

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

**Tuesday, 16th July, 2002**

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Question No.310*

### PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES TO POLICE STATIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** Is Mr. P.K. Mwangi not here? We will come back to that Question later.  
Next Question, Mr. Sifuna!

*Question No.377*

### DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS BY STATE CORPORATIONS

**Mr. Sifuna** asked the Minister for Finance:-

(a) how many times the following companies have declared their dividends for the last six years:

- (i) The Kenya Power and Lighting Company Limited;
- (ii) The Housing Finance Company Limited;
- (iii) The East African Oil Refineries Limited;
- (iv) The Pan African Paper Mills E.A. Limited;                      (v) The East African Portland Cement Company Limited; and

(b) how many of these companies remitted Government dividends to the Treasury for the same period.

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

(a) The following five companies have declared dividends for the last six years as follows:

- (i) The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) Limited has declared dividends six times.
- (ii) The Housing Finance Company Limited (HFCK) has declared dividends five times.
- (iii) The East African Oil Refineries Limited/Kenya Petroleum Refineries Limited (KPRL) have declared dividends four times.

(iv) The Pan African Paper Mills at Webuye has declared dividends once.

(v) The East African Portland Cement at Athi River has declared dividends four times.

(b) The companies remitted dividends to the Treasury as follows:

(i) As I said earlier, the KPLC declared dividends six times and during that period they have paid dividends to the Treasury amounting to Kshs736,493,434.

(ii) The HFCK has not remitted any dividends to the Treasury over the period.

(iii) The KPRL has remitted a total of Kshs258,500,000 over the last six years.

(iv) The Pan Paper Mills E.A. Limited at Webuye has remitted dividends once, amounting to Kshs30,141,909.

(v) The East African Portland Cement Company Limited, as I said, have declared and remitted dividends four times, amounting to Kshs68,398,515.

**Mr. Sifuna:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the Minister's reply, could he explain to this august House why a company like Pan African Paper Mills has only declared and remitted dividends once? What happened with the

remaining five years?

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, dividends are paid on the basis of the company's performance. In the case of Pan African Paper Mills at Webuye, the company is managed through a management contract with the Orient Paper Mills and Industries of India. This is a renewable contract and the current one will expire in the year 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent performance of that company has been poor and trading profits have been fairly low. The main reason for this, according to the management of that company, is owing to stiff competition from paper products coming from other countries, especially South Africa, as well as other COMESA countries. They believe that their competitors, particularly, products from South Africa, are subsidized by the South African Government. As a result of this competition, they have maintained low margins in order to remain viable.

Secondly, the management of that company claims that its cost of production is relatively high because of electricity cost which is relatively higher here than in other countries. So, largely, that is why the company has not been able to remit a substantial amount of dividends.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can see the effect of "unthoughtful liberalization". If the HFCK has declared dividends five times for the last six years, why did it not remit any dividends to the Government? Did the KPLC declare dividends last year when they made a whopping loss of Kshs5 billion?

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the question the hon. Member has raised relating to the HFCK, I am not so sure really whether that issue has got anything to do with privatization as such. But this company makes modest profits, declares modest dividends, but in a much earlier period, the Government undertook to compensate this company in respect of certain foreign exchange losses. So, up to now, the Government owes this company some money, which it is offsetting from dividends it is supposed to be paying to the Government through this arrangement entered between the Government and that particular company.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. There is no way the Housing Finance Company of Kenya (HFCK) can handle foreign exchange losses. Is the Minister in order to tell us that the company could not remit dividends because of certain arrangements resulting from foreign exchange losses?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a supplementary question! Could you ask the last question, Mr. Sifuna?

**Mr. Sifuna:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell this House whether the Government charges companies interest on dividends that have not been paid to the Treasury, and if so, how much?

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no provision under the existing law under which the Government could charge any company interest for failure to pay dividends. As I said, dividends are paid out of profits made and out of the decisions by the Boards of Directors of those companies to declare dividends. If they do not, there is no law which enables the Government to force them to pay dividends, to penalise them through imposing an interest rate. That cannot happen!

*Question No.391*

REGULARISATION OF GOK/KNUT  
SALARY AGREEMENT

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

*Question No.392*

PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWERAGE  
SYSTEMS TO OL KALOU

**Eng. Muriuki** asked the Minister for Water Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Ol Kalou Town is designated as the future headquarters of Nyandarua District;
- (b) whether he is further aware that there is no reliable water supply system or water-borne sewerage system in the town; and,
- (c) what the Government plans are to provide water and sewerage systems in the town.

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

- (a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) Yes, I am aware.

(c) My Ministry has planned a gravity water supply project meant to serve Ol Kalou Town. The source of water for the proposed project is Malewa River. The project has a design production capacity of 3,500 cubic metres per day and it is intended to serve an ultimate population of 32,641 people by the year 2020. The construction of the water supply is estimated to cost Kshs195 million. My Ministry has planned a sewerage project for Ol Kalou Town. The project is designed to treat 2,800 cubic millimetres a day of waste water, with a construction cost estimated at Kshs115 million. The construction of the Ol Kalou water supply and sewerage projects at a total cost of Kshs310 million is a prioritised activity by the Nyandarua District Development Committee (DDC). Construction of the project will commence when funds are made available.

**Eng. Muriuki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is okay for the Assistant Minister to tell us that he has budgeted Kshs195 million for water supply and Kshs115 million for the sewerage system in Ol Kalou Town. When is the construction going to start? The Assistant Minister has said that it will start when funds will be made available. By who? He is the one who should budget for the project! When will the funds be available and when will he start the construction?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that, that project has already been budgeted for, and funds are being sought. When we get enough funds, the work will start immediately.

**Mr. Mwalulu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that the project is budgeted for and work will start when funds become available. I think that is contradictory. However, I think the Ministry of Water Development is very lax when it comes to providing safe and clean water to all Kenyans. As planned by the Government some decades ago, the main source of drinking water in Taveta is open to any abuse and anybody can poison it. So, there is a danger! Even the reservoir is not protected. Could the Assistant Minister state the Government's policy on the provision and protection of water for the safety of Kenyans?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing about Ol Kalou and we are aware that there has been a problem in that town. The plan that we have is very long and will continue up to 2020. It is the policy of the Government to supply water to every Kenyan, Taveta included!

**Eng. Muriuki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in Nyandarua District are being taken for a ride! The Assistant Minister has taken water from Nyandarua to Nairobi at a cost of billions of shillings! He has taken water from the same Malewa River to Nakuru Town using billions of shillings! Could he tell us when he can get a few million shillings for Ol Kalou Town? A plan must have a time scale as well! The year 2020 is the design period, but we want the water now! When will we have it?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ol Kalou has a water supply, but the Ministry feels it is not enough. As I said, that water supply is a long-term project and immediately money is made available, we shall salvage Ol Kalou Town.

