badala ya Waziri kamili.*" That is why he cannot understand this Question.

Mr. Speaker: What has that got to do with the comprehension of the text?

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We want your guidance on this. The Assistant Minister is well educated and I understand he was once a lecturer in the University of Nairobi. This is very simple English used here. Is he aware or not?

Mr. Speaker: Well, I can confirm that Dr. Anangwe, indeed, went to some of the best schools in this country.

Dr. Anangwe, could you, please, answer the Question?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree, this is simple English. What is the Question asking me to do? It is not asking whether I am aware or not, but "why".

Mr. Speaker: Order! I shall address this one while we move on to the next Question.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue here is very simple. Here are two parcels of land that belong to somebody and some people are obtaining thousands of shillings from members of the public under the pretext that the Government has allowed the allocation of these parcels of land. The hon. Member wants the Minister to deal with people who are illegally collecting money from members of the public.

Mr. Speaker: Well done, Mr. Ndicho! Dr. Anangwe, could you, please, answer the Question.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that it has been made more clear to me, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware of the complaints---

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

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sungu, what are you doing on that side of the House? You are being very nomadic.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am now a Member of the Opposition.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sungu, what are you saying?

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am now a Member of the Opposition!

Mr. Speaker: Are you telling me that?

Mr. Sungu: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I will take that very seriously. I will check in the HANSARD and if, indeed, you are declaring to me that you have defected from your party---

An hon. Member: He has no party!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Then you will be out of this House!

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Previously, you have made a ruling that you do not even know which party some hon. Members belong to. You have even taken this matter to court. Therefore, it will be out of order for you, Mr. Speaker, to say Mr. Sungu is wrong to be on this side of the House. Will you kindly withdraw that statement?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Mwenje, it is not a joking matter when a Member stands to tell me to my face that he has left the party that sponsored him because it is better than a written notification. What I did say the other time is that some hon. Members purport to get out of their party without informing the Speaker. When that happens, then I do not know because I do not go by the hearsay. But when a Member tells me to my face that he has, indeed, left the party sponsoring him, I must be loyal to the Constitution because I swore to uphold it.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Order! I will check in the HANSARD---

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not challenging your ruling, but the Constitution of this country and our Standing Orders provide that when the party that sponsored you to Parliament ceases to be a parliamentary party you become an independent Member of Parliament, and you can affiliate yourself to any party. These hon. Members were not sponsored by KANU. They visited KANU, and they have now come back home.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! You have just stated what I said in the past. Indeed, when the defunct National Development Party (NDP) ceased to exist, I allowed Mr. Nyanja and Dr. Ochuodho to generally sit wherever they pleased, because they had no party; their party had ceased to exist. My understanding is---

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in the Democratic Party of Kenya!

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! On a more serious note, I would like hon. Members to be more careful on what they say on the Floor of this House. Whatever you say here gets into public records, and I am the custodian of those records. I am also the custodian of the provisions of the Constitution that apply to the National Assembly. I am sworn to uphold the Constitution, and I promise you that I will uphold it. So, be careful about what you say on the Floor of this House.

Anyway, Mr. Sungu, what did you want to say?

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a different matter, because we are over with the matter I had stood on. I thought that the issue at hand was very serious because the Assistant Minister was actually challenging the Chair. I think we should not set a precedent in this House by allowing Assistant Ministers who have not understood a Question to challenge the Chair. That will be a bad precedent. He is now going to answer the Question which he had pretended not to answer. That is a very serious matter. It is more serious than what I had earlier on said.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not challenging the Chair. All that I needed was a clarification. The clarification that was made here by Mr. Ndicho is not reflected in this Question. I had to go through guesswork to understand exactly what Mr. Muchiri was expecting from me. Given that he kept quiet when Mr. Ndicho explained the matter, I took it that, that was what he meant.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Ngure, could you, please, sit down?

(Mr. Ngure resumed his seat)

Hon. Members, as you know, there will be a Committee of Supply today. We intend to dispose of as many Questions as we can. We have now had enough of the lighter side of our work. Let us get back to serious business.

Mr. Assistant Minister, proceed seriously!

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

I am not aware of complaints relating to plot LR No.57726, Ex-Kentity Limited. Furthermore, plot LR No.22899 is Government land. Therefore, the question of my assisting the owners to get rid of the invaders does not arise.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, the Assistant Minister should have apologised because he was not here to answer the Question when it was called out the first time. Secondly, the Assistant Minister is misleading the House because he knows very well the people who have taken other people's land by force are members of KANU.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have personally taken the complainant to the Provincial Commissioner's office. I am surprised that the Assistant Minister now says that the said land does not belong to anybody.

The other land parcel was allocated to the Judiciary---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, what is exciting all of you?

Hon. Members: It is this *Mzee*, Mr. Karume.

Mr. Speaker: What about him?

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Chair aware of the disintegration of KANU and the shift of some former KANU Members to the Opposition, where they belonged; and could Mr. Karume say whether he belongs to the Government side?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, we must now be serious. I do not even see where Mr. Karume is seated.

Hon. Members: He is seated on the Opposition side.

Mr. Speaker: But he is in the right place!

Hon. Members: No, he is not!

(Mr. Gitonga sat on the Government side)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! For a while, I thought that you were referring to Mr. Gitonga as Mr. Karume.

Hon. Members: No, we were not!

Mr. Speaker: Could we now proceed?

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the said land---

(Mr. Otita entered the Chamber without bowing to the Chair)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Otita, you must understand that this House is in session; it has its rules, which you must obey. May I also say the following to all hon. Members: Please, respect this House. Do not make a joke of it. It is still not too late for me to enforce its rules.

Mr. Otita, could you now proceed to the Bar, bow to the Chair and move to wherever you please?

(Mr. Otita went to the Bar, bowed and then sat on the Opposition side)

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to accept that the land in question has been---

(Mr. Haji entered the Chamber)

Hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, this House---

(A cellphone rang)

Mr. Speaker: Now, what is that?

Hon. Members: It is music!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, as we come to the end of the Eighth Parliament, let us ensure that we do not leave behind a very bad history. Let us make sure that our term ends when we still have our honour intact. It is a tradition for the House to congratulate any hon. Member who is elevated to a Minister.

Hon. Members: No! Not any more!

Mr. Speaker: Could we now proceed with the Question before the House?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was on---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Michuki, who gave you the Floor?

An hon. Member: He was on the Floor raising a point of order!

Mr. Speaker: What point of order were you raising, Mr. Michuki?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the Assistant Minister's own reply to the Question, I was trying to find out whether it was in order for him to allow what he now calls "Government land" to be invaded by private persons, and for them to trade on it when it has been legally allocated to a Government Department?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the land parcel issue, LR No.57726, does not exist anywhere in the records in the Ministry of Lands and Settlement. Therefore, the issue of ownership of this particular parcel of land does not arise, unless the hon. Member tables here proof of the owners of LR No.57726. I still insist that LR No.22899 is Government land. I have with me a letter dated 20th June, 2002, written by the Commissioner of Lands, and he is very categorical that this is Government land.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to avoid answering Mr. Michuki's question? Why is the Government allowing private developers to make money out of its land before it dishes it out to them?

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member has any proof of someone having obtained money from the public, I would advise him to report immediately to the nearest police station.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to table this document to prove that this piece of land belongs to some people. There is a typographical error in the LR number and the Assistant Minister is aware of it. Secondly, the land has been allocated to the Judiciary, and a letter has been written to the Provincial Commissioner and the District Officer by the Commissioner of Lands asking them to prevent invaders from entering into the land. Nothing has been done up to this moment, and people are still putting up structures on the land.

Dr. Anangwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has made reference to one parcel of land only. I have already said that one parcel of land is Government land and the other one does not exist. He is not very explicit as to which parcel of land he has referred to, so that I could answer his question. Notwithstanding the lack of clarification, may I say that there is a general problem in Nairobi, where landless people invade places that have not been developed. It will take a bit of time to sort out this issue because we have to find an alternative place where the squatters can be

taken to.

Question No.372

COMPLETION OF MALABA/KOCHOLIA
WATER PROJECT

Mr. Sifuna asked the Minister for Water Development:-

(a) whether he is aware that Malaba/Kocholia Water Project, which started over 15 years ago to serve the people of Kimaeti, West Bukusu Location in Bumula Division, and part of Teso District, has not been completed; and,

(b) when this water project will be completed.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. arap Ngeny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that the project has not been fully completed. I am, however, aware that Phase I of the project has now been implemented and was handed over to the Ministry in June, 2002.

(b) The remaining works under Phase II of the project will be undertaken as soon finances are available, possibly in the financial year 2003/2004.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell this House why the project has not been completed even after it has taken 15 years? The Minister has referred to a Phase I of the project. Which part of my constituency does this Phase I serve? In the area, taps are dry and there is nothing like Phase I or Phase II of the project.

Mr. arap Ngeny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the project has taken long to be completed. That is why I had personally to tour the project in 1998 to verify what was the problem on the ground. After my tour, the Government immediately implemented Phase I of the water project. As far as constituencies are concerned, the project was designed more than 15 years ago, when, in fact, it was within one district. But since then, a new district has been created and this has necessitated delineation of the area to be served by the water project. I believe that when Phase II of the project is completed, everybody will be taken care of.

Mr. Sifuna: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not know what the Minister is talking about. My question was simple: What areas are being served by Phase I of the water project? Are they in Malaba, Kimaeti or West Bukusu?

Mr. arap Ngeny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the name of the project is "Malaba/Kocholia Water Scheme". This implies that the water project covers the areas within Malaba and Kocholia areas.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware that ten years ago, the KANU Government promised to supply every Kenyan with clean drinking water by the year 2000? If he is aware, what happened to the promise that every Kenyan would have piped water in their homes by the year 2000?

Mr. Ngeny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated more than ten times in this House, that the Government gave a statement of intention. It was the intention of the Government to supply piped water to every Kenyan by the year 2000. Those were intentions, views and plans which are not the same as policy.

However, right now, 50 per cent of the rural population has been connected to water schemes. They may not be having water in the pipes due to operational and other issues, but the schemes have been designed. But 80 per cent of the urban population has been supplied with water. So, the objective has been fulfilled.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have heard the "hanging" Minister saying that 50 per cent of the rural population has water connections. Is it in order for the Minister to mislead the House that 50 per cent of the people in the rural areas have been connected to water schemes? We know that not more than 15 per cent of the people in the rural areas have been supplied with piped water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Government apologise to Kenyans for misleading the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! I appreciate that hon. Members want to make certain points, but that should not make it appear as if we cannot conduct any business any more. Mr. Gatabaki, that was your point of view, just as the Minister gave his point of view. Let the public judge your views! So, that is not a point of order.

Mr. Minister, would you like to finish before I call Mr. Sifuna?

Mr. Ngeny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, we should appreciate the definition of that intention. The intention was that within a certain distance, Kenyans would access piped water. That is why I have said that 50 per cent of the rural population has been connected to water supplies within a defined area of operation.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister is giving a misleading reply to this House. Since this Malaba/Kocholia Water Project was started 15 years ago, no single person has used that water.

Could the Minister be honest enough and tell this House when this particular project will be completed rather

than taking us round, left and right, so that the people of the area can be served with clean water?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that Phase I of the project is complete and it is worth Kshs45 million. I said that Phase II of the project will start as soon as funds are available.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Phase I the Minister is referring to is not there. Can he now tell this House which people Phase I is serving? Could he further tell this House who these people which Phase I of this Malaba/Kocholia Water Project is serving?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Malaba/Kocholia are in Phase I of the project.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Capt. Ntwiga!

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Speaker, before I can ask Question No.534, I would like to inform you that I have not received any written answer.

Question No.534

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MR. M'MUGA

Capt. Ntwiga asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that a banana plantation belonging to Mr. Andriano Njoka M'Muga, valued at Kshs40,986, was destroyed in 1986 during the creation of Nyayo Tea Zone Belt around Mt. Kenya region;

(b) whether he is further aware that a ministerial letter TN/CROP/12 VOL.1/38 dated 30th April, 1999, accepted liability; and,

(c) when the Ministry will compensate the farmer.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister for Agriculture is not here? We will come back to that Question. Next Question, Mr. Angwenyi!

Question No.047

UPGRADING OF MARANI HOSPITAL

Mr. Angwenyi asked the Minister for Medical Services:-

(a) whether he is aware that Marani Sub-district Hospital serves a population of more than 200,000 people;

(b) if he is further aware that this health facility does not even have a single doctor; and,

(c) if he could consider upgrading this facility to a district hospital and post doctors and other medical personnel to serve this large population.

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

(a) I am not aware that Marani Sub-district Hospital serves a population of more than 200,000 people.

(b) I am aware that there is no doctor at Marani Sub-district Hospital.

(c) There are no immediate plans to upgrade Marani Sub-district Hospital to a district hospital because of financial limitations. It will, however, be renovated and staffed with more specialised services when the financial position allows us.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the Minister never uses reports of the Government. In this case, the Minister has not used the latest national census report which clearly states that Kitutu-Chache, which is served by this Marani Sub-district Hospital, has got a population of 208,000. Therefore, if the Minister did not use this report and I am giving him the information, and he is now aware that Kitutu-Chache has got a population of 208,000, could he consider upgrading Marani Sub-district Hospital to a district hospital?