*Question No.389*

RESEALING OF ROADS IN MIGORI

**Dr. Oburu**, on behalf of **Mr. Achola**, asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) whether he is aware that the following roads are threatened by gaping potholes:-

- (i) Katito-Kendu Bay Road;
- (ii) Rodi Kopany - Karungu Road; and,
- (iii) Homa Bay - Rongo Road; and,

(b) when the resealing of the said roads will commence.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that the following roads are threatened by gaping potholes:-

- (i) Katito-Kendu Bay Road;
- (ii) Rodi Kopany - Karungu Road; and,
- (iii) Homa Bay - Rongo Road.

(b) The repair of the roads will commence when funds for the fiscal year 2002/2003 are approved by the Kenya Roads Board.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Awino Achola!

**Dr. Oburu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not Mr. Awino Achola!

**Mr. Speaker:** Sorry, Dr. Oburu! Proceed!

**Dr. Oburu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, these roads have not been maintained. The Government, for instance, spent more than Kshs1 billion on the Rodi Kopany-Karungu Road, but four years later, the road is completely destroyed. Homa Bay-Rongo Road has not been maintained since it was built more than 20 years ago. Could the Assistant

Minister tell us the policy of the Government on some of these roads? Could he tell us exactly when these roads will be repaired?

**Eng. Rotich:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that particularly the Rodi Kopany-Karungu Road is in a very bad condition. At one time, we stated here that we were doing something about the contractor and a consultant engineer. However, we hope to resume works on the Rodi-Karungu Road in the current financial year.

**Kanyauchi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister concedes that the roads are in a state of disrepair. Rodi Kopany-Karungu Road is pretty new. Dr. Oburu said that it was constructed four years ago, but I think the correct position is that it was constructed only three years ago. That is the road which leads to my home. So, I use it whenever I go home.

In view of the fact that these roads are in complete disrepair, and that nothing is being done about them, is it a Government policy to wait until roads break down completely before they can be redone? Is there no more road maintenance mechanism by this Ministry?

**Eng. Rotich:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the policy of the Government to wait until roads are completely broken down so that they can be redone. The Government policy is to refill potholes on our roads every five years and recarpet them every eight years. The only problem is that we do not get sufficient funds.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could you ask the last question, Dr. Oburu?

**Dr. Oburu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister said that the Rodi Kopany-Karungu Road will be repaired in the current financial year. Could he tell us exactly how much money has been set aside for this particular road, and for the other two?

**Eng. Rotich:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the exact figure now. We are conducting a study on the road. The project will be financed by the Kenya Roads Board. It will be done in the course of the current financial year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well; let us proceed to Mr. Angwenyi's Question.

*Question No.049*

GAZETTEMENT OF NEW LAND BOARDS

**Mr. Angwenyi** asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the Marani and Mosocho Land Boards expired four years ago;
- (b) whether he is further aware that nominations for the new Boards were made in 1998 and have not been gazetted; and,
- (c) whether, in view of (a) and (b) above, he could gazette the nominations immediately.

**The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement** (Mr. Sudi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware.

(b) I am also aware.

(c) The new members of Marani and Mosocho Land Control Boards were gazetted on 21st June, 2002.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that he is not aware that the members of the said Lands Boards were nominated in 1998, but he goes on to say that the names have been gazetted. I have two questions to put to the Assistant Minister.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker  
(Dr. Omamo) took the Chair]*

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you fit very well in the Chair.

The Assistant Minister says that he is aware that the two Land Control Boards have not been in existence since 1998. Could he tell us whether the transactions that have been carried by the illegal Boards for the last five years are binding? Secondly, from where did he get the names that were gazetted on 21st June, 2002, if he was not aware of the nominations that were made in 1998?

**Mr. Sudi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Question, I said that I am aware. The hon. Member does not seem to have gotten my reply correctly.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker  
(Dr. Omamo) left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the said Land Control Boards have been established and their membership appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Land Control Act, Cap.302. The Act does not provide for a timeframe within which members of Land Control Boards should be gazetted; it empowers the Minister powers to gazette and degazette them at his own discretion. Names of the nominees to the said Boards were submitted to the Minister in September, 1999, by the District Commissioner (DC), Kisii. Apparently, the letter forwarding the same was misplaced in the department, and no action was taken. Due to the lapse in time, it became necessary to consult the DC, Kisii, to update the nominations. Subsequently, the DC submitted new nominees, who were gazetted on 21st June, 2002, under Kenya Gazette Notice No.3840. At this juncture, I would like to table a copy of the Gazette Notice.

*(Mr. Sudi laid the document on the Table)*

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish the Assistant Minister addressed the issue of the transactions that were carried out by the Board members who had not been gazetted. Are these transactions legally binding? If they are not, what do we need to do to legalise them?

**Mr. Sudi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Board members who have been gazetted are not illegal; they are very much legal. I suggest that the hon. Member further consults the Gazette Notice, which I have tabled.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could you ask the last question, Mr. Angwenyi?

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to embarrass the Assistant Minister; he is my friend. But he realises that Provincial Administration officers are not capable of handling legal matters out there in the field. Government Ministries, therefore, should avoid using the Provincial Administration to do their work them.

**An hon. Member:** That is not a question; it is a comment.

**Mr. Sudi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that is quite a perfect observation. In this case, the document that was sent from the DC's office to the Ministry was misplaced. We will ensure that this is not repeated in future.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well! Mr. Muchiri's Question.

#### *Question No.113*

#### SCHOOL PROJECTS IN KASARANI CONSTITUENCY

**Mr. Muchiri** asked the Minister for Local Government whether he could table the list of projects which were carried out by each school in Kasarani Constituency with the money which was contributed by parents on 13th October, 2001, at Drive-In Primary School.

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government** (Mr. Kiangoi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The list of the projects financed through funds collected during the Kasarani Divisional Harambee, held on 13th October, 2001, is hereby attached to the written reply. Some of the schools which benefited from the funds include GSU, Drive-In, Baba Dogo, Kariobangi North, Kahawa, Marurui, Mathare 4A, Roysambu, Ngunyumu, Marura, Murema, Muthaiga, Kiwanja, Kenyatta University, Thika Road, Kamiti and Kasarani Primary Schools.

**Mr. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister will agree with me that Githurai, Njatha-ini, Korogocho, Mathare North, Chandaria and Kahawa Garison Primary Schools are in Kasarani Constituency. But that is not the issue. The issue here is that these primary schools belong to Nairobi City Council. Nairobi City Council is not developing these schools.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only Nairobi City Council which is not developing its primary schools, but all local authorities in the Republic of Kenya are not developing their primary schools. Council-owned primary schools in the country are being developed by parents who are being charged Kshs2,000 per parent as development fee.