(Members of the Rainbow Alliance entered the Chamber and sat on the Government side)

(Applause from the Opposition side)

Mr. Mohamed: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not disputing that this facility serves many people, but what I am not sure is whether they are 208,000 or slightly less than that in number. However, the Ministry is not in a position right

now to upgrade the hospital to a district hospital.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know why you allow Ministers to continue misleading this House. Here is the census book. If the Minister has not set his eyes on them, here they are and he can use them. In fact, there are many copies in Room No.8 upstairs. We have approved funds for many district hospitals in this country which do not serve a fraction of the people who are served by Marani Sub-district Hospital. When is this Government going to be concerned about the welfare of its people and post a doctor to this hospital?

Mr. Mohamed: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is concerned with the plight of the people of Kenya and we will post a doctor when the position improves because right now we are experiencing a shortage of doctors. However, I can assure the hon. Member that when the situation improves, I will post a doctor to Marani Sub-district Hospital.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think you had better clarify this matter because my friend, hon. Sungu, is telling me that he is in total confusion because hon. Raila and his group are now sitting on the Government side, and yet they belong to the Opposition. He is telling me to tell hon. Raila that it would have made some impact if his group would move and sit on the Opposition side.

Mr. Musila: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for me to request you to exercise your discretion in accordance with Standing Order No.1 and reserve these benches for Members of the National Rainbow Coalition, who are many in number?

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order! As I have said on several occasions, I do not dictate to Members where they should sit. The only thing I have observed as a matter of long experience in the Chair here is that, that corner where Mr. Angwenyi is sitting has been occupied most of the time by Ministers who have been relieved of their duties.

(Laughter)

I did not make any ruling on that. In fact, you can sit wherever you are pleased, with exception of here in the Front Bench.

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. G. Galgalo): They are rebels!

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for an hon. Member to refer to another one as a "rebel"? Do you have such a vocabulary because my hon. friend here, Dr. Galgalo, has referred to some of us here as rebels? Do we have that vocabulary in our Standing Orders?

Mr. Speaker: Order! By the very definition of an hon. Member, the two are mutually exclusive. You cannot be honourable and be rebellious at the same time.

(Laughter)

So, hon Members are just that: hon. Members! I know of no rebels; I know of hon. Members. As I said, the two terms are mutually exclusive of one another.

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

Mr. Speaker: Can we do business now! What is it?

Hon. Members: The Members of the National Rainbow Coalition are defecting to the Opposition side!

(Members of the National Rainbow Alliance left the Government side and sat on the Opposition side)

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr. Oloo-Aringo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You can clearly see that---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, all of you! In fact, I had given the Floor to Mrs. Kittony.

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that they have gone to the rightful side, I do not have anything to say. They joined the Liberal Party of Kenya yesterday and as such, they have no right to sit on our side.

An Member: Shame! Shame!

(Mr. Mwenje stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Mwenje! You must respect this House and above all, gentlemen must have absolute respect for ladies. You must give that hon. Member absolute respect.

Proceed!

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since they have crossed over, I have no question to ask. They have sat where they belong because, yesterday, they joined another party.

Hon. Members: Who?

Mrs. Kittony: The Rainbow!

Mr. Kitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am very much uncomfortable where I used to sit. Could you order for more seats as you used to do before?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think it is a very exciting time. Hon. Members, as you enjoy your excitement, please, let us now transact business. I can tell you that according to the calendar, there is very little time left for us to transact business. So, let us be serious and do whatever is there to be done now.

Hon. Members: We are serious!

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. G. Galgalo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Oloo-Aringo was complaining about the term "rebels". What would we call this kind of situation which we have just witnessed; is it not a rebellion?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I have made a ruling. I am in charge of this House and nobody has rebelled against me!

(Applause)

Order! Order! Who was on the Floor?

An hon. Member: Mr. Ndicho was on the Floor.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Ndicho!

Question No.538

HOUSING FOR THIKA STREET CHILDREN

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Home Affairs:-

(a) if he is aware that the population of street children in Thika and Ruiru towns has increased to alarming levels; and,

(b) if he could ensure that the children are housed at the Thika Children's Centre, which has over 20 acres of land and several underutilized buildings.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Angwenyi!

(Laughter)

Mr. Angwenyi: Before we crossed over to this side, I was asking a supplementary question and you have allowed the hon. Member to ask his Question---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! That is too late! We must make progress now. Who is answering Mr. Ndicho's Question?

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Ms. Mwachai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware of the increasing number of street children in Thika and Ruiru towns. However, street children are a major problem not only in Thika and Ruiru towns, but also in all major towns in Kenya. Factors giving rise to the growing number of street children in Kenya are: One, socio-economic factors have contributed to extreme poverty at household levels where many families are unable to meet their basic human needs, for example, food, health care, shelter, water and education. Two, high population growth has brought about negative effects on the society, for instance, provision of social services, pressure on land resources and changes of social norms, leading to juvenile delinquency.

Three, poor physical environment in slum areas and lack of amenities, like playgrounds, roads, sanitation and recreation facilities have put children into the streets. Four, school dropouts as a result of parents and guardians being unable to meet school requirements, for example, uniforms, books, building funds and so on. There are estimated 250,000 street children in Kenya today. However, this number is growing day by day because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Orphans and other children made vulnerable by the HIV/AIDS are majority in this category and are estimated to be 900,000 according to the National AIDS Control Council (NACC). This situation is made worse due to the above prevailing conditions. Families are not able to provide for their children sufficiently and hence, are pushed to the streets to fend for themselves.

(b) The Government is currently expanding and improving the facilities at the Thika Rehabilitation School and surrounding towns, including Thika and Ruiru, where street children will be screened and then reintegrated back into their families upon completion of the exercise. The institution will be provided with social workers, psychologists and doctors to assist in the screening of street children.

Hon. Members: Rainbow!

(Members of the Opposition applauded as Mr. Nyachae and Mr. Kimeto crossed to the Opposition side)

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to hear the Assistant Minister say that they are currently expanding and improving the facilities at the Thika Rehabilitation School, and that the institution will be provided with social workers, psychologists and doctors to assist these street children. The street children in the streets of Thika and Ruiru towns in my constituency are an eyesore.

It is true that there are many street children in Nairobi, Mombasa and elsewhere, as the Assistant Minister has admitted. This facility has over 20 acres of land, which, if well utilized, would help to rehabilitate these street children. Could she tell this House how much money has been set aside to expand and improve this facility?

Ms. Mwachai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to expand and improve the facilities accordingly, but at the moment, we have not established the actual total amount of money which has been spent.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I asked the Assistant Minister how much money has been put in place for the improvement and expansion of this facility.

Ms. Mwachai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to put it clearly that the Government has put measures into the expansion of such facilities, but we have not yet budgeted for such facilities.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that in Nairobi, we have very many of these street children. There are about 40 acres of land which have been reserved in Ruai within Embakasi Constituency. Since *yote yawezekana bila Moi*, could the Assistant Minister agree to take those children to this land which has been reserved in Ruai?

Ms. Mwachai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to put that suggestion into practice, but currently, we cannot promise that. We are aware that this is a very big problem to the entire Kenyan society.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister started answering the Question very well. On part "b" of the Question, she said: "The Government is currently expanding and improving the facilities at Thika Rehabilitation School". I wanted to know how much the Government is spending, and she said that it is going to be put in the budget. Unless the problem is the language and how the Question has been put, she must answer my question. I demand to know how much the Government is spending.

Ms. Mwachai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a desire before spending the money. The Government desires to do that, but, currently, we cannot estimate how much we are going to spend because this is a countrywide problem.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question!

Question No.531

REPAIR OF KOLENGI-NAMBA KUDERO BRIDGE

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Onyango's Question is deferred!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Ali's Question for the second time!

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to apologise for coming late.

Question No.436

FUNCTIONS OF FAMINE RELIEF FUND

Dr. Ali asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) whether he could explain the functions of the National Famine Relief Fund;

(b) what the membership of the Fund is; and,

(c) how many disasters the Fund has assisted and how much money it has in its kitty.

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

(a) The functions of the National Relief Fund are to assist Kenyans affected by famine, diseases, floods, drought, fires, earthquakes and other natural calamities, to enable them recover from the effects of these calamities.

(b) The Fund is made up of ten members of a Board of Trustees from both the public and private sector.

(c) The Fund has assisted in 54 disasters, and to date, it has a total of Kshs57,602,462.65 in its kitty.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us the 54 disasters this kitty has assisted to date?

Mr. Moroto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can just mention two, but there are many others of which I could give the list tomorrow. Similar amounts were spent on the Nairobi bomb blast victims and the Wajir massacre disaster.

Mr. Wambua: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not know this Assistant Minister's name. I have never known him as an Assistant Minister. Was he recently appointed?

Mr. Speaker: Who?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the one who was answering the Question.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose you have been away for too long! He is Mr. Moroto, the Assistant Minister, Office of the President.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you heard the answer from the Assistant Minister, he has said that there are only ten members in the Famine Relief Fund, who have been paid Kshs57 million. Are these members there to resolve issues about famine, or are they there to cause famine among Kenyans?

Mr. Moroto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member did not get my answer well. These members have not been paid the Kshs57 million. The kitty has Kshs57 million which is going to assist those who are affected by the disasters.

Mr. Badawy: Bw. Spika, ni kipimo gani ambacho Naibu wa Waziri anatomia kuyafafanua maafa baina ya yale yanayostahili kuzingatiwa kwamba ni majanga yasaidike, na yale ambayo anaona kwamba siyo majanga yanayofaa kusaidiwa? Kwa mfano, ile ajali iliyotokea katika daraja la Sabaki.

Mr. Moroto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have Government officials in every district, and some forms in all the district offices. So, when a tragedy takes place, these are the people who go to assess and forward to the Ministry. The last team is this group of ten members. They are the ones who then decide. But everything starts from the ground.

So, if you have a question, you can go and inquire from there, because we have officers to take care of our people on the ground.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the 54 disasters, the Assistant Minister only mentioned two, but he did not say how much was given out for each of the disasters. He has not given us the criteria they used. Why was North Eastern Province not given any money during the *El Nino* rains when so many people died?

Mr. Speaker: What are you asking, Dr. Ali.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part "a" of his answer, he says that the function of the National Relief Fund is to assist Kenyans affected by famine, disasters due to floods, drought, fire--- Did he ever use this money for any other purposes except the bomb blast and the Wagalla massacre? Which are the other disasters that were funded?

Mr. Moroto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have officials on the ground who assess the situation. When it reaches the ten members of the Board, it cannot be equally given the same amount. They vary according to the effects that are felt.

For example, during the bomb blast and the Wajir disaster, they were each given Kshs5 million. The rest is varied.

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, who are the trustees of this Fund and the chairman, and why have they not held their meetings since 1997?

Mr. Moroto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people have their chairman. First, we had Dr. P.N. Kigaska who resigned on 12th October, 1995. Then the trustees met and appointed an acting chairman. We cannot question them. They have been given the responsibility of---

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Assistant Minister, time is up. Order, hon. Members! I am afraid all the Questions that have not been answered have been deferred.

Dr. Ali: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is the second time this Question has been deferred. I do not feel satisfied because the Assistant Minister has not answered the Question. What will happen to the Question?

Mr. Speaker: I will defer it.

(Question deferred)

Question No.534

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MR. M'MUGA

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

TERMINAL BENEFITS FOR RETRENCHED CIVIL SERVANTS

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the 669 civil servants in Nyeri District who were retrenched by the Government two years ago have not been paid their benefits?
- (b) Is he further aware that many of their children have dropped out of school for financial reasons?
- (c) When will the benefits be paid to the retrenchees and to all the others who have been retrenched?

(Question deferred)

NUMBER OF BURSARIES AWARDED BY VOI NGO

(Mr. Mbela) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that a Non-Governmental Organisation - Youth Crisis Intervention Organisation - operating from Voi town charges a bursary application fee of Kshs500 from needy children?
- (b) What is the total number of applications received and how many bursaries have they awarded?
- (c) What is the value of the bursaries awarded?

(Question deferred)

DEATH OF MR. KIBE

(Eng. Toro) to ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation:-

- (a) Under what circumstances was Mr. Charles Kibe, a humanitarian worker employed by the World Vision, killed in Sudan on Monday, July 29, 2002?
- (b) Could the Minister state the whereabouts of Mr. Andrew Omwenga, a colleague of Mr. Kibe, who was taken hostage by the killers?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: As I defer Questions, I will make a special appeal to hon. Members. I think today was an exceptional day and we did not cover a lot of ground. I will make an earnest appeal to hon. Members to allow us to make progress and answer the Questions listed. We will now proceed on that basis.

Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read
being 15th Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair. My Ministry continues to discharge its mandate of exploring, exploiting and developing all forms of energy in the country in order to improve the economic and social welfare of Kenyans. To this end, my Ministry is committed to ensuring provision of adequate, accessible and affordable energy to meet the domestic and commercial requirements of the country. Before I present a breakdown of my 2002/2003 financial year budgetary requirements, let me give a brief description of the energy situation in the country.

Energy is a critical input which has a direct impact on the general performance of the national economy. The main sources of energy in Kenya are petroleum, electricity and wood fuel. Wind, solar and biogas remain limited alternative sources of energy. Biomass energy dominates the rural economy, and nationally constitutes the largest share of energy consumption, while hydro and thermal power constitute the dominant sources of electricity, with geothermal destined to play a more significant role.

I will briefly describe the petroleum sub-sector. Kenya remains a net importer of petroleum which is the main source of commercial and industrial energy in the country. Over the years, petroleum has accounted for about 80 per cent of the country's commercial energy requirement. The Government has been involved actively in hydro-carbon explorations since 1954. To date, about 30 exploratory wells have been drilled with encouraging geological results justifying the need for enhanced momentum for continued work in the field.

We remain optimistic that Kenya will eventually discover hydro-carbon deposits of commercial value. Such an outcome is expected to lessen if not eliminate, the heavy burden currently placed on the country's meagre foreign exchange resources by oil imports, which account for about 20 per cent of the total country import bill in the year 2001. Following the liberalisation of the oil business sector in October 1994, oil companies have been free to determine and set consumer prices at both retail and bulk consumer levels. However, the domestic petroleum market is far from being competitive as the pace as well as the magnitude of consumer price adjustments is principally determined by the big oil market players.

Liberalisation of the oil industry has led to tremendous growth in the number of companies licensed to conduct domestic oil trading business, now standing at more than 200 companies. The licences offered fall in four main categories: Import/export wholesale business, export wholesale business, export only and wholesale only. In the immediate past, there has been proliferation of illegal petrol oil stations which have been violating safety and environmental requirements. Such petrol stations pose high risks to the general public. My Ministry, in consultation with other stakeholders, will continue to crack down on such illegitimate dealers. The Petroleum Bill 2002, now before this House is meant to address these issues among others. We are concerned that less than 30 per cent of the companies licensed are actively trading. My Ministry is addressing the issue through measures which include provision of neutral truck loading facilities which are more accessible by the majority of the players.

I will briefly mention something on the electricity sub-sector. Electricity is the second major form of energy used by commercial and industrial establishment, as well as institutions and households in the country. Excluding 30 megawatts of imports from Uganda, the installed generation of electricity capacity in the country reached 1,143 megawatts by the end of 2001. This capacity is adequate to meet the current demand of 700 megawatts. Last year, hydro-power generation accounted for 59.2 per cent, followed by thermal which accounted for 35.8 per cent and geothermal at 5 per cent. To meet the growing demand, additional committed generating projects, namely OI Karia II, OI Karia III and Sondu Miriu are rescheduled to be completed and commissioned in September 2003, June 2005 and July 2006 respectively, adding a total capacity of about 160 megawatts to the national grid.

Kenya has maintained a standing arrangement for importation of 30 megawatts from Uganda since 1954, and recently committed herself to purchase 50 megawatts on a firm basis when the planned Bujagali Hydro-electric Power Plant becomes operational in the year 2006/2007. We are in the process of implementing the Arusha/Nairobi power transmission line which will eventually enable the country link to the South African power pool making Kenya more

secure in its electric power supply. The inter-connector anticipated to be completed and commissioned in 2006/2007, will have a transmission capacity of 100 megawatts of electric power into the Kenya system. The benefits of the interconnector are expected to include competitive prices and enhanced imports during periods of drought.

My Ministry will also continue with the reforms in the electricity sub-sector, particularly the restructuring and re-organisation of KENGEN and the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to make power delivery to consumers competitive. So far, the reforms in the power sub-sector have seen the entry of four independent power producers with the combined capacity of 187.5 megawatts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will now move on again very quickly to wood fuel. Over 80 per cent of Kenya's population is dependent on biomass energy which is produced unsustainably on land often under pressure from other competing users. Wood fuel accounts for about 68 per cent of Kenya's primary energy and together with biomass, provides over 95 per cent of rural household energy requirements. The heavy reliance on wood fuel by urban and rural households has contributed to environmental degradation, resulting in declining land productivity and loss of a resource base, thus perpetuating the intensity of poverty. My Ministry will continue encouraging a progressive shift to other known biomass energy sources such as solar, wind, small mini and micro-hydro power. To achieve this shift, several challenges, among them instituting measures aimed at providing electricity to as many people as possible at affordable prices, need to be addressed. My Ministry is working on a new energy policy to adequately address these challenges and chart the way forward for the sector.

Having made these remarks, I now wish to discuss the activities for which I seek your financial support for the fiscal year 2002/2003, and for which my Ministry is seeking authority to spend Kshs5,167,484,521 as follows.

The gross Development Expenditure amounts to Kshs4,992,508,123, whereas the gross Recurrent Expenditure amounts to Kshs174,976,398. I will now quickly go through the heads under the Development Expenditure, which forms the bulk of the budget.

Under Head 428 - Headquarters Administrative Services, we have a gross expenditure of Kshs64 million. Under the head, my Ministry is seeking a total of Kshs64 million to support the ongoing Energy Sector Reform Programme. The funds will finance:-

- (i) A feasibility study on standardisation of LPG cylinder valves and regulators.
- (ii) Human resource capacity building.
- (iii) Purchase of a vehicle and equipment for the Energy Sector Reform and Power Development Project.

The study on LPG is aimed at standardisation of cylinder valves and regulators to enhance customers' access to LPG from any dealer of their choice. The expenditure will be met through an IDA credit of Kshs60 million, and the balance of Kshs4 million will come from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund.

Under Head 429 - Headquarters Planning Services, there is a gross expenditure of Kshs6 million. Under the head, my Ministry is seeking Kshs6 million, being Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A) from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund to fund energy assessment studies in the country, to identify, generate and assemble information required to update the energy database used for planning and decision making. That is a continuous activity which we propose to finance through funds collected under the Petroleum Development Levy Fund.

Under Head 430 - Wood Fuel Resources Development, we require a gross expenditure of Kshs8 million. Under the head, my Ministry is seeking Kshs8 million as A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund for demonstration and dissemination of wood fuel and alternative conversion and end-use technology to be undertaken in ten energy centres countrywide. Those activities include dissemination and encouragement of own farm tree planting and replenishment, and also for research and development of efficient wood fuel devices.

Under Head 433 - Alternative Energy Technology, we require a gross expenditure of Kshs8 million. My Ministry is committed to the promotion and dissemination of alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind, mini and micro-hydro power. We intend to accelerate the installation of appropriately tested solar and wind systems. Consistent with that strategy, my Ministry is seeking Kshs8 million, being A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund to fund, *inter alia*, the Kenya Wind Resource Atlas Programme and dissemination of the already tested alternative energy technologies. The Kenya Wind Resource Atlas is aimed at packaging potential wind regimes for energy exploitation in the country. When the exercise is completed, the findings will be made available to potential investors both locally and abroad, with a view to harnessing domestic wind resources for mechanical and electrical power generation.

Under Head 435 - National Grid System, we are requesting for a gross expenditure of Kshs174,325,043. Under the head, my Ministry is seeking that amount of which, Kshs167,325,043 will be A-in-A from the IDA to undertake electricity demand side management project by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), and the remaining Kshs7 million, being A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund, for national power planning studies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Head 436 is on Geothermal Resource Exploration, where we require a gross expenditure of

Kshs2,705,185,074. Geothermal energy resource is widely available within the East African Rift Valley. It is a more environmentally friendly and to a large extent, cheaper compared to other alternative sources of electricity production. Despite its vast potential, a large part of the region remains unexplored due to financial constraints and inherent resource-based risks. Pursuant to the above, my Ministry will continue with geothermal energy exploration assessment and development, aimed at identifying commercially exploitable sites for geothermal power development, to enhance electricity supply in the country. Therefore, my Ministry is seeking that amount for geothermal exploration assessment and development in the North Rift.

In addition, the funds will be utilised in the development of Ol Karia II Geothermal Plant. The Kshs102.5 million, being A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund, will be utilised to drill two wells in Ol Karia IV Geothermal Resource Field. The IDA, European Investment Bank and KFW will provide Kshs364,243,440, Kshs595,007,000 and Kshs220 million respectively, as A-in-A to finance the ongoing development at Ol Karia II Geothermal Plant. Further, IDA will provide Kshs865,678,634 as revenue to the Exchequer for Ol Karia II. The balance of Kshs557,754,000 will be provided by KENGEN as A-in-A.

Under Head 444 - Rural Electrification Programme, a gross expenditure of Kshs1,870,006,000 is required. In order to extend electricity supply under the Rural Electrification Programme, my Ministry is seeking Kshs1,870,006,000 to finance capital expenditures, as well as net operating cost of the existing network. Of the total amount requested, Kshs800 million will come from the Rural Electricity Programme Levy as A-in-A, while Kshs100 million, Kshs350 million and Kshs450 million will come from the European Community, the Spanish Government and the French Development Credit, respectively. The balance of Kshs120 million will come from the Exchequer counterpart funds under the Spanish Credit, while Kshs50 million will be collected as A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund by my Ministry.

Under Head 426 - National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK), we require a gross expenditure of Kshs135 million. My Ministry continues to search for hydro-carbons through the NOCK. As Members may be aware, that activity was partly funded by donors in the 80s, and they have since withdrawn. In the circumstances, my Ministry is, therefore, seeking for Kshs100 million, being A-in-A from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund, to finance and maintain the momentum in petroleum exploration. In addition, my Ministry is seeking Kshs25 million to pay for a pending bill which was incurred by NOCK in 1991 on imported petroleum fuel on behalf of the Government, to mitigate supply shortfalls caused by inadequate retail margins resulting from the then price controls. Further, Kshs10 billion is needed for the completion of the Nairobi Truck Loading Facility.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Head 427 - Petroleum Exploration, here we require a gross expenditure of Kshs22 million. Under this head, my Ministry is seeking Kshs22 million to enable the Ministry gather data and information on petroleum and coal exploration and on promotion of our petroleum acreage to interested companies. The funds for this exercise will be raised again from the Petroleum Development Levy Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to support the foregoing activities, my Ministry is seeking for a gross Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs174,976,398, of which Kshs103,929,178 is Appropriations-in-Aid from Kipevu oil storage facilities which are owned by the Government, but managed by the Kenya Pipeline Company, and from other miscellaneous receipts. The balance of Kshs71,047,220 will be funded from the Exchequer. In summary, therefore, I am requesting a gross Development Expenditure of Kshs4,992,508,123 and a Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs174,976,398, giving a grand total of Kshs5,167,484,521.

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

The Minister for Public Health (Prof. Ongeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to second this Vote because it is a very important Vote. Any time any nation - even globally - talks of energy, it is basically talking of survival of that population. Without energy, there are many adverse effects that follow. Therefore, any nation is required and compelled to invest substantially in energy production. In this country, our minds are too fresh when we had a very severe drought and when we resorted to rationing of power. It was a very destabilising experience for many Kenyans, households and also for industrial and commercial concerns in this country. That was an act of nature.

That is why when the Minister, in moving this Vote, substantially dwelt specifically on areas that we can exploit in order to move forward in our industrial and agricultural sectors and in the social sphere. I would have expected the Ministry to move in speedily and offer substantial resource envelope in order to cater for the many principal activities that are carried out through the use of power. Petroleum, of course, remains as the main engine of drive in the commercial and motor industry sectors, both for the commercial and industrial utilisation of petroleum products, which are essential for this nation's economy to grow. Unfortunately, our economic growth has stagnated because of many other adverse effects, one of them being inadequate supply of energy and petroleum products.

The foreign exchange earnings are mainly spent in the importation of both the crude and finished products, petroleum products for utilisation of our industries in aviation, and also for household use in our homesteads. Therefore, this Vote that the Minister is seeking from this House, in my opinion, is very modest, considering that we

need to have a very dynamic and energetic growth sector, in order to move forward as a nation. One area that is in big demand is the use of energy and particularly adequate provision of power in order to move forward.

I am happy that despite the severe drought, we were able to meet the shortfalls through the hydro-generation power which provided very adequate megawatts. It is a generation of the high level of megawatts to the tune of over 1,143. I think that was a commendable achievement. But I am more interested in the area of exploiting the latent energies that are very dormant in our land, particularly gas itself which is cheaper and environmentally-friendly. One can be able to use the geothermal energy to the full extent, and I fully support the investments that have been carried out in Ol Karia and many other areas, particularly in the Rift Valley where we are now exploiting a lot of geothermal energy for use in the national grid. I think this is a worthwhile investment. I would suggest that any resources available should be channelled towards exploiting more of this geothermal energy in the various sectors.

I am fully and vividly reminded that without energy, my Ministry of Health would be completely disabled because some of the functions that we carry out require very delicate power outputs, not through various interruptions of power, because we can run into difficulties because we are dealing with human life. Therefore, I, for one, do very much appreciate the very need of being able to supply power at the critical moment, particularly during the operations of our equipment and machinery which are very sensitive to any change in power fluctuations. Therefore, a steady flow of power from all the various sources of power generation is an important factor in the sustenance and maintenance of an effective health sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 80 per cent of our Kenyan population resides in the rural areas. I think it is important that the Rural Electrification Programme (REP) becomes a priority in the Ministry and the Government so that every single Kenyan is enabled to get electricity; that is, power necessary for their domestic use is provided to them, and more so, for the use in micro and medium scaled micro enterprises. I remember that when I was the Minister for Technical Training and Applied Technology, there were sceptics who felt that the *Jua Kali* sector has no role whatsoever in complementing the informal sector. Today, it is a known factor that the *Jua Kali* sector has, indeed, been responsible for the job creation and employment opportunities. In fact, it is largely responsible for between 40 and 60 per cent of our economy. That is a very powerful sector. I think the micro enterprises in the rural areas, bearing in mind of the shrinking land parcels, will, indeed, transform this country into agro-industrial base which would be a necessary base for an accelerated economic growth.