Could the Assistant Minister explain to this House why the public is invited to develop local authorities-owned primary schools, when, in fact, title deeds to these schools' land belong to the councils and not to the public?

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, indeed, Kahawa Garison Primary School and the others which the hon. Member mentioned are in Kasarani Constituency. But I was answering the question as to what projects have been carried out. With regard to schools, such as Njatha-ini, Kahawa Garison and Gaboni Primary Schools, no projects have been undertaken.

Secondly, there is a policy of cost-sharing. It is not true that these primary schools belong exclusively to Nairobi City Council. They also belong to the Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs). That is why PTAs everywhere in the country are involved in the development of the schools. This is a matter of cost-sharing.

**Mr. Kibicho:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is this not a contradiction? The highest authority in the Government has said that primary education should be free. How come that even after that statement from the Government, the Assistant Minister has continued to say that there is cost-sharing in primary schools?

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a difference between school fees and projects money. Parents bear the responsibility of developing schools. Once schools are developed, children are not required to pay school fees.

*(A cellphone rang)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Who is that now? Is that Mr. Kiunjuri's cellphone?

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not mine.

**An hon. Member:** It is the Deputy Speaker's cellphone.

**Mr. Omino:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am prepared to be laid on the Table to prove that I do not have a cellphone on me at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anyhow, I warned the House last week that this House will not again be distracted by those gadgets. Any hon. Member whose cellphone will ring in here henceforth, I will, as I said last week, name him. So, now you have exactly two minutes to switch off your cellphones. Any cellphone ringing after this will cause its owner to be named. So, please, switch off your cell phones now.

Very well, as we switch off the cellphones, let us proceed!

**Mr. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 4th December, 2001, the Assistant Minister stood in this House and said that he would issue a cheque for Kshs1,389,000 for the construction of Korogocho Primary School by the end of February, 2002. We are now in July, 2002, and he has not issued the cheque. Why has he not issued the cheque? Korogocho Primary School is now collapsing.

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not remember giving a specific date as to when I would issue the cheque. But we said that we would urge Nairobi City Council to, at least, make that payment. If this has not been done, I undertake to follow the issue up, now that it has been raised.

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister clearly tell this House who is responsible for building schools? Is it the Government or the parents?

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government chips in, but the responsibility of building schools lies with the parents.

*Question No.259*

EXPENDITURE ON BUNGOMA MUNICIPAL  
WATER PROJECT

**Mr. Speaker:** Is Dr. Kituyi present? Mr. P.K. Mwangi's Question!

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming late.

*Question No.310*

PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION  
FACILITIES TO POLICE STATIONS

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi** asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) whether he is aware that police vehicles at Makuyu, Maragwa and Saba Saba Police Stations are unroadworthy;

(b) whether he is further aware that Makuyu Police Station does not have a telephone line for easier communication in case of emergency; and,

(c) when these facilities will be provided to the stations.

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

(a) The police vehicles for Maragwa Police Station, GK448, Land Rover; Makuyu Police Station, GKF680, and Saba Saba Police Station, GKW247 Mahindra, are old but serviceable. They are usually repaired from time to time

using available resources.

(b) The telephone line was disconnected for non-payment of Kshs1,470,825.90, but efforts are being made to pay the money for the line to be restored.

(c) These facilities will be provided when resources are available.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, wonders will never cease. The Office of the President was voted Kshs11 billion by this House and the Assistant Minister is telling us that funds are not available. Even after being voted Kshs11 billion, the Office of the President cannot afford to pay its bills. Communication facilities are very important to police stations.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will you ask your question? Actually, I will end Question Time at 3.20 p.m.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister has agreed that these vehicles are old, and has said that the Office of the President owes Telkom Kenya a sum of Kshs1,470,825.90, when will the Office of the President honour its responsibility by supplying good vehicles to the said police stations and paying the telephone bill?

**Mr. Moroto:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I mentioned that the vehicles are old, but serviceable. We will issue new vehicles to the stations when funds will be available. It is just the other day when we repaired two of these vehicles. We will repair the last one and it will be used.

**Eng. Toro:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can hear that the Assistant Minister is not able to answer this Question fluently because he does not have the facts.

When Maragwa District was created, we were very unfortunate because all police stations in Kandara and Kigumo constituencies did not have working police vehicles. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House what programme he has to replace all police vehicles in Maragwa District police stations?

**Mr. Moroto:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, just as I have mentioned, when the funds will be available, the Ministry will deal with this problem. My Ministry is aware of this problem and that is why I am assuring the House that this problem will be solved this year.

**Mr. Mwenje:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not know whether the Assistant Minister is in order to say that because we have just passed the Budget here, and yet he is using the words "when the money will be available". Is he in order really to talk like that knowing that the Government is now implementing the Budget? Could he tell us whether these funds were included in the Budget or they were not?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! You have not followed what the Assistant Minister said. He said "when the finances are released". Mr. Mwenje, you know there is a procedure. When you close a financial year, all the money is returned and then there is a procedure to release it sometimes this month, and this is what I believe the Assistant Minister is saying.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue here is not on the vehicles or the telephone line. The issue here is that police work is becoming very difficult since this Government is not able to provide the Police Force with the necessary facilities to make their work easier. Could the Assistant Minister provide the Police Force with a mass communication equipment network all over the country so that they can be able to do their work better? All the same, are you ready to pay for Kshs1.4 million you owe and also pay water bills for Makuyu Farmers Co-operative Society because you are not maintaining that Makuyu Police Station?

**Mr. Moroto:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the police are doing their best and that is why you are also safe in Maragwa. Just as I have mentioned here, the payment will be made and the facilities will be there in place when these funds will be released.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Question, Mr. Khamasi!

*Question No.391*

REGULARISATION OF GOK/KNUT  
SALARY AGREEMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Khamasi is still not here? Question dropped.

*(Question dropped)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No.259, Dr. Kituyi.

*Question No.259*

EXPENDITURE ON BUNGOMA MUNICIPAL  
WATER PROJECT

**Mr. Speaker:** Dr. Kituyi is still not here?

**Capt. Ntwiga:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Given that hon. Dr. Kituyi is not here---

**Hon. Members:** No! Hon. Wamunyinyi will ask the Question on behalf of Dr. Kituyi!

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I apologise for coming in late. However, I would like to ask the Question on behalf of hon. Dr. Kituyi, who has properly instructed me to do so.

**Hon. Members:** Go on!

**Mr. Wamunyinyi,** on behalf of **Dr. Kituyi,** asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) what the contract sum was in the tender awarded to Kirinyaga Construction Company for the Bungoma Municipal Water and Sewerage Project;

(b) how much money the Government has so far spent on this project; and,

(c) how much more money is required to complete the project.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Do you all remember the history of this Question?

**Hon. Members:** Yes, we do!

**Mr. Speaker:** You remember we spent half an hour on it?

**Hon. Members:** Yes!

**Mr. Speaker:** Then it is the duty of hon. Dr. Kituyi to come and ask it. Where is he?

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is in Nyeri attending a workshop.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is no excuse for you to ask the Question on his behalf. I will not accept it.

**Mr. Wamunyinyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I then request you to defer the Question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I will not defer it. It falls on the face. Dr. Kituyi will come and see me and tell me why he was not here if he wishes it to be rehabilitated. It falls on the ground.

*(Question dropped)*

**QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE**

IMPLEMENTATION OF TSETSE  
FLY CONTROL PROGRAMME

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that the European Union gave the Government of Kenya Kshs336 million as aid for the purpose of tsetse fly control and eradication in 1999?

(b) What is the fate of the said aid when there is no programme in place for the control and eradication of tsetse fly in the affected areas?

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the European Union gave the Kenya Government Kshs336 million as aid for the purpose of tsetse fly control and eradication. However, I am aware that a financial agreement of a similar amount of money was signed between the European Union and the Kenya Government in 1997, under the auspices of a project called Farming in Tsetse Controlled Areas of Eastern Africa (FITCA) Kenya. Under this project, Kenya would initiate and develop agriculture based economic activities in Teso, Bungoma, Siaya, Busia and Bondo districts. The project money was, therefore, not basically meant to eradicate the tsetse menace in these districts, but to improve the levels of income.

(b) In September, 2001, stakeholders in the above mentioned districts met in a national workshop where they came up with proposals for various district-based activities which they felt should be funded under the Kshs336 million project. These activities included poultry management and development, tsetse cross-section survey, cassava production, millet production and sorghum production. The project is being implemented for a period of four years and will end in December, 2003.

**Mr. Kanyauchi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the Assistant Minister's answer, it does appear that the amount in question has, indeed, been received. I would just like to have that confirmation. Has the amount been received by the Kenya Government or not? If it has been received, has it been disbursed to the relevant districts? Could the Assistant Minister give me one example of one district, say, Bondo District? How much was disbursed to Bondo District under



this arrangement?

**Mr. Arap-Kirui:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as indicated in the answer, this project has been going on and it is supposed to end at the end of next year. As I stated, the stakeholders got together sometime last year to review the project and came up with these further activities. I think that is confirmation enough that funds have been released and the project is ongoing.

**Dr. Omamo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I happen to know Bondo District very well and this project has been talked about in Bondo. Officers in their big vehicles have met wananchi to discuss this project, but nothing has been done on the ground. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House what actually has been done on the ground? The tsetse flies are increasing in numbers and nothing is being done to control them. The tsetse flies are threatening the only game park we have in that area and that is the Lambwe Valley. There are too many tsetse flies biting the wildlife and spilling over to bite our game and livestock. What is being done to reduce their population? What has actually been done or is being done with that money?

**Mr. Arap-Kirui:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has touched on quite a few things. I believe my mandate is to issue funds and it is for the respective Ministries to oversee the programmes. However, may I assure the hon. Member that quite a bit is being done and I am sure the Ministry concerned will be able to verify this further. In respect of the tsetse fly eradication, I believe the hon. Member referred specifically to Lambwe Valley, which I believe is in Suba District. I did indicate that there were a number of five districts covered by this programme and Suba District is not one of them. However, there are programmes to eradicate the tsetse menace in the Lambwe Valley and there is already a project under the Director of Veterinary Services. The Director of Veterinary Services, officers from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Kenya Trypanosomiasis Institute have come together to work on this. I am aware the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with financial support from the International Atomic Agency in Vienna, is undertaking a Sterile Instant Technique Project during the current financial year that will eventually eradicate the tsetse fly from the Lambwe Valley.

**Dr. Ochuodho:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The tsetse flies menace in the Lambwe Valley, which traverses both Suba and Homa Bay districts, cannot be eradicated because whenever they spray them, they spray one-half of the area and then, next time, they spray the other half. I once found out why they do that. It is because they do not want to ultimately eradicate all the tsetse flies, otherwise they will have no job. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that he is aware of that trick they are using and tell us how much money has been set aside to eradicate tsetse flies in the two districts of Homa Bay and Suba?

**Mr. Arap-Kirui:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, some of these issues hon. Members are raising have nothing to do with the Ministry of Finance, which is in charge of finances and not programmes. But I can assure the hon. Member that the idea he advances seems rather far-fetched. I am certain that the officers are intent on doing a good job. I have referred to two programmes and I can assure him that the sterile insect technique knows no boundaries. Once you have a sterile insect, I am sure the insects will not know any boundaries.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well! Next Question, Mr. Kiunjuri!

#### CEMETERY LAND FOR NANYUKI MUNICIPALITY

(**Mr. Kiunjuri**) to ask the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that Nanyuki Municipality Cemetery is full and the council is re-allocating the existing burial sites?
- (b) What urgent measures is he taking to allocate land for a cemetery in the town?

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Kiunjuri, when would you prefer to have your Question answered, tomorrow morning or afternoon, or Thursday afternoon?

**Mr. Kiunjuri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, considering the gravity of this matter, I would propose Thursday afternoon, if the Minister concurs with me.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question has been deferred to Thursday afternoon.

*(Question deferred)*

Next Question, Mr. Thirikwa!

#### DOUBLE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

**(Mr. Thirikwa)** to ask the Attorney-General:-

(a) Is the Attorney-General aware that the Electoral Commission of Kenya has registered over 266,000 voters twice?

(b) What action is he taking to ensure that their names are deleted from the voters' registers?

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Thirikwa, when would you like to have your Question answered? Would you prefer tomorrow or Thursday afternoon?

**Mr. Thirikwa:** I would prefer tomorrow in the afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well! Next Question, Mr. Mwenje!

*(Question deferred)*

#### REMUNERATION OF CKRC MEMBERS

**(Mr. Mwenje)** to ask the Attorney-General:-

(a) In view of the serious allegations and counter-allegations about the reasons for requesting extension of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission term, a matter that threatens to hamper the completion of the review process as scheduled, could the Attorney-General table the earnings of the members of the Commission, inclusive of salary, allowances and benefits?

(b) How much of this has been contributed by donors?

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Mwenje, when would you prefer to have the Question answered; is it tomorrow morning or afternoon, or Thursday afternoon?