Therefore, I would like to propose that rural electrification is given priority in the Ministry's programmes so that people from the rural areas can get electric power. They would use that power both for agro-industries and other micro enterprises which might be necessary. These days, I see many rural folk extremely excited when they have a power-driven poshmill. That is a delight for them. In fact, they say that the flour which is produced by the electric poshmill is fresh and does not smell of crude oil. That in itself is a message that crude oil used in the provision of power in the rural areas does have environmental effects which are undesirable, particularly in areas whose population density has grown so big. An example of this would be Vihiga, Kisii and, of course, many rural urban centres or town councils. These areas are ideal for micro enterprises which are very important for the economic growth of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said that, we must be weary of the depletion of our biomass and, particularly our forests. This is because wood fuel by and large is substantially used in the rural areas. One area in which one can reduce the use of wood fuel is by providing cheaper power for use both in the domestic and industrial sector. It is important to note that other countries, particularly Uganda and Congo, have surplus megawatts of electric power which we can easily tap. Therefore, an exploration in linking our national grid down to the south and to the west in Congo would be a desirable approach. Of course, it is needless to say that we now need to exploit our potential in oil exploration because that is the future. The United States of America, for instance, has been unable to exploit crude oil potential from the ground. They would rather spend a lot of money conserving their crude oil until such a time that they will be able to exploit it, when the rest of the world reserves will have been exploited.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this very important Vote of the Ministry of Energy. This nation relies on the supply of energy in our industries and other enterprises.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

As we support the Vote of this Ministry today, it is worthwhile noting that every year this Ministry brings this Vote to this House to seek money for both Development and Recurrent Expenditures and it is granted. But at the end of the fiscal year, this money benefits Kenyans minimally because electric power is not supplied to their homes and industries. We wonder what this Ministry exactly does with this money. The Minister ought to rise here and tell us how far he has supplied electric power to Kenyans. This should cover rural areas or other areas which require electric power.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, 70 per cent of the water which this Ministry relies on for generation of electric power is God-given. This water is natural. This water is given to this Ministry by God to turn the turbines at the Seven Forks Dam and elsewhere to generate electric energy to be supplied to the people of Kenya who belong to God. But Kenyans are still crying today because of lack of electric power. They ask their hon. Members of Parliament to ask Questions in this House concerning incomplete projects under the Rural Electrification Programme, but the answers we get in this House are very sickening. I am happy that the civil servants who give the Minister these answers are here.

We understand that there are some civil servants who give the Minister shoddy answers in a bid to discredit their Government. In most cases, the Minister does not even know how much money has been spent in a given project. When you pursue him further, he tells you that, that answer was given by his Permanent Secretary. So, there are some Permanent Secretaries or some senior Ministry officials whose mission is to mislead the Ministers to come and mislead this House so as to discredit the Government. I thought that the Ministers would realise that. A minister should not give an ambiguous answer here. Why does the Ministry come up with a policy of supplying electric power to a radius of 10 kilometres a year with the money we vote in this House?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, generation and transmission of electric power is itself revenue generation. If the Ministry supplies electric power to every Kenyan, that means more money to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC). I believe that the Ministry's parastatals namely, the KPLC and the KENGEN can generate billions and billions of shillings for the Ministry and for the Government in general if they did that. But I do not know why there seems to be a notion that supplying electricity in the rural areas is doing a favour. The Ministry should look at this in a different manner. This should be a profit-making exercise. The KPLC should make profit for the Government through the sale of electric power.

There is a lot of wind energy which goes untapped in this country. If you look at what they call the "wind map" in this country, you will realise that right from the North Eastern Province or northern part of this country, to Ngong Hills, a lot of wind which can be tapped blows there. The Ministry should tap this form of energy, put it in the national grid and sell it to Kenyans at affordable rates. This is because Kenyans are the only ones in this continent, and possibly in this world, who pay a lot of money for the supply of electricity. We need to realise that once you have done wiring in your house and you have electricity, there is no more capital expenditure. So, the Ministry should think about that and also plough back some of the benefits to Kenyans. If there is rural electrification, the influx of the youth into urban areas will be checked because the youth will start miniature industries in the rural areas countrywide. *Jua Kali* will be started in the rural areas and enhance economic development in those areas. The Ministry should not concentrate on the supply of electricity in the urban centres only. It is important for the Government and the Ministry of Energy to gear itself towards the supply of power to most Kenyans, because having the Seven Forks power generation station, and Ol Karia geothermal power generation near Naivasha, and some other small power generating plants distributed all over the country; including areas like Webuye and others where power can be generated--- There is no reason why two-thirds of the Kenyan population are still using lanterns and lamps when they could enjoy the supply of electricity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with power supply in the rural areas, dissemination of information will be faster to these people because they will use television sets in order to access information. We are living in the era of Information Technology (IT), such that when young people complete secondary school education in the rural areas, they travel to urban centres to learn computer skills. If electricity was supplied right to secondary schools, they could access this knowledge right in the rural areas! So, the Ministry has really relaxed.

I would like to concentrate my speech on electricity only because the rest are a big problem; like the supply of petroleum. Kenyans are also a funny lot because when the Government increases the price of petroleum every other day, you just see them lining up at the filling stations without raising a finger. It is either they are rich or they have become so scared to raise their finger and protest against such price increases. With all these, the Government ought to be ploughing back the proceeds it gets from the sale of both hydro-electric power and oil energy. We hear that people who are involved in the importation of fuel products - I am a Member of the Departmental Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works - complain that the Government takes the biggest share in the profits emanating from the proceeds of oil and electric energy. Whatever they are allowed to get by the Government, the biggest share goes to the Government. So, I am asking the Government to be mindful of other people's welfare by considering

reducing petroleum pump prices. There are people who are selling cheaper petrol, for instance, from Sudan and even the friends of the Government; oil producing countries. When they give subsidised prices, the Government should make sure the final consumer, the motorist, also benefits from what the Government is benefiting from its friends.

Putting that one aside, I would like to implore upon the Government to make sure that as many Kenyans as possible benefit from these fruits. In fact, when electricity reaches a certain village, there is jubilation and the villagers say that "these are some of the fruits of Independence." But now that Uhuru will be the next President and the he is *Matunda ya Uhuru*", I hope the people will enjoy the real fruits of that Uhuru by getting electricity in their rural areas.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Capt. Ntwiga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on this Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chair can recollect very well when I talked about a Motion of overhauling the Electricity Act. I lament very much because Mr. Raila was the Minister for Energy at that time, and he promised that he will bring an amendment Bill into this House to overhaul the Electricity Act so that Kenyans can enjoy electricity in the rural areas. I can see that Mr. Raila has crossed over to the Opposition. He might not be in the next Government to bring that Bill to the House. However, I will be waiting here, and I hope whoever will be the Minister for Energy---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Capt. Ntwiga, the Minister who moved the Motion on this Vote is still the Minister for Energy!

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just lamenting because Mr. Raila was a very able Minister for Energy. That is by the way. So, I am hoping that---

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): On a point, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member suggesting that I will not be helpful, or what does he imply by saying so?

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not implying so. It is only that, at that time, it was Mr. Raila who responded, and I believed he could do something about it. Now that the Eighth Parliament is coming to an end, I hope he will do the same so that we can meet here during the next Parliament.

Mr. Omingo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member on the Floor in order to cast negative aspersions or doubt on the current Minister for Energy in the Government of the party he belongs to?

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that matter is over. I have already answered hon. Okemo and I do not think there is need for that point of order.

Let me continue by saying that I brought that Motion here and it was very successful, as it was supported by both sides of the House. Now that the Eighth Parliament is coming to an end, let us hope that we shall meet with hon. Omingo here during the next Parliament so that we can continue with that debate. As I have said, it is very important for the Minister to overhaul the Electricity Act, including encouraging independent petroleum dealers, instead of the Minister talking about cutting down the supply of electricity on those Kenyans who are trying to make a living by installing power to their own petrol stations.

So, I would like to appeal to the Minister that, when he will be responding to the Motion on this Vote, he withdraws the words "cutting down"! Cutting down should not be the sure way of trying to help those Kenyans who are trying to earn a living on their own. In other words, the Minister should encourage those petroleum dealers to carry out their business transactions in conjunction with multinational companies who are making a lot of money from this country.

I do not have much to add. As I have said, I just wanted to support the Motion on this Vote. I hope we shall have another hon. Member in the name of Eng. Muriuki, Member of Parliament for Ol Kalou, who brought a Motion on the Constituency Roads Board (CRB); whereby every constituency is getting Kshs5 million, as an allocation from that Ministry for the construction of roads. I wish the Minister for Energy brought a Bill of that nature before an hon. Member from the Opposition brings a Motion on the same. The Ministry of Energy should give a certain percentage directly to the constituency for purposes of electricity supply to institutions which they wish to develop in their rural areas. I am asking the Minister to take advantage or an initiative to bring a Motion here, even if time is running out. I hope this will go into record, and whoever will be in charge of that Ministry will take it upon himself and give that money directly to constituencies by bringing a Motion into this House so that Parliament will pass it.

With those remarks, I wish to support the Motion on this Vote.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. Although I respect the Minister and I admire his brilliance, I am inclined to oppose this particular Vote because I think I am the most frustrated hon. Member as far as the provision of electricity to constituencies is concerned.

I have some respect for the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. If I ask them why this road has not been

tarmacked, they will tell me that it will be done when funds are available. But when I ask this Ministry, for example, why there is no electricity in my constituency, they will give me a promise. They will not tell you "when funds are available."

Instead, they will tell you: "The French or the Spaniards have availed funds. So, keep on waiting, we will do something about it." Year in, year out, I have been promised that they will provide electricity to the people of Sirisia Constituency, but nothing has been done. That is the reason why I am inclined to deny them my support.

In 1990, the Government brought electricity poles for three lines in Sirisia Constituency. An electricity line was to be put up from Malakisi, through Butonge, to Sirisia. Another line was to start from Mayanja through Bisunu to Sirisia and from Kimilili through Chwele, Namwela to Sirisia. Those poles are still there to date. When you ask this Ministry what has happened, they tell you to wait until the French or Spanish Government avails funds.

In Bungoma District, my constituency suffers most because it has got many coffee factories. In many areas, factory operations are electrified. I thought the provision of electricity or tarmacking of roads usually depends on the demand. When you want to tarmac a road from one place to another, you must find out whether there is enough demand. Will it be in use or not?

Mr. Omingo: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to inform the hon. Member that when the Government built the Iten-Kabarnet Road, it did not take all that into consideration. For this Government, demand does not matter.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I inform the hon. Member that there are STABEX funds to provide electricity to coffee factories. Bungoma District was allocated these funds. Could the Minister, when replying, tell us what happened to these funds?

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand that the lines to coffee factories can only be built if there are major lines along those areas I have mentioned. However, that has not been done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is high demand for electricity in my constituency.

(Mr. Gumo entered the Chamber)

Mr. Gumo, welcome to this side of the House!

I am saying that there is a demand for electricity in my constituency. But because of these delays---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Mr. Munyasia, it is not your responsibility to welcome hon. Members to the House.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought Mr. Gumo was lost. But when I realised he was coming "home", I thought I should welcome him just like my colleagues.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying the demand is there. We are being left behind in development because we do not have electricity. We are being left in the dark because of this delay in putting up electricity lines in my constituency. I remember last year I got a very disappointing answer when I asked a Question about provision of electricity in my constituency. They told me that there were 30 kilometres of electricity lines in Sirisia Constituency. I said the officers who prepared that answer have never been to Sirisia. Even the Minister who answered that Question admitted that he was deliberately misled by those officers. That is the reason for my disappointment. We cannot teach computer courses in Sirisia Constituency because there is no electricity. That is the reason why I am extremely disappointed by this particular Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have recommended in the DDC meetings that many other lines of electricity be put up. We proposed that we have one from Sikata through Nalondo to Kimilili, another one from Mabanga through Nalondo, Musese to Chwele and a final one from Mabanga through Makotelo, Luhya, Khachonge to Chebukaka. However, nothing has been done. So, I am an extremely disappointed person when it comes to this particular Ministry. It is just for that reason, I thought I should express my sentiments. So, let my brother, Mr. Okemo put his foot down and do something before the next general election.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few words, I beg to oppose.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. From the outset, I would like to support this Vote so that when the House is dissolved and some projects are implemented, they will not use my opposition as an excuse not to implement any project in my constituency. Therefore, let me support the Vote.

First of all, I would like the Minister to tell us, when responding, what happens to the 5 per cent levy imposed on every electricity consumer in this country. That money is collected by the KPLC, but it is not remitted to the

Ministry of Energy. Where does that money go to? We want to know from the Minister how that money is spent. The Government may refuse to tell us how this money is spent, but one day, the truth will be known.

As I said, the KPLC collects 5 per cent from every consumer which amounts to a lot of money. This money is meant for rural electrification programme, but there is no electricity in the rural areas. How is this money spent? The Ministry must account for this money. The PAC demanded that this money be accounted for, but nothing has been done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this nation imported power generators to provide electricity to its people. Those generators use jet fuel, petrol or diesel to generate electricity. This is a very expensive way of producing electricity. That is the reason why the cost of electricity is very high in this country. When the cost of electricity is high, the cost of production is also high. Electricity is a basic unit of production and, therefore, the cost of production in the entire nation will go up, and this affects every product, be it processing of food or manufacturing of garments. Why should we continue to use petrol or diesel to generate electricity? These petroleum products are very expensive. Why can we not import coal from South Africa? We have coal deposits in Kitui District. Why are we not exploiting it in order to generate power? All we need to do is to generate steam which can then be used to turn turbines to produce electricity. There are a lot of areas which have not been exploited by this Government. One day, those areas will be exploited to provide electricity to our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can import coal from South Africa to generate electricity instead of importing ready electricity from South Africa. There are surplus coal deposits in most parts of the world. Let us put up a plant in Mombasa to generate enough electricity using coal and I am sure the cost of electricity will go down.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will talk about the Rural Electrification Programme. I said funds are available, but they are not utilised. What happens to the 10 per cent deposit paid by consumers of electricity?