**Mr. Mwenje:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, tomorrow morning, we will hold elections of our representatives in the coffee industry in Murang'a. So, I will not be here. So, put it on Thursday afternoon!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question has been deferred to Thursday afternoon!

*(Question deferred)*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

##### OCCUPATION OF CONTINENTAL HOUSE OFFICES

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order, Members! I have a very brief communication to make, and then I have some Ministers who want to make Ministerial Statements, and an hon. Member who wants to request for one. Hon. Members, I promised at the beginning of this year that hon. Members would be able to have their offices. I am now happy to report that Continental House, which has been under rehabilitation to provide offices for Members of Parliament, is now ready for occupation.

*(Applause)*

Accordingly, the Speaker's Committee has discussed the modalities for allocating offices to hon. Members and has adopted the following order of priority:-

- (i) The Leader of Government Business and his deputy.
- (ii) The Leader of the Official Opposition Party and his deputy.
- (iii) The Deputy Speaker.
- (iv) Members of the Chairmen's Panel.
- (v) Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission.
- (vi) Members of the Speaker's Committee.
- (vii) Government Whip.
- (viii) Opposition Whip.
- (ix) Chairmen of Committees.
- (x) The longest serving Members with continuous tenure.
- (xi) Members with disability will be given first priority on Ground Floor.
- (xii) All other Members in order in which they were sworn in. So, if you were sworn in last, you will pick last.

I have already requested the Clerk to issue a timetable showing when each category will be allotted time to choose their offices based on the outlined programme above. The office will contain the following information; the number and the constituency, which will be fixed. But the name will be removable depending on the whims of your constituents!

*(Laughter)*

I also wish to invite all hon. Members to a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 23rd July, at Ten O'clock in the morning in the Old Chambers to discuss matters connected with the rules of admittance of strangers and security in the Continental Building. I expect all hon. Members to attend this meeting because it will be very important. We have put in place very stringent conditions for admittance of strangers to Continental Building because it will be of utmost importance to ensure security because at some stage or the other, all of you will be gathered there. It is my responsibility to ensure that you are secure and for that reason, I have put in place very stringent rules. I want you to understand those rules before you occupy those offices. Unless you understand them, we will be colliding because I will not compromise on the security of Members, particularly when they are gathered in one particular point. So, please, let us meet in the Old Chambers on Tuesday at Ten O'clock to discuss how to do our business out there.

Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Wanjala:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have forgotten about the party leaders. You have not mentioned them in the priority of allocating offices.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Of necessity, most of the party leaders will either be continuously the longest serving Members or they will be Committee Chairmen. But, yes, you are right. Quite frankly, I must admit that in that Committee, that did not occur to us. It is something that we may have to look into, if necessary, because most of them will be absorbed in other categories. But it is something that we can look into. But in general, I would like to state that most offices are almost the same. Obviously, there are a few better than others, and there will be a few Members who may get slightly smaller ones. But those will be left to those who were sworn in last!

*(Laughter)*

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

##### MALARIA OUTBREAK IN NORTH RIFT

**The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week, the Minister for Medical Services issued a Ministerial Statement concerning Mr. Sambu's constituency. Mr. Sambu specifically wanted to know about Ndalat and Kimng'oron

Health Centres, which he claimed were closed. We told him that we have sent the Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Rift Valley, there and he reported back to say that both Ndalat and Kimurgor Health Centres are fully functional.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! I know why Mr. Sambu is rising on a point of order and he is right. We are talking about something that has killed a lot of people, and it is right that we actually do listen. Much more important is the question of time. I think we will not do justice to this problem which is affecting a lot of people across the western side of our country if we rush it now.

I think it is better for you, Dr. Wako, to continue from where you have stopped, tomorrow morning, so that the hon. Members from those malaria affected areas may have an opportunity to get some clarification from you and, maybe, point out a few things to you.

So, Dr. Wako, you are ordered to issue that Ministerial Statement tomorrow.

*(Mr. Wako stood in his place)*

Mr. Attorney-General, will you take only one minute to say whatever you wanted to say? If you cannot, please, do not stand up. Time is up!

**The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako):** No, that is not sufficient time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Can you do it in the morning?

**The Attorney-General (Mr. Speaker):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The time is up! Mr. Munyes, I know you also have an urgent issue to raise. Can you raise it

tomorrow, very early in the morning?

**Mr. Munyes:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Order!

### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee Read being  
Third Allotted Day)*

### MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

The agricultural sector is critical to accelerating economic growth and achieving a positive impact on poverty reduction. The growth of this sector improved from a negative 2.1 per cent in 2000, to a positive 1.2 per cent in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in crop production, for instance, we nearly realised self-sufficiency in maize production due to favourable weather conditions. As hon. Members are aware, the poverty reduction---

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Sungu:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We cannot follow what the Minister is saying because hon. Members are consulting loudly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! I know it is all my fault because I told you that you all have offices now. There is no problem about that. The Clerk will be able to show you your offices. So, please, forget about those offices. Could we hear the Minister for Agriculture?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I was saying that hon. Members are no doubt aware that the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was finalised in September, 2001. The various stakeholders' fora that were convened to collect views on the preparation of this Paper resulted in delineation of policies and priorities to achieve growth and reduce poverty. Among the top four priorities, three of them, namely crop development, livestock development and food security are within the domain of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Ministry's Vote that I am moving today is based on this prioritisation.

My Ministry has been allocated Kshs6,631,514,970 in the Budget for Recurrent Expenditure, and Kshs1,515,027,790 for Development Expenditure during the financial year 2002/2003. We are also expecting grants worth Kshs1,107,549,784 and loans worth Kshs1,257,975,502 from our development partners.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]*

Before I elaborate on how the Ministry intends to utilise these funds, I would like to briefly outline the achievements made by the Ministry during the last financial year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards maize production, we harvested about 30 million bags of maize during the last agricultural year. Combined with some carry-over stocks from the previous year, this resulted in a surplus of about 7 million bags, out of which some 1 million bags are already in the strategic grains or food reserves under the custody of a trust which has been established.

On the livestock sector, I wish to state that the livestock body conditions improved in the pastoral and agro-pastoral districts because of improved pasture resulting from favourable rainfall. We are happy that pastoralists have taken advantage of the favourable weather conditions to rebuild their herds which had diminished due to high mortality during the previous severe drought.

The Ministry is keen to revive the Kenya Meat Commission and hon. Members will recall that the hon. Minister for Finance tabled a Sessional Paper on the same here in June. This paper is now before the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, in joint consideration with the Ministry and the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade. It is my hope that the House will adopt the Sessional Paper

in the course of this financial year. I wish at this point to appeal to hon. Members, particularly those who are members of those Committees, not to turn the past mistakes and misdeeds of the KMC into stumbling blocks to the adoption of the Sessional Paper. I sense some kind of conspiracy to sabotage the adoption of that Paper. A task force has been---

**Mr. Ndwiga:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister not imputing improper motives on the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources? How can he anticipate what the Committee will do? He said that the Committee will sabotage the adoption of the Sessional Paper on the revival of the KMC.

**The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Godana):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just appealing to my good friend and his colleagues in the Committee to be much more considerate than I suspect they are.

A task force has been constituted to come up with recommendations on restructuring the Kenya Dairy Board. The aim is to strengthen the board to effectively regulate the industry in the area of milk hygiene, handling and vetting of exports and imports. These and other measures to be undertaken will go a long way towards creating stability in the dairy sector, which last year realised some Kshs2.44 billion litres of milk production.

During the last financial year, the Ministry also vaccinated animals against the most common livestock diseases such as foot and mouth, rabies, lump skin, rinderpest, New Castle, fowl pox, Rift Valley fever, contagious caprine, plural pneumonia and contagious bovine plural pneumonia. We are also carrying out surveillance on rinderpest disease in an effort to make the country free of it. The eradication of these diseases will enable us to get access to the international market for livestock and livestock products.

Turning to crops, the new coffee policy spelt out in Sessional Paper No.2 of 2001 on the Liberalisation and Restructuring of the Coffee Industry was adopted by this House in August last year and culminated in the passage of the new Coffee Act in December of the same year.

I wish to report to the House that the election of members to the Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK) under the Act, and the Coffee Research Foundation (CRF) were successfully conducted in May this year. The CBK is now performing its regulatory role, while private agents are undertaking the marketing functions. In addition, a biotechnology laboratory is nearing completion at the Coffee Research Foundation offices in Ruiru. The laboratory will now make it feasible to mass-produce the disease and pest resistant Ruiru 11 Hybrid and other varieties. I want to take this opportunity to appeal particularly to hon. Members from the Coffee growing areas to stand with us even in public, in ensuring that there is no rearguard battle fought by some of the old players who are responsible for the mess in the old operations in the coffee industry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on financing of farmers, the Ministry facilitated coffee growers to access Kshs1 billion from the STABEX funds at a concessionary interest rate. The Ministry, through the Tegemeo Institute of Egerton University, has also initiated a study to look into modalities of streamlining agricultural financing activities.

Hon. Members will also recall that the Minister for Finance tabled a Sessional Paper on Restructuring of the Agricultural Finance Corporation whose aim is to improve its lending capacity. Hon. Members, again, recommended that the Paper be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. It is my sincere hope that the Committee will see the merits of that Paper and bring it back to the House for adoption. What I said in my appeal to hon. Members, particularly those who belong to this Committee, with regard to the Sessional Paper on the Kenya Meat Commission applies *mutatis mutandis* here.

In an attempt to improve extension services, the Ministry has developed the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP). The NAEP aims at developing pluralism in extension services and putting in place a regulatory system to guide service providers within the framework of the National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP). Although the Programme currently covers only 42 districts, we intend to achieve total national coverage within the current year.

On tea, tea production increased from 236,000 metric tonnes in the year 2000 to 294,631 metric tonnes in the year 2001, realising growth returns of over Kshs35 billion. As hon. Members are aware, the Ministry finalised the tea subsector reforms in June, 2000. The reforms have empowered tea growers to control the affairs of the industry.

On pyrethrum, I am happy to announce that production of pyrethrum has improved considerably over the last three years. The 1999/2000 year production was 3,995 tonnes, and it rose to the current level of 11,000 tonnes in a span of three years. In 2000/2001, a total of 7,900 tonnes of dry flowers valued at Kshs1 billion were produced. This phenomenal increase no doubt is because farmers have felt their proper incentives and are responding in kind. They have trebled their production in a three years' period.

I wish to state that the Ministry has constituted a task force still on pyrethrum with an aim of reviewing the Pyrethrum Act. A Sessional Paper will be tabled in the House in due course, after which we hope that a Bill will be prepared and presented to the House as part of the liberalisation of the pyrethrum industry.

On sugar, I wish to report to the House that the new Sugar Act has now been implemented and the directors of the Kenya Sugar Board elected in May, 2002. I launched this Board only last week. It is my hope that farmers will now be encouraged to increase the acreage under sugar-cane production and strive to improve the quality of their cane.

As regards privatisation of State-owned sugar companies, hon. Members are no doubt aware that the

Government divested from Mumias Sugar Company and the process of divestiture from Chemelil and Sony sugar companies has already started.

On cotton, I wish to announce that significant progress has been made towards the revitalisation of the cotton industry. Cotton production has picked from almost nil production, to 28,000 bales of lint in the year 2000 and 40,000 bales in the year 2001. That is, from zero production to 28,000 bales in one year, and that figure nearly doubled in the second year. We are encouraged by this trend. This has been necessitated by the provision of free seeds during the financial year, within which 16 out of 22 ginneries in the country were revived. To sustain this trend, the Ministry will continue to actively promote local production through the provision of appropriate incentives. Towards this end, credit support from both local and external sources, including STABEX funds, is being considered.

Regarding other industrial crops, the Ministry recognises the importance of coconut and cashewnut in the Coast Province. We have initiated a consultative process with the key stakeholders in order to develop a coherent policy that will ensure development and growth of these two crops. I am, however, aware that good prices and market outlets are the key components to revitalize the crops.

On realising that the implementation of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1997 was being hampered by misinterpretation by both management committees and members at large, the Ministry constituted a task force to look into ways of resolving this issue. A revised Bill, arising from the Report by the task force, will be tabled in the House soon. Hon. Members no doubt will know or ought to know that the fisheries sector contributed 4 per cent to our GDP, and 3 per cent of total export earnings last year. In order to comply with the European Union quality standards and hence move from schedule 2 to 1 and maintain the growing trend of this industry, renovation of fish laboratories has been done and will be equipped for micro-biological and chemical analysis during this financial year. Eight fish landing sites have also been rehabilitated, while plans are under way to have electricity installed in two landing sites during this financial year.

While concluding on the achievements of the last financial year, I would like to state that my Ministry is still working on investor-friendly horticulture policy which will be tabled in the House as soon as it is finalised. My Ministry has also finalised a Kenya Rural Development Strategy Paper which will be launched later this year. This is a long-term strategy aimed at implementing broad-based interventions on the basis of a partnership of the rural communities and service providers.