While replying to a Question I brought here sometime back, the Minister said that the 10 per cent charge was for survey work. Normally, people who apply to be supplied with electricity pay such money in the form of a bill, which is pegged on an estimate, when survey has been carried out. How come I was told that the 10 per cent charged on the people was meant for survey work? Between Kshs20 million and Kshs30 million has been collected from schools in Mosop Constituency alone, and not from the entire Nandi District. Some institutions which paid the 10 per cent fees in the late 1980s have not been supplied with electricity to date. What happened to that money? Let us be realistic and tell Kenyans what happened to that money. One day, some people will answer for these things, which they have been doing under the table.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, the main line which supplies electricity to Eldoret Town passes over schools. The electricity line passes through Eldoret Airport, Kabiyeet and Kaiboi to Repeater Station at Chepterwai. Half of the cost of that line was paid for by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, particularly the portion from Kaiboi to the station at Chepterwai. The electricity line passes through schools and market centres. The residents of Kabiyeet and Kaiboi, Kurgung and Tulwo Secondary Schools, as well as Kimngoror Health Centre, paid the 10 per cent charge nearly ten years ago but, to date, they have not been supplied with electricity. I do not know whether this is because of the grudge the Government had against the late Bishop Muge. The cleric is deceased. Why is the Government revenging on his people even after his death? People in those areas paid the requisite 10 per cent deposit. Why are they being denied electricity?

The Nandi people fought the colonial government, but we have never fought the Independence Government. Rather than fight it, we have always voted for it, but there has been a deliberate move to frustrate the Nandi people. Whoever has been perpetrating this should know that, like any other people, the Nandi were created by God, and that there is no human being who will suppress them. We are just demanding our rights. The colonial government took our cattle, but we survived. We shall still survive this persecution. We shall continue to demand our rights. Where we have paid for electricity, let us be supplied with electricity. We are not begging; we have paid for it. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, somebody at the Kenya Power and Lighting Company imagines that he will suppress the Nandi people by denying them electricity. I say woe unto him! One day, he will tell us why he could not supply us with electricity, which passes over our schools, and for which we have paid.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, may I ask the Minister what has happened to the Spanish project, which is supposed to supply electricity to St. Teresa and Ndalat? The project was supposed to have started in April; we are now in October. The money for the project was not coming from the Government of Kenya but rather from the Spanish Government. So, the Government should facilitate the commissioning of the project; it should not be stopped from taking off. The project is supposed to be funded by the Spaniards, who do not know us by tribes but rather as Kenyans.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Sambu! Your time is up!

Mr. Omingo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

As my colleague, Mr. Munyes, said, I intend to oppose this Motion for the very simple reason that we will not accept to be told that which does not yield results. A case in point is when the Minister says that he intends to use Kshs64 million on feasibility studies. In my constituency, a feasibility study was carried out using STABEX funds. Four coffee factories which were to benefit were identified. However, I was later on told that instructions were received from Nairobi, by telephone, to suspend the scheme. Why does the Ministry now require these funds for the said feasibility studies? So, I intend to mobilise my colleagues to oppose this particular Item. I will use the skills of "*Bwana Dawa*" and even use the tactics of "Total Man" to ensure that this particular Item does not sail through.

Really, it does not make any economic sense for the Ministry to spend public funds on feasibility studies only for its reports to end up in shelves in its offices. So, we do not want to put taxpayers' money into this kind of child play. We are also aware that such studies are sometimes carried out, so that the officials concerned can have some kickbacks from consultants. Kenyans should be told why the electricity scheme in my district was suspended. The Ministry should justify the shelving of the projects after spending so much public funds on them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister talked about providing Kshs80 million for the development of wood fuel projects. If professionals from the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources and Energy could interact, they could probably, control deforestation. Use of wood fuel by our people actually impact negatively on our natural resources. If professionals from the two Ministries could interact, things would be much better. That is why we intend to appoint professionals to key positions when we take over the Government after the coming general election. We want to engage professionals who can borrow a leaf from each other, so as to reduce the burden on this Ministry. I believe that co-operation between professionals in the two Ministries can cut down costs.

When the Minister for Energy was the Minister for Finance, we admired him very much for his charisma; he could make things move. I do not know what happened to him when he was appointed the Minister for Energy. I know the way he used to operate when he was at the Treasury. It is important that the two Ministries explore their potential in terms of discharging their responsibility. Perhaps, the Minister has been quiet because he has been sharing the Ministry with Mr. Raila. Now that he is left alone, we would like to see some changes in that Ministry. He should demonstrate that he is committed to service delivery to the people. When he replies to this debate, he should explain what happened to the project in South Mugirango Constituency, particularly with regard to Nyachenge Coffee Factory and several others, which were in that programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry also seeks some funds to be passed over to the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK). The corporation is also seeking a share of the national cake. Are we supposed to approve any funds for the corporation's advertisement? This kind of expenditure falls under the corporation's general administration item. One of the advertisements posted in the newspapers by the corporation in the recent past was a congratulatory message to New KANU for its vision.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could not understand how relevant such spending was to the operations of the NOCK. How do you expect a corporation that is supposed to generate funds as Appropriations-In-Aid to commend new KANU for its vision when doing this is totally irrelevant to its mandate? I cannot understand. Kshs300,000 has been provided for this corporation, and even if it meant anything, we must throw it out. It does not make any economic sense to give the corporation this amount of money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want the Minister to come out clearly on power generation and distribution. There is a relationship between Kipevu II and the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC). That relationship, in terms of funding, is suspect. Kenyans need to know why we apply funds to development of the Kipevu II and how revenues are supposedly passed on to the power company. The relationship could be illegal, but Kenyans should know the relationship between Kipevu II and the KPLC.

I do not know why we are not putting emphasis on renewable energy, for example, the windmill and geothermal energy. These are readily available sources of energy. But I tend to think that we want to hang on to importation of power, because it provides easy ways of getting kickbacks, duty-free imports and transit oil. That is why we are not concentrating much on the windmill and geothermal power generation. We know that we have the potential to do this. The University of Nairobi has wonderful researchers in the area of geothermal energy. We should improve these resources because we have them absolutely free. We only need to tap them and then we will be in business.

There is a very worrying thing happening at the KPLC. It constructs electricity lines, installs transformers, but it does not distribute power. One wonders what kind of business this is. When you invest, you anticipate returns. Of what use are the power lines and the transformers, without consumers being supplied with electricity? If consumers are supplied with electricity, they will pay taxes and the KPLC will recover whatever it will have spent. I have pleaded with the Ministry to supply electricity to Nduru Health Centre. I also requested the Minister to supply electricity to Nduru Secondary School. The Ministry has been dragging its feet. The project was supposed to be completed and handed over to the community three years ago. Nduru Health Centre and Nduru Secondary School are still in darkness. The students cannot enjoy power even though it passes through the school compound. I want to assure you that if

Nduru Health Centre will be provided with power before the school is provided with it, there will be a serious riot. In fact, the former Minister for Energy, Mr. Raila, has a memorandum from the students of that school stating that if the Ministry does not supply electricity to the school, the project will not commence.

Some of these things are very basic and we need to help one another. If there is something we could do for each other, we should do it. Ministers sit in high offices and pretend to know everything, when, indeed, they know nothing. We have been saying that the electricity lines are irrelevant if people cannot be supplied with electricity. The Government promised the people of South Mugirango Constituency that it would supply them with electricity if they voted for KANU. When KANU lost, KPLC connected electricity to the home of one man, who was a KANU aspirant; he is the only man in the whole vicinity who was supplied with electricity. The entire community is in darkness. District projects do not matter to this Government. Indeed, if people must aspire to be KANU candidates to be supplied with power, then I will tell all the people of South Mugirango Constituency to look for KANU tickets, so that we can be supplied with power. This is primitive. The transformer has been installed and only one man has been supplied with power. Could we be proactive? Could the KPLC wake up from its slumber?

I thank God because KPLC has not increased power rates to raise revenue to campaign for KANU. Could the KPLC wake up from its slumber and get serious? I only wish that the current civil servants in the Ministry will remain in service so as to test the kind of leadership we intend to provide when we take over the Government next year.

Finally, the rural electrification programme is, indeed, at the design stage. I do not know where projects under this programme are in operation. My constituency has never benefitted from any project under the Rural Electrification Programme since I joined Parliament; not even during my late brother's time. For the last five years, we have not benefitted from this programme. Indeed, even the power project, from where I want my people to be supplied with electricity, has been in existence for more than five years. It has lasted over about seven years. So, for the last five years, my constituency has not had a metre of power extension and this excites bitter feelings. We pay taxes to the Government and we should get what we deserve. The Ministry does not care to provide the people with power. With those few remarks, I oppose the Motion.

Mrs. Kittony: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to contribute to this Motion. My very concern is our rural areas. If we have to achieve any meaningful development, we need to provide the rural areas with electricity.

For example, you will find electricity supplied to a certain project, without people, through whose many areas it passes, being connected to it. I want to support my colleagues who have said that the Ministry should ensure that the KPLC does its proper job. My colleague has just said that the KPLC should wake up. Indeed, it is time the KPLC woke up from its slumber. For us to improve the quality of life, especially for women, we should provide the basic requirements for development such as energy, water and roads. You will find that some farmers, through self-help basis, paid some money to the KPLC to be supplied with electricity in the 1990s. Up to now, they have not been supplied with electricity. The money is earning interest somewhere, and the people continue to suffer. It is time the Ministry was restructured to ensure that the KPLC serves the people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers who paid to be supplied with electricity in the 1990s, and are still following up the issue, cannot afford to come to Nairobi to the KPLC offices every now and then. We have a power project in Chematich in Cherang'any Constituency. We also have another project at Karala and in other areas. The power line passes through these areas. So, why can we not supply electricity to the farmers, the schools and the health centres? You will find beautiful health centres which do not have power. Officers in these health centres cannot attend to patients at night and patients have to be taken to the major towns where there is power, yet the facilities are there in their villages. I sympathise with the people in the rural areas and I think it is time the Ministry ensured that the KPLC provides communities with electricity.

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

Mr. Kibicho: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Energy is so important to national development that the Government must give it the priority it deserves. Energy is key to preserving our environment. If you want our environment not to be destroyed, then we must encourage our people to use electricity which is clean energy. Clean energy will also guarantee sustainable development. However, my worry is that as far as this Ministry is concerned, there seems to be no commitment to complete even projects which they have identified and informed the residents that they will be undertaken.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a town in my constituency called Kiangai. Kiangai is adjacent to Nyeri District. In fact, it is located on the boundary of Nyeri and Kirinyaga districts. One will notice that electricity has just reached the Nyeri boundary and yet the Kirinyaga side has no electricity and yet the Nyeri side is a rural area. Kiangai is a town with a dispensary, a school, shops, a coffee factory and one wonders how these priorities are undertaken. Are they undertaken because somebody influential somewhere and not necessarily a politician but a civil servant influenced a certain decision to be taken? The people in this particular town did apply for electricity

connection through the Rural Electrification Programme. The survey was done and they were told to pay their deposits. The whole cost of the programme was Kshs5,862,000. They paid their deposits and a survey was undertaken and the residents were promised that a contractor would be appointed by May. Now, we are in October and nothing has been done. It is very frustrating because, with this wind of KANU blowing, the residents have been told that: "Unless you join KANU there will be no electricity", and this is very deplorable and we must condemn it. This is because development must come because the area we are developing has got potential and the supply of electricity should not be taken as an inducement for people to state their party affiliations because this trend is against human rights. It is within your human rights to decide which party to affiliate yourself to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is even more worrying is that when this project was floated and given priority by the DDC, taken to the Ministry of Energy and then it was said that it will be completed, there was another project in the same area which was supposed to be undertaken with STABEX funds. It was agreed that the two projects would be merged into one. If the STABEX funds are available, then what is holding down this project? I urge the Minister to complete this project.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another worrying thing as far as this Ministry is concerned, is that we know that the demand for electric power supersedes the supply. We also know that we have a lot of streams, particularly in Mount Kenya area, which could be used to generate power and we know that certain studies have been carried out to ascertain that fact. Why is this Ministry not coming up with amendments to the existing law so that micro-hydro-electricity can also be licensed? Why can the Ministry not come up with that policy? Electricity wires are traversing through a lot of areas and one cannot tap it and the reason is because of the cost of transformers. Why has this problem not been tackled? Is it because people are making money? Is it because monopoly has been extended to people who import transformers? This is because, if you go by gossip in this area, you are told that that is the area where people are making money. Why do you allow people to make money at the expense of development? This corruption must come to an end because if it continues then we will not be able to develop this sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go to other places, setting up an hydro-electricity plant is not a very big deal. Go to South Africa and you will find that even the local authorities have got theirs. Why is it such a big deal in this country? Is it such a big deal because you only deal with very big projects or is it because of the technology involved? This is an area which this Government must address squarely because it is critical. As I said in my opening my remarks, the sustainable development of this country depends on clean energy. The environment depends on clean energy so that we guarantee that the future generations will find this environment intact. This is because since we do not have enough electricity, we are cutting down our forests. Our forests are about to become extinct because of looking for firewood energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is another thing which we want this Ministry to tell us. When we go to international conferences, we are told that a windmill at the top of Ngong Hills can light up Nairobi. Is that correct or incorrect? We would like to hear the answer from this Government. Since I came to Parliament whenever every Minister for Energy opens his speech, he says: "There is a likelihood of getting oil in this country". Why have you not told us the position you are in as far as this situation is concerned? Why do you have this hope because you cannot be talking about one thing for years and years? You cannot continue licensing people to explore oil without you telling us whether you have scientific data that will enable us to discover oil.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another area that this Government must address itself squarely to is the cost of electricity because electricity in this country is very expensive. As a result, our goods are very expensive. If our goods are so expensive because of electricity only, why do we not then address ourselves to its cost? Another area which I would like the Minister to tell us is that we are told that those independent power producers who brought in their equipment and set up their plants will continue paying for diesel which they are bringing either as a rebate on tax and as a result you have made Kenya Power and Lighting Company completely broke. If that is so, then it is criminal because you cannot enrich a few fellows at the expense of the nation. It is high time greed got out of us.