I would now like to move on to constraints and challenges for the last financial year. The agricultural sector continues to face problems, some of which are related to unscrupulous trading practices, high costs of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, semen, veterinary drugs and vaccines. The adulteration of inputs by dishonest dealers also caused livestock and crop losses in certain parts of the country. The livestock industry is faced with the threat of trans-boundary diseases and pests, inadequate diagnostic facilities and low surveillance capacity. In an effort to address these problems, my Ministry is working on capacity building through training, improving surveillance and enhancing vaccination against major ebiziotic diseases. We will also implement the Pan-African Control Against Ebiziotic Projects, while at the same time intensifying support of tsetse fly control and chemotherapy for sick animals. My Ministry is also in the process of finalising a review of existing policy under the Veterinary Act. It operates as the Co-operative Department of the Ministry, but has been hampered by low funding during the last years. This led to near breakdown in the provision of extension services by the department. I am, however, happy to report that the Treasury has taken appropriate measures to address this problem by responding to our request. The coffee industry is facing an unprecedented crisis arising from the lowest prices in real terms ever witnessed in history. Most coffee growers have been unable to maintain the required crop husbandry practices because of very low returns. The small-scale growers are the worst hit due to their inability to raise required working capital. As a result, the overall national coffee production declined from 100,000 metric tonnes in 1998/1999, to a mere 50,000 metric tonnes last year. The successful liberalization of the tea industry has come also with new challenges, one of which is the maintenance of high quality tea leaves. Farmers have been unable to maintain the quality standards required in the market, thereby partly resulting in decrease in prices from US\$2 in 2001, to US\$1.7 last year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to pyrethrum, the market has been depressed through the development of synthetic substitutes, especially in the Far East, leading to the accumulation of pyrethrin worth Kshs2.5 billion as of to date, in the custody of the Pyrethrum Board. Middlemen who have been exploiting farmers by paying them low prices for their produce have also infiltrated marketing of pyrethrum. The Ministry is working on revitalization of pyrethrum co-operatives whose dormancy is responsible for the rise or emergence of these middlemen. My Ministry is also taking appropriate measures to eradicate these problems through the strengthening of various regulatory and production institutions under the Ministry, and through liaising with other Ministries to ensure that only recommended high-quality inputs are available to our farmers. My Ministry is still facing a major constraint of having the bulk of its financial allocation going to parastatals under it, leaving too little for its own development projects operations and maintenance.

Out of the Development allocation of Kshs1,515,027,790 this financial year, some Kshs925,677,084, that is, 61 per cent of that Development budget, is going to parastatals. I however wish to report to the House that some of the

parastatals are being restructured with a view to saving costs and unnecessary strain on the Ministry's budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now wish to present the distribution of the resources allocated to the Ministry for 2002/2003 Financial Year as follows:-

**(a) Vote R10 - Recurrent**

The Kshs6,631,514,970 allocated this financial year under this Vote heading will finance the following activities:-

1. General administration and planning, Kshs339,280,836
2. Regulatory management of inputs and outputs in agriculture and livestock, Kshs370,965,401.
3. The promotion of agriculture and livestock private sector development, Kshs294,865,452.
4. The facilitation and supply of agriculture and livestock extension services and research, Kshs2,054,323,117.
5. Information management for agriculture and livestock sub-sector, Kshs1,443,802,747.
6. Monitoring and management of food security, Kshs4,056,940.
7. Crop and livestock diseases and pest control, Kshs878,428,917.
8. Protection of natural resources base for agriculture and livestock, Kshs426,518,030.
9. Department of Registrar of co-operative societies, Kshs450,323,389.

**(b) Vote D10-Development**

The Kshs1,515,027,790 will finance the following activities:-

1. General administration and planning, Kshs48,886,279.
2. Regulatory management of inputs and outputs in agriculture and livestock, Kshs33,812,293.
3. The promotion of agriculture and livestock private sector development, Kshs239,284,116.
4. The facilitation and supply of agriculture and livestock extension services and research, Kshs227,879,876.
5. Information management for agriculture and livestock sub-sector, Kshs333,826,468.
6. Monitoring and management of food security, Kshs501,975,034
7. Crop and livestock diseases and pest control, Kshs14,350,138.
8. Protection of natural resources base for agriculture and livestock, Kshs1,844,260.
9. Regional development, Kshs92,837,016.
10. Department of Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Kshs20,332,310.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I now wish to request the House to approve a total of Kshs8,146,542,760 to meet both Recurrent and Development Expenditure for my Ministry for the year ending 30th June, 2003.

I beg to move.

**The Minister for Rural Development** (Mr. Jirongo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Agriculture and rural development continue to be accorded the highest priority ranking sector in the medium term expenditure development efforts. This is because the sector employs about 80 per cent of rural population and contributes about 28 per cent of the GDP, 45 per cent of Government revenue and 75 per cent of the agro-industrial materials.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, despite the sector's vital contribution to the economy, it is characterised by limited employment opportunities, low income, poor social and economic infrastructure, and high incidents of poverty.

With this, the sector's mission is to ensure sustainable and equitable development for all by reduction of poverty through promotion of crops and livestock development, food security, fisheries, rural water, agro-industrial development, trade, rural employment, mainstreaming women's participation in rural development and sustainable utilization of the natural resources.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, specific activities to be undertaken during the period 2000 to 2005 by the Ministry and the relevant priorities are: Crop development, improved extension of delivery services, facilitate access to credit supplied through micro-financing, incorporate HIV/AIDS in extension messages, introduce and promote appropriate technology, enhance finalization of legislative and regulatory reforms of key sub-sectors, participation in World Trade Organization, COMESA, ACPU and EAC.

Other activities will include improvement of management of co-operatives and farmers' organisations. We will facilitate research for both crops and livestock development. We will also facilitate the revival, commercialization and privatisation of the KMC, regulate the development policy, implementation of dairy development policy, improvement of diseases and pest control through vaccination, community capacity-building on tick control and support of community based animal health. We will also provide artificial insemination by encouraging the private sector to provide the services. We will also ensure food security, maintenance of strategic food reserve, strengthening drought identification systems, fisheries development, development and improvement of trouts, fish camps, landing sites and marketing facilities.

**Dr. Omamo:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Are you satisfied that the Minister is in order to spend most the time reading from a paper instead of contributing to the Motion?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Dr. Omamo, which Standing Order has he infringed?

**The Minister for Rural Development** (Mr. Jirongo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will also strengthen sanitary conditions for fish farming and handling.

Kenya's rural sector is very critical for economic growth and development. The sector is a major contributor to GDP, food security, employment and raw materials for industries. However, the sector is faced with numerous constraints and challenges, which include a highly centralised Government, inadequate empowerment, lack of effective participation, physical infrastructure, research and technology transfer and information services. The sector is also faced with the high cost of inputs, unaffordable credit, value addition, environmental degradation, ineffective disaster management, increase in landlessness, *et cetera*.