With those few words, I support the Vote.

Mr. Mkalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of Energy. The Minister is asking for peanuts. I would have expected him to ask for more than ten times the amount which is requested. But I have got some reservations to make before I support the Vote. One, the Rural Electrification Programme (REP) in this country has not been well done. It has been done in a haphazard manner. There are certain places in Kenya where there is no single kilometre of electricity. This is because the mode of power distribution is not fair. For example, in my own constituency, in Kinango, more than three years ago, rural electrification was supposed to be done from Mackinnon Road, Bamburi, Mariakani up to Kinango. I do understand that a donor had been identified, from the Spanish Government, but this project has fizzled out. Three years ago, we were given documents in the Old Chambers by the Minister for Energy. Surprisingly, I am now being told that Kinango is not even one of the areas which will benefit from the Rural Electrification Programme. What is happening?

Who is changing these projects? Why is it that other areas in this country are frustrated while there is a lot of poverty? We need to do something to make sure that all the areas in this country, at least, benefit from the Rural Electrification Programme to enable us improve our standards of living.

My constituency is basically a ranching area. Being a ranching area, we do produce a lot of milk and we have to take it to a certain factory for processing. If there is no electricity in my area, it means that all this milk goes down the drain. It goes sour and it cannot be used by anybody. How do we then reduce poverty levels in these areas if milk is getting spoiled because of lack of electric power? For us to reduce the poverty levels in this country, we must be industrialized. We were told that we were going to be industrialized by the year 2020, but for us to be industrialized, we need to make sure that we have electricity in all areas in this country. There can be no manufacturing concerns if there is no electric power. There can be no industries if there is no electric power. There can be no employment in those areas if there is no electric power. Therefore, it means my people will remain unemployed throughout and they will continue being poor. Is this the sort of thing we want to happen in this country? We would like to see everybody in this country live above the poverty line. For us to live above the poverty line, we must provide certain basic facilities to encourage people to be productive. This means, therefore, we should be able to spread electricity all over the country. There is just too much good planning in the Ministry which never comes to fruition. What is happening with the planners?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Coast Province as a whole, we are generally a fruit producing area. For instance, a lot of pineapples are produced in Malindi, Magarini and other areas. Fruits such as pineapples, mangoes and tomatoes go bad because they are kept in very hot areas and there are no refrigeration facilities. Whereas farmers utilise the little rain that is there, they cannot store these fruits or food products in a cold storage due to lack of electric power. Why are we becoming a wasteful nation? I would like to see a situation where the Rural Electrification Programme is well spread out in the country so that everybody can benefit. If there are donors to assist us, then that facility must be spread out evenly.

I note the Minister is busy talking to somebody else and he is not listening to me. But I hope his technocrats are taking what I am saying. Could you protect me from this hon. Member?

(Mr. Okemo consulted with Mr. Ekirapa)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Ekirapa, leave the hon. Member to make his contribution. I am sure the Minister is listening.

Mr. Mkalla: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me now turn to the question of processing fish. The Coast Province produces a lot of fish from the Indian Ocean. This fish is in very high demand in other countries like Japan, Korea and China. They have been requesting Kenya to export this foodstuff to those countries. Here, we are crying that we have no foreign exchange and that we are poor, and yet we are wasting fish, which could easily be exported and give us a lot of foreign exchange. Food is wasted because of lack of refrigeration facilities in those areas. Even in Lake Victoria, the story is the same. We do demand to have refrigeration facilities so that fish, which is produced in those areas, can be stored well, exported and earn a lot of foreign exchange for this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no single school that has got electric power in my constituency. If there is no electricity right from primary school up to secondary school, how can these students do their practicals for physics, biology and chemistry? They need burners which use gas. They have to have some electrical facilities but they are not there. Therefore, Form Four students are forced to do their practical examinations in schools in town. There is no electricity in the whole of my constituency. Why are we treated as if we are second class citizens in this country? I would like to see a situation where the Minister for Energy now takes this issue more seriously than ever before and makes sure that power is installed from Mackinnon Road, Bamburi and Kinango areas before the general election so that we can also say we have achieved some benefits from the Government in this particular Session.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to comment on the cost of production. Kenya is said to be one of the most expensive areas to do business. The reason given by everybody who is doing business in this country is that the cost of electricity is very high. It is alleged that the cost of electricity in Kenya per kilowatt hour is about 12 cents while in South Africa it is about 6 cents and in Egypt, 3 cents. Why are we making our electric power so expensive compared to other countries? How can we do business with the COMESA countries if we are making the cost of production expensive? Are we marketing Kenya, or demarketing it because of these factors, which have a direct bearing on the cost of our products?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cost of a bag of cement from Bamburi is twice the price of cement produced elsewhere in the COMESA countries.

QUORUM

Mr. Kibicho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I sympathise with the Chief Whip of the Government, but is it fair to transact our business when we have no quorum?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Order! It is true there is no quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, hon. Members! We now have a quorum! Proceed, Mr. Mkalla!

Mr. Mkalla: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the cost of a bag of cement from Bamburi, which is very expensive because of the power costs. We have to look for a way of reducing the cost of power, so that we can reduce the cost of cement and build affordable houses for Kenyans, so that everybody can be well sheltered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, every year, we spread our little resources in the Budget to all the Votes. I think it is time we took a different approach to budgeting. We should identify the active Votes. For example, if it is energy and water, we should give them money so that they can do something, and we shall see a difference.

There is a lot of desertification going on in the country, by people cutting wood in order to get charcoal. This is because we have no power or electrical systems in our country. If we can provide adequate power, there will be less desertification, less cutting of wood and few people would burn charcoal. This will improve our own environment in this country.

Finally, the exorbitant bills by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company should stop. Officers in the KPLC do not actually visit the houses and the factories to find out how much power has been used in the factories. They just sit in the offices and make bills and send them to people without actually reading the meters. What are they paid for? This is an issue that the KPLC should rectify immediately and make sure that they read these meters. If they cannot do that, we should remove the management of KPLC and employ a new management which will be more concerned with what is happening to the individuals, factories and companies, so that we can get fair bills for everybody.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether I should support this Motion or not. I am saying so because it is five years since I came to this House - I would like to support Mr. Munyasia - that all I have had are promises from this Ministry. It is five years since I came to this Parliament, and I think the bright children who were born then, must be in Standard Five, whereas Shinyalu Constituency has not seen a single meter of electrification. This is the second time the Minister who has moved this Motion has gone back to that Ministry. He is a very nice man, and when you go to his office, you cannot get out when you are angry. He will give you every hope that come next time, you will get something. Five years down the road, we have never seen any electrification in Shinyalu.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, rural electrification is very important to an extent that it will even determine whether I have done *maendeleo* in my constituency or not. Whenever we get donor aid for rural electrification, one wonders the criteria that is used in allocation of those funds. I went to Nyayo House, the headquarters of this Ministry, when Mr. Raila had just been elevated to a Minister from this side of the House, and he showed me a document on how electrification has been apportioned in this country. It is a wonder that it can be so skewed in favour of either you are working in that Ministry or the Kenya Power and Lighting.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take great exception of Mr. Munyasia, when he comes here lamenting that his constituency, Sirisia, has no electricity, and yet the former chairman of the Electricity Regulatory Board, Mr. Moses Wetangula comes from his constituency. I am wondering what he was doing there, when in actual fact, every district with a person who is either working for the KPLC or the Ministry is allocated a big proportion of electrification from the donor funds. So, Mr. Munyasia should stop coming here to complain. He should go and complain to Mr. Wetangula.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Did you hear Mr. Khamasi directing me to a non-entity in the name of a former chairman of the Electricity Regulatory Board? Is he in order to direct me to someone else instead of the Minister who deals with this? Could he not withdraw?

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I need to withdraw that statement. I was only telling him that there is somebody who he can blame, because in this country if you are employed by the KPLC and you have a good post there, or you are a senior person in the Ministry of Energy, definitely the district where you come from will be allocated rural electrification funds. That is all I was trying to explain to Mr. Munyasia.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think Mr. Khamasi neither works for KPLC nor does he work for the Ministry of Energy. I have about five schemes for

Shinyalu which are funded by the French Government. So, I would like him to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the sweet talk I have been talking about. This is the sweet talk I have had for the last five years. In actual fact, for the last five years, the hon. Minister knows that there is not even one kilometre of electrification in Shinyalu. This is what I was saying. You can do the allocation and the survey, and even indicate the amounts allocated, but nothing comes out of it. This is what I am complaining about.

Without electricity, our people cannot get involved in small enterprises, for example, the market places. We have got so many in Shinyalu which do not have electricity. In fact, the nearest electricity which has come there, about seven years ago, is when we had a PC hailing from my area who made sure that electricity went right to his home bypassing many other social places. This is really shameful. What criteria do we use?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of petroleum products, we should encourage our local people into this business. It appears as if the Ministry is putting roadblocks in the way for local people to get into this business. Cartels of big oil companies have been created, to fetch exorbitant prices for their products, and fleecing Kenyans of huge amounts of money. I think a system has got to be put in place where this can be checked. I do not think it is necessary for us to just sit down and begin crying that this is a free market and that we cannot do anything. It is like the financial sector where the banks have been operating as they wished and yet we passed here a law which was frustrated. We need a law like the one which Mr. Donde brought here and was fully approved by this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of preservation of forests, as the Minister said rightly, nearly 80 per cent of the rural populace use wood fuel and as such forests are threatened with extinction. I am just wondering whether the Inter-Ministerial Committees which have to do with this Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Forests, can be supported to ensure that forests which are threatened with extinction can be taken care of. It is important that we protect our forests because if we do not, we risk facing desertification in this country. This is especially true since cases of people cutting trees for wood fuel and clearing forests to cultivate land are on the increase.

I would like to conclude by pleading with the Minister to follow up on the issue of the French and Spanish aid where surveys have been done and amounts allocated to make sure that our people get electricity. I do agree with the hon. Members who said that we need to liberalise production of electricity. The law needs to be simplified so that communities which live near small river falls can produce electricity for local use. I would like to support this Vote so that we can have this money and ensure that electricity is provided for the rural people, and particularly in Shinyalu where we have heard about this story for the last five years.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Vote. I do support that the Minister be given the funds he has requested for so that he can carry out the functions of the Ministry for the current year.

Secondly, I want to observe that electricity is certainly most essential and pivotal to our economic development which is really dependent on the availability of electricity in this country. I am saying so because large and small scale industries, factories, and the *Jua Kali* sector, all require electricity as an input to their productivity. It is also essential to schools which have become very technological nowadays. Computers are used in schools and these require electricity. Quite frankly, this is a very important Ministry and the companies therein are very crucial. This industry is absolutely imperative for our economic development.

I am delighted about the restructuring of the power industry into regulatory, generation and distribution bodies. I believe this has assisted greatly in enhancing and enabling even greater production of electricity and has spread out the burden, particularly of the debts within that industry. This is commendable. I can only urge that the generation department tries as much as possible to diversify more and more on power generation. I know all along we have been relying on hydro, geothermal as well as thermal power. I want to urge that we have more of these micro-stations because this is something which has probably been ignored. It is important that we tap whatever water resources we have. The micro power stations are important as they will help connect electricity in the rural areas. I also want to emphasise that we have a lot of wind power in this country which has not been tapped at all. I wonder why KENGEN or the Ministry is not encouraging the use of wind power. I believe there is enough wind somewhere on the Mwangea Hill in Kilifi District to produce 200 megawatts of power. That may only be a story but I am sure that, elsewhere in Kenya, wind power is strong and it can in fact be harnessed in order to produce more electricity in this country.

There is also photovoltage which is available and this could in fact be the answer to the problem of supply of electricity in the rural areas. The current generation of electricity, and whatever we buy from the neighbouring country, comprises of only less than 10 per cent of the power supply in our rural areas. If 90 per cent of Kenyans do not have electricity supply, how do we expect economic development to be steered to a greater growth? How can we expect to industrialise this country by 2020? The need to diversify electricity production is so important that I would even

venture to suggest that if we do not have the funds from the Bretton Woods Institution or the African Development Bank, we should go on one of my favourite methodologies of financing this power project. This methodology may be referred to as; built, operate and transfer. I do not know why we have not adopted this methodology because it is the only way, in my view, particularly as we are faced with embargoes from the World Bank and bilateral donors. Another way of solving the problem of electricity deficit is through the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), but I believe that at the moment they are really taking us for a ride in terms of the price agreements that they entered into. Those prices need to be re-negotiated.

I want to now go to the issue of electricity distribution and supply, having talked a little bit about the generation aspect. I appreciate that the distribution of electricity and the construction of power lines is really an expensive affair, but perhaps we could look into ways and means of making sure that this is liberalised as much as possible. Maybe small and upcoming towns can have their own supply or distribution centres so as to have units and thus avoid congestion. For example, if there was another power distribution company coming into Nairobi here, the power lines would be so entangled. The upcoming towns should have their own small supply or distribution companies so that they can be taken care of because it is too much for the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to provide electricity throughout the Republic.

I am lamenting that less than 10 per cent of the Kenyan population is on the central grid. I think that is ridiculous, to say the least! I believe there is a move to buy power from South Africa through Arusha. I plead that, that should be expedited as soon as possible, so that we can increase the availability of power in the country, so that it can reach as many areas as possible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me now turn to Kaloleni Constituency and talk about rural electrification projects. When I used to work for the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), we religiously used to set aside 1 per cent of the total revenue for rural electrification. I believe the Government may not have been paying its portion but, so what? I believe 1 per cent, two per cent or even 5 per cent should be set aside for rural electrification, whether or not the Government gives its contribution. Why should we wait for the contribution from the Government when, in fact, the objective is to have rural electrification in those areas? I would like to urge policy-makers within the energy sector and power industry to ensure that, that system continues to be applied, so that we have the 3 per cent rural electrification contribution as direct contribution from electricity consumers. It is important to have a continued rural electrification programme. We budgeted for that two years ago and the electricity people came to Kilifi pinpointing where electricity would be installed but, today, we do not have it. I would like to urge the Ministry to electrify all the Kaloleni schools like Chamagande, Maandani and others.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Vote of the Ministry, which is very important. I think if the Ministry of Energy was really committed to the Rural Electrification Programme in this country, Kenyans would not be impoverished as they are currently! The Government unconstitutionally established the so-called District Development Committees (DDCs) to prioritise projects in the districts. But, out of all the priorities given and which fall under this Ministry, I can say that very few have been honoured. I am saying that because since 1998, we prioritised our rural electrification programme in Taita-Taveta District and, as I speak now, only one was completed during Mr. Mbela's tenure as the Minister for Energy. The second one, which was the first priority, was at Mwatate, followed by Voi Constituency, have not taken off to date. As I was looking at the district allocations, only just about Kshs11 million has been allocated to that district. That amount, to us, is really peanuts and cannot do much!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is puzzling that the Ministry itself appears subordinate to the KPLC! The KPLC collects the revenue on behalf of the Ministry, but the Ministry does not get anything to contract the KPLC to do the distribution of energy. So, that is why I get a bit concerned, but I do not really want to talk about the electricity. But let me concentrate my contribution on renewable sources of energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are very much aware, wood fuel accounts for 70 per cent of our total final delivered energy. That is to show that 93 per cent of the rural energy is basically wood fuel. That is why people simply depend on it because they cannot afford electricity which is not there and it is only heard of! In any case, it is only 5 per cent of the final energy that is delivered. On petroleum products, we only import 24 per cent. That is too much! Electricity accounts for only 5 per cent! That is why I said I did not want to discuss much about it. But what are the issues that need to be addressed, for us to be seen to be concerned with the welfare of our countrymen; for us to be seen that we are focused and have a vision on rural electrification programmes and our energy sector? One thing we have to ask ourselves is: How much energy is available to us? Is it enough to satisfy the growing national demand? What is the current development strategy on the power sector? What are the power options available currently? We have to ask ourselves such questions! What is the role of sustainable power technologies in this country? Finally, one other question that we have to ask ourselves is: Does the country have an enabling policy

and regulatory environment for commercial exploitation of sustainable power technologies? Once we ask ourselves those questions, then we are on course and we can be seen to be focused. How can we enhance and modify the sources, so that they are friendly to the investors?

That has not been happening. Kenyans are well known for writing very convincing papers internationally. But when it comes to the implementation part of it, we are below 10 per cent. When we write a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to convince them to give us some money, we are excellent! But come to the implementation part of it, we are nowhere to be seen in this world!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is at the energy crossroads. Rural access to the KPLC electricity has not increased substantially for the last ten years and yet, they are the same people who would charge the local people for a transformer. They are the first people to charge for electricity consumption. If you are really doing commercial business with good returns, and if we were to go rural in terms of electricity, the best you would have done is just to import transformers, place them wherever Kenyans are and start charging for the services you are rendering. There is no need of Kenyans being charged for the transformers and, at the same time, pay for electricity consumption.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, rural poverty is compounded by lack of modernised energy in this country. Yet, the Government says it is committed to alleviation of poverty in this country. We cannot alleviate poverty when rural poverty is compounded by lack of modern energy. Industrialisation, let alone development, cannot happen without modern energy in this country. So, where are we heading to? Yet our Sessional Papers read that we must be industrialised by the year 2020. We cannot keep on shifting goals. We said that we would be industrialised by the year 2002. It was shelved to 2015. Again, it has been postponed to the year 2020. That is when we will be industrialised. Why should we keep on changing goal posts?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, over-reliance on biomass fuel is causing environmental problems in this country. Previous speakers have spoken about de-afforestation in this country, which is taking place now. If you go to our districts - rural areas in Kwale, Taita-Taveta and Kilifi - you will find that there are no indigenous hard wood trees. They have all been cut down for charcoal business. This charcoal is not for local use. This charcoal is being exported to the Middle East. You cannot now find indigenous trees in those areas. This is simply because Kenyans are impoverished and have no electricity as one source of generating income.

But we can also provide rural energy services in this country of ours. Kenya is one of the leading countries in energy innovation. We are leading in the whole region, East and Central Africa. In fact, we are leading in the whole of Africa. But then to reach that level of rural energy services, we must have strong commercial infrastructure. If that does not happen, and it is not there, then, there is no way we can provide these services to our people. Kenya has very good human and natural resources in this country.

I have said that I just want to concentrate my contribution on renewable sources of energy, and that is why I am not touching on other areas. I feel that this is one of the areas which need to be focused on as we go to the elections and, of course, for the new Government which is coming in January. This is what we will be focusing on so that we can make a difference from the current Government.

With comparative little energy, we have had our local artisans coming in now with *Jua Kali* jikos, battery-based systems and solar, which are now used to update the Rural Electrification Programme (REP) energy sector in the rural areas. This is because rural Kenyans, and I am getting this from statistics, are more educated than people in other regions. This is a fact and that is why they are innovative. But they only need a little support from the Government - Inter-Ministerial discussions - so that policy Papers can be given. Cooking and heating is limited to biomass energy. This is basically in the rural areas. This is also because of lack of rural industries. It has caused lack of power for rural industries in those areas. Wood and charcoal are the major fuel factors in the rural areas. Supply is also limited, and we are currently mining on our stocks which are already there. The moment these are finished, then, we are gone. Unless action is taken, then, forest cover and standing stock of biomass will be depleted in the next few years. Then, that is the time Kenyans will start coming up with so many other policies, measures and other things. They would say: "Let us do this and that." Yet we could have contained the situation far much earlier.

We can get rid of that if we increase our supply; improve agro-forestry, reduce wood loss and forest land and encourage better management of range lands which we are not currently doing. We want to improve charcoal conservation efficiency. We want to work with the charcoal producers to improve production methods and techniques. Let us have people who can do farming of the current species of trees which can grow within a very short time and be cut to produce charcoal, other than just cutting trees haphazardly. Currently, if we can we have people with good farms where we can plant trees, and then cut the trees later on for charcoal burning, we can do better than what is happening currently. We can reduce wood demand through conservation; that is, we can have improved stoves in homesteads and better cooking methods in commercial institutions, hotels, schools and other areas. We can reduce that. Alternatively, we can use the substitutes of other fuels like LPG, briquettes from the fuels and solar thermal biogas, etc.

We, as policy makers, know that when we talk of charcoal burning--- I have been advocating for my people

not to cut down trees for charcoal. But I think that by denying these people some freedom, we are allowing our forests to be cut haphazardly at a dangerous level. I think what we can also do is to legalise and organise charcoal production so that we make it attractive and produce sustainable charcoal. That can be done, but when we stop Kenyans people from doing that, we arrest them when they transport charcoal, we forget that Kenyans are very clever people; they use other means. In any case, the question that should be asked is: Why arrest the transporter and the charcoal burner and we do not arrest the user?

We cannot have double standards in this country. Let us legalise farming of fuel wood plantations. That is what I was talking about. Let us have plantations, as much as we have sisal and other crops. Let us have charcoal or fuel wood plantations for our own domestic and export use so that we appear organised; the country appears organised in terms of energy sources.

Of course, I have said that we would be promoting improved stoves and wood energy efficiently and vigorously. Fourthly, let us put in place policies that promote LPG - Liquid Petroleum Gas - as an alternative source of energy. Of course, we support other substitute sources of energy. How do we speed up the Rural Energy Access? We can do that by having strong rural electrification policies that efficiently and democratically transfer cross substitute to rural projects. That is the only way we can speed up the Rural Energy Access.

One other way is by enacting investment laws that encourage the private sector to move in and supply areas where KPLC cannot reach. We must also re-evaluate the KPLC transmission and distribution monopoly and, of course, to strengthen the Electricity Regulatory Board (ERB) as an independent body which would regulate energy supply. As it stands now, it is as if it is a dormant body which does not exist in this country because we have not seen what it does and Kenyans do not know whether it exists or not. This is also because the ERB is not seen to have defended either party; either the distributor or the final consumer.

Uganda, as we speak now, has had energy for rural transformation project which has created a transparently run rural electrification subsidy. They have given a subsidy of US\$400 million; that is aggressively taking electrification to the rural people. We, Kenyans, have no Budget; we have nothing. We only depend on donor money. We cannot bring a Budget here - and vote it - with money which you are expecting and it is not in your pockets. You cannot! You do not plan anything for God's sake when our money is not at your disposal! You can only plan for something when you have the money at hand. But here you give people hope, that, "we will electrify the area." The Minister said that they have some plans of rural electrification in Shinyalu. But maybe, that is based on what is to come from donors. If money is not provided by donors, then, there would be nothing. But you see, we have given hope to our people; that, they would get electricity, but the money is not there. The Ugandan Energy for Rural Transformation Project targets 10 per cent of rural access to electricity in ten years. In every ten years, there is 10 per cent growth in rural electrification programme.

I would like to point out that hundreds of institutions have been supplied with electricity as we speak here now. This is the case, and yet these people were 30 years behind us. President Museveni came to power the other day. He has only been in power for 15 years, but look at their road network and the artificial water falls in Jinja which they built. When we visited that area, President Museveni told us to come and plead with our Government to buy electric power from Uganda. This power is obtained from the water from Lake Victoria. This is the case, and yet Kenyans with all the brains cannot satisfy themselves with rural electrification. We are always very "smart" when there is a crisis so that a few individuals in this country can make money. They will bring in Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Why should we wait for that to happen? Let us have enough supply of electric power. It is embarrassing that when the whole world is on Information Technology (IT), Kenyans in rural areas cannot access the website because there is no electricity. We should not look for sources of energy at this time. Instead, we should be connected to the website whenever we are in the rural areas. Thirty years down the line, we cannot be where other people in the world are; 30 years down the line we cannot be where Uganda has been for the last 15 years. That country has made a big stride in that direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption is at an alarming rate in this country. Let us not talk about it now because this has been done quite often. But let us have the private sector led Rural Electrification Programme where private investors come in and are given a free hand. The issue where a private investor comes to this country and is told that let us have 50 per cent share and he or she holds the remaining 50 per cent share should not arise. Let us give these foreign investors a free hand. Let us give him a grace period of 20 years before the man starts to pay taxes. Let people undertake studies and see whether they can supply power in rural areas like, Voi, Kilifi and Turkana. Let us privatise the energy sector. This should be done efficiently. Award of contract should be done competitively and transparently so that we can have private investors who are committed to the Rural Electrification Programme. From the Ugandan example, this project is now being rolled out to other countries like, Ethiopia, Mozambique and even Tanzania. What are we doing as a Kenyan Government or people? We should lead and not follow what others.

I would like to end my contribution by saying that Kenya has got the resources to transform rural energy

sector. This is because we have educated consumers, motivated energy sellers and suppliers, capable technical sector and strong financial sector. We have private individuals who can do this. Finally, what we need is a share division and commitment to make this to happen.

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

Thank you.

Mr. Kimeto: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. First of all, the Ministry of Energy is very important. This Ministry should assist in supplying electricity to Kenyans in rural areas, as Mr. Mwakiringo has said. This Ministry can make this country develop. The only problem is that when proposals are made here, they are not implemented. What the hon. Members propose here will be left in books for historical purposes; they will not be implemented. For example, way back in 1998, I asked a Question in this House as to why Ndanai has no electric power. The Minister did a very good job. He brought poles and connected power lines but there are no lights. It has taken more than three years to switch on electricity in this area. The people of Ndanai and I do not know the ceremony which should be performed to enable them have electricity---

We do not know whether the Ministry officials want *kitu kidogo* so that they can switch on the electric power in that area.

The other countries we see developing cannot do so without electric power. If electric power is generated by water falls, we can modify the rivers in this country to become water falls. Way back, Egypt had no connection with the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea but the Egyptians constructed the 92-kilometre long canal. Why does the Ministry not have an action plan so that it can make the rivers in this country have water falls, which could be used to produce electric power? We have River Tana, Athi River, River Kipsonoi in my constituency and River Chemosot. We have so many rivers in this country. Why does the Ministry not have an action plan to make artificial water falls in these rivers which could be used to produce electric power? This power will develop all the sectors, for example, the agricultural sector in this country. We can "kill" importation of maize from other countries if we produce electric power which will be used to irrigate areas which do not receive enough rainfall. We can use this power to pump water to North Eastern Province which experiences drought throughout the year. This is so, if we want to make wonders. Why does Mr. Okemo not bring an action plan on this? We should make water flow from Lake Victoria by making artificial water falls and pump it to North Eastern Province. Who are we waiting for to come to this country and make wonders? We want to make the ten wonders of this world. Mr. Okemo, what are we waiting for? You are leading a Ministry which is very important. We can make the City of Nairobi clean by pumping water to every place with electric power. The City of Nairobi has become very dirty because there is no water to be used to clean our roads. The City has also become very dirty because even our hospitals have no water. This is the case because there is no power to pump water to hospitals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, electric power which is produced in water falls should be promoted so that every district has sufficient electricity. What are we waiting for? Which Ministers or Government are we waiting for?

Mr. Mwakiringo has said that Kenya is degenerating into a desert. We can avoid our country becoming a desert if we pump water and plant many trees. We can pump water with electric power to North Eastern Province so that they can plant many trees. If we do this, we will make this country very beautiful.

If we can have electric power in this country, we can save a lot of things. Afforestation could be easily done and this country could have a lot of sunshine and rainfall, hence a lot of trees or forests. This country will look so beautiful with a lot of forests due to rainfall, hence hydro-electric power supply stations could be started.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go to other areas in this country, you will find that there are electric power stations which pump water to areas which will produce food. Mr. Okemo, we should not be importing food! If the Ministry of Energy comes up with an action plan to use water resources to produce electric power, every region in this country could produce a lot of food. We could be having enough food because of Lake Victoria, many rivers, *et cetera*. It is only an action plan which the Minister should bring before this House so that there will be extension of electricity supply throughout the country, which will stop theft because lighting will be everywhere. All Ministries could come together and see to it that, in every market and other places, there is electricity. For instance, in my constituency, there are areas which have not been supplied with electricity, yet there is a lot of water. But, unfortunately, there is no action plan. The action plan should be provided.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am asking those who are in charge of this Ministry to bring an action plan for this country. They should not be so much sycophantic! If they do not want to do what is needed, maybe, the President does not want it done and, therefore, they cannot do it. They should leave the people in that Ministry alone and bring an action plan which will make the Eighth Parliament a very wonderful one. There should be the supply of electricity so that 30 million Kenyans and, especially those in the rural areas could benefit. That is possible! We want to have a Kenya where, whenever you are walking at night, you can see light everywhere in the Republic. But, if you

are coming from London and you are passing across Africa, you will wonder whether really there are people living in Kenya, just because there is no electric power. It is only in Nairobi where you can see light and believe that, at least, there are people living there. But people are accustomed to the poverty of this country and are used to doing without electric power.

With those few remarks, I thank you all for listening.

*(Mr. Kimeto crossed over to the
Opposition side without bowing)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Mr. Kimeto, go right back!

*(Mr. Kimeto went to the Bar,
bowed, then crossed over)*

Mr. Mboko: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. From the outset, I rise to support the Motion on this Vote, even if the money allocated is inadequate to do what Kenyans need. The money allocated to this Ministry falls short far below our expectations as a nation, because the demand for power far exceeds what the Budget has provided for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Energy is very important for the development of this country. It supports the *Jua Kali*, education and social sectors; whether in schools, hospitals, markets, factories, name it. But one thing the Ministry must address is the cost of energy, both fuel and hydro-electric power energy. The cost of energy must be addressed because we cannot be competitive in the business world when the cost of energy is high. The cost of production in this country outstrips our fair share in the competitive international markets because to produce steel or anything, whether edible oil or small components of spares parts, you will find it better to import the product than to manufacture it in this country because of the high cost of power. Therefore, I would like to urge the Ministry, and the Minister, to address this problem of the high cost of power.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Seven Forks Hydro-Electric Power Station, an investment of the Government, was made purposely to supply enough power to most parts of this country, with at least a connectivity from the Uganda Owen Falls Dam. But we never knew that the source of water of the River Tana, which comes from Mt. Kenya, would be cleared very fast. The Seven Forks Dams are now being silted due to deforestation on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. Very soon, we will not be able to produce even our own energy. That is why, as I speak here now, most power generating stations in this country use fuel to turn the turbines because our dams, for instance, Masinga, Kamburu, Kiambere *et cetera*, do not have enough volumes of water to turn the turbines. When those dams were being made, there was an understanding between the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) and the local people that, 2 per cent of the revenue generated from those dams should be used by those people who live near those dams. When you look back at these areas and ask yourself how the 2 per cent has been used in those areas, you do not see anything at all! Even those people who surrendered their farms for the construction of Masinga Dam have, hitherto, not been compensated for the land they surrendered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good to have power through Rural Electrification Programme. But last year, I proposed in this House that, instead of Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) using trees as poles for connecting power lines, they should use cement poles in order to drastically reduce deforestation in this country because the poles which are being used to replace old ones, in areas where they are bringing new lines, leads to clearing of forests by the KPLC. If they can use cement poles, then this country shall protect its own environment.

Also, there is the electricity fund, which, the KPLC has not remitted money to the Treasury, for the last few years; which was meant for the promotion of Rural Electrification Programme. The money is just getting into a revolving fund within the KPLC! We need this money in order to facilitate accessibility of power to the rural people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the multinational oil companies are managed by cartels. After we liberalised the oil industry, there is no competition because these companies sit down and work out modalities of how much they should charge for petrol, diesel and kerosene, among other petroleum products. The aim of the Government to create competitiveness in the sector has been defeated by these companies. I think I will not be wrong to urge the Minister to reinstate price controls in this sector because Kenyans are suffering a lot. These multinational oil companies do not allow indigenous Kenyans to invest in this sector. They use offices of the Ministry of Energy to molest the indigenous oil operators. They also accuse indigenous Kenyans of adulterating their fuel. That is not the work of the multinational oil companies. It is the work of the inspectors of the Ministry. These companies must allow competition in this sector. They should not urge the Minister to close down petrol stations owned by our people. The Minister can only do so if our people put up some structures in residential areas to sell petrol and diesel. But what

poses more danger to our people? Is it a Total station in the City of Nairobi under an office block or a Wanjiku's petrol station in Dandora? There is a Shell station at UTC Building. This petrol station is more dangerous than the one operating in Kariobangi. But the indigenous Kenyans are not given a chance to develop. There must be a fund to help the upcoming indigenous Kenyans who want to venture in the oil business.

My constituency lies along the Nairobi-Mombasa Road. On the entire road, there are four markets which have no electricity. These are Emali, Nthange, Kinyambu and Mbui Nzau. Unfortunately, for Mbui Nzau the power lines have been dropped. But what is lacking is just a transformer to serve that market with a population of 300 customers. I do not understand what kind of business the KPLC is doing if they cannot tap business in those markets. Why can they not supply a transformer to Mbui Nzau market and light up the area?

Lamu District Headquarters is being served by a diesel power generator. If they can provide a transformer to a market, why can they not do the same to a district headquarters? If these markets are supplied with electricity, there will be more employment opportunities through the jua kali sector. People in those markets will reduce their production cost because they will not ferry items from Mombasa or Nairobi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue is that of power bills. The KPLC should adjust the fuel cost component for domestic users.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order for the Ministry to realise any development in this country's energy sector, it should concentrate on the conservation and protection of our renewable energy. In a country like Kenya where more than 60 per cent of her population live below the poverty line, definitely, wood fuel forms a major source of energy in our country. So many hurdles have been put before the Ministry of Energy so that it cannot compel the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to stop the destruction of our forests. Today, most families in the countryside cannot cook their food due to lack of firewood. We should, therefore, give the Ministry of Energy teeth, so that it can control the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, so that it can protect our forests for use by this country's future generations.

Another issue I would like to address is the closure of so many factories in this country due to the high cost of energy. While closing down its operations, Castle Breweries Limited cited the high cost of energy in Kenya. The closure of that brewery rendered more than 600 people jobless. In order to ensure that our people continue to remain in employment, we should control the cost of electricity in this country, so that our goods can compete with those from other countries in the region. If energy in this country continues to be expensive, Kenyan traders will resort to importing cheap and sub-standard commodities from other countries, thus killing our industries and rendering our people jobless. Therefore, I urge the Minister to look for ways and means of reducing the cost of electricity in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is one of the countries which have failed to explore news sources of energy. As Mr. Kimeto said, although Kenya has highly qualified personnel, the Government has not encouraged them to research into other sources of energy. We should have encouraged our experts to research into sources of energy other than hydro-electricity. That way, they may have discovered other sources of energy and thus made electricity much cheaper. Even the amount of money requested for by the Ministry is so little; it will not enable it to do anything good for this country.

I believe that if the Ministry is given more money, it could use its highly qualified human resource to come up with alternative cheap sources of electricity. If rural areas are supplied with cheap electricity, the problem of rural-urban migration will come to an end; people in rural areas will be able to establish micro-industries. Electricity will enable people in the rural areas to process agricultural produce into more consumable goods and transport them to Nairobi for sale. As it is now, agricultural produce from rural areas must be transported to Nairobi for processing into more consumable products. That way, the farmer ends up making very little money from his hard work.

I would now like to address the issue of rural electrification, which we have talked about year in, year out. For the last five years, only one project at Isagaki Mission, which was funded through Spanish aid, has been implemented in Maragwa Constituency. It was, however, quite ridiculous that, that project's power supply line stretches over a distance of about ten kilometres but does not supply power to any other market centre, nor has any other transformer been installed in the area for future supply of power to the various market centres in the area. Then one wonders what the use of the project is if people within the area cannot benefit from it. The power was taken to a mission centre. Since the project has not been completed, I would like to urge the Minister to ensure that places such as Mungo-ini and Mugumo-ini are provided with electricity from this project.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue that I would like to raise is the cost of petroleum products. The cost of petroleum products in this country is quite high. We have allowed multinational companies to dominate the local people. For example, along Thika Road, there was an African who had managed to create a market

for petroleum products along that road. But later, multinational companies were licensed to operate around him just to cripple him. He could have been advised on how to widen his business and assist others to invest in such a businesses. Today, Thome Petrol Station has been surrounded by multinational companies such as Total, Kobil and Caltex. Why should we let Kenyan businessmen be destroyed by multinational companies? We should give our people a chance to do business. We even want them to invest outside the country, but if they cannot invest outside the country, we should give them a chance to invest in our own country.

Even as we urge our people to venture into the petroleum products business, we would like them to be trustworthy. We have a problem of adulteration of petrol. The petrol stations which are coming up may make Kenyans even poorer. The petrol station owners mix super petrol with kerosene, and after fuelling your car at such petrol stations, it starts emitting black smoke. We would like those petrol stations to be inspected. I believe that we have people who can inspect them and unearth such a malpractice in order to avoid losses to vehicle owners.

With those few remarks, I beg to oppose the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Manyara): Mr. Minister, since there is no other hon. Member who wants to contribute, would you like to reply?

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): Yes, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the hon. Members for their very valuable contributions. I have noted their concerns. I think I can reduce them to basically rural electrification which seems to be the main burning issue. I wish that the hon. Members would understand that we do have a rural electrification master plan which was extensively carried out some time back and we renew this plan every year. The only problem is that we do not have funds to implement the plan. However, the plan is in place and whenever we have funding available, that is why we keep on referring to---.When that money is available and the plan is in place, all we do is to implement it according to the funds available.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, part of the problem also has been that the Treasury has not been able to allocate really any money as such to rural electrification and, therefore, most of the money that has been used has been external funding. Therefore, when Members of Parliament express frustration I can understand. However, I also do think that Members of Parliament do not fully understand the workings of the electricity and the petroleum sectors from the comments they are making. It is factually wrong to say that Kenya has more expensive electricity than Uganda or Tanzania. That is factually wrong. I do not think you have your facts. Then hon. Members go on to compare Kenya with Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa and Egypt. The reasons why South African power is cheaper are very simple and straightforward because they have a system that has been in place for a long time and all the capital amortisation has been done. Therefore, the initial capital has fully been recovered and, therefore, the cost of power is cheaper. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, I think Kenya is doing extremely well in terms of the cost of power because it compares favourably with Uganda and Tanzania.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the side of petroleum, I think the main concern that I can gather from Members of the honourable House is that the small operators seem to be oppressed by the larger operators. I do not really think that is the case. Once you liberalise then you must find ways of having a level playing field and the Government has done extremely well on that score by making sure that we have common facilities for loading and off-loading of petroleum products in Nairobi, Eldoret and Nakuru. We anticipate putting similar facilities in Mombasa so that the small players can access petroleum products at the same price as the bigger players and I think that is the major advantage. So, I do think that we are not insensitive.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the other hand we should be very careful in saying that we should encourage the indigenous petroleum dealers to do business in haphazard manner. There are laws which must be followed. There are safety standards and environmental considerations which must be met. So, all this said and done, I think the small operators should be able to compete and, in fact, they are doing better than the bigger players because they have smaller overheads and, therefore, they are able to charge lower prices. We have seen this in Eldoret and Nakuru that if you look at the pump price in Nakuru it is lower than the pump price in Nairobi and that is because the small players have been able to access petrol from the Kenya Pipeline Company. Therefore, they avoid having to depend on obtaining this fuel from the larger players.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing that I think I need to mention is that the generation of electricity is being done on the basis of a long-term least-cost power development plan. There is a 20-year plan and again it is rolled over annually.

Mr. Michuki: It is of no use!

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): No! It has a lot of use because it involves ranking of projects because, if you did it in any other way, I think you would be like a gambler and I do not think we can afford to gamble with such an important sector. The important thing is that the plan is there and it has been the basis for the generation that has gone on. So, I do think that we are on the right course and the Ministry of Energy would like to seek the support of this House to approve their Vote.

Than you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, it is time for interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, the 16th of October at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.