Kenya Rural Development Strategy (KRDS) is being developed in order to address these constraints and challenges. The vision of KRDS is to bring about sustainable livelihood for all. This will be achieved by encouraging and facilitating participatory rural development through equitable and improved access to productive assets and services. The objective is to facilitate equitable growth and ensure sustainable development in the rural sectors, improvement of governance, public security, rule of law, improved physical and social infrastructure and sustainable natural resource management.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget for 2002/2003 financial year of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was prepared, taking into consideration the role and contribution of the Ministry towards poverty reduction. During the current financial year, the Ministry will continue to undertake priority activities as stipulated in the PRSP. The criteria for allocation of funds towards these activities were arrived at during the discussion at sectoral working level, during which bidding was done. The Ministry was, consequently, allocated Kshs6,631,514,970 and Kshs1,515,927,790 for Recurrent and Development Estimates respectively. This is an equivalent of 4.5 per cent and 7.65 per cent of Recurrent and Development allocation to the Ministry respectively. There has been a slight increase of 5.5 per cent and 5.05 for Recurrent and Development Estimates respectively, compared with the year 2001/2002. The sector was allocated Kshs2,970,389,937 and Kshs970,727,556 for Recurrent and Development Estimates respectively. This is equivalent to 65.65 per cent of recurrent, and 67.9 per cent of development allocation to this Ministry. The figure includes the amounts allocated to co-operatives which were not in the sector during the year 2001/2003.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the physical infrastructure sector, the Ministry has been allocated Kshs133,800,530 under Recurrent Estimates, equivalent to 0.77 per cent of the sector's allocation. The amount will be utilised in payment of utilities, operations and maintenance of the agricultural, livestock, veterinary and co-operative institutions. Under the development estimates, the Ministry has been allocated Kshs250,000 or 0.3 per cent, which will go towards Government of Kenya counterpart funds for a training programme sponsored by JICA.

As has been the case in the past, 42 parastatals in the Ministry have been allocated the lion's share, which amounts to about 70 per cent of the budget for both Recurrent and Development Estimates. The Ministry is left with the allocation of only 30 per cent which is not adequate to cover other important operations such as extension services, diseases and pest control, fisheries and co-operative development. Besides that, the funds are inadequate to carry out any meaningful development, while allocation under Recurrent Expenditure will only take care of personal emoluments and related expenditure, leaving very little for operations and maintenance. With this, the State corporations are not expected to contribute significantly towards poverty reduction.

In view of the challenges above, Parliament is requested to support the Ministry's budget as approved by the Treasury. It should be noted from the tables above that the approved budget is much lower than what the Ministry has requested for. In this regard, we call for support of the allocations as they are to enable us to undertake some activities bestowed on us towards poverty reduction. Parliament should also support the Ministry in its endeavour to convince the Treasury on the need for enhanced budgetary allocation towards core activities as identified by the PRSP.

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

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Ndwigwa:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to start off by saying that I support that the Minister should be given the money he has asked for in this Vote. But I sympathise with the Minister.

*(Dr. Godana smiled)*

I do not know why he is smiling. The Minister knows very well that the amount of money he has asked for is not adequate for the job at hand. He should decline to take that money. The Minister should plead with the House to assist him get more allocation.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I inform the hon. Member that I face the real situation with a smile.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order!



**Mr. Ndwiga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want his information because I have adequate information. The information I have is that the Minister does not have enough money to enable him do the job he has at hand. This is the case because the PRSP is under his docket. What we are noticing is that while the Government shouts out there about poverty reduction, on paper, there is absolutely no seriousness. Could the Chair believe that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, on this particular aspect, has been allocated less money than the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS)? Could the Chair also believe that this Government funds fellows who eavesdrop in people's bedrooms rather than reduce poverty? This is serious. So, I am saying that the Minister ought to be crying.

The Minister has outlined what he intends to do to revive certain agricultural industries. One of these industries is the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). It is true that, that Sessional Paper is before the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources. There are some pertinent issues which we would like to raise. We would like the livestock sector to be revitalised. We have no quarrel with the KMC being revived. We will write off the debts owed to the National Bank of Kenya (NBK), but where is the farmer? What will happen to the farmers because the shares will be floated in the market? How will that assist the farmer? What we are asking for is a serious policy to be put in place to assist the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policy should detail that we write off these loans and the KMC will have no debts. But which KMC is to be revived? Is it the plant at Athi River? I would like to point out that the KMC has a lot of property in this country, for example, in Mombasa and other parts of the country. We all know that---

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Muchilwa): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to anticipate debate on that particular subject?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Well, he is in order to the extent that the Minister has referred to it. But I will not allow him to go into the details of the Sessional Paper because that, indeed, will be anticipating debate.

Proceed, Mr. Ndwiga!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We have a problem with some of these people because they sleep in this House and do not read their Standing Orders!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Sleeping is not part of what you are replying to!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got clear Standing Orders and---

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Muchilwa): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to allege that I was asleep when, in fact, I was listening to his contribution? That is the reason why I raised that point of order. Could he be made to apologise?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Well, the Chair has already ruled that, that is not part of the debate!

Proceed, Mr. Ndwiga!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I made reference to that issue because the Minister too made reference to it. I am not debating the Sessional Paper, which is not a subject before the House today. But our Standing Orders are very clear on that matter.

I do not want to dwell on those trivialities. I would like to urge the Minister to come up with a policy paper on livestock and we will support him. We would like to see a policy Paper which focuses on the livestock farmer. The Sessional Paper we have in the Committee right now has no reference to the pastoralists or the livestock farmers. What am I saying? I said here last year that we would like to revitalise the KMC. The livestock intended for the KMC comes from Wajir, Mandera and other places of this country. The animals cover a distance of 4,000 kilometres before they arrive at the KMC ground. What does this mean? Do they want a cow to walk from Wajir to Athi River to be slaughtered? Is that the policy that they have in place? That is what the Minister wants us to do. This is criminal! In fact, the Kenya Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (KSPCA) fellows should be involved in this debate. It was possible in the old days when we had holding grounds and other facilities, but it is not possible today. We would like the Minister to bring before the Committee proposals to develop abattoirs where the animals are. It is common sense that you build factories where raw materials are. You cannot go and build a factory where there are no raw materials and then look for them. This is crazy, but that is how this Government thinks!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on livestock, the Minister has talked about revitalising the Dairy Board, and we are happy about it. What is happening now? Right now, in this country, farmers feed milk to dogs. In some places, even dogs do not take milk because there is too much of it. When this is the case, we hear that people import powder milk into this country. These people do not just import powder milk. If you go to our supermarkets, you will realise that the butter and ghee sold there is imported from South Africa. Do not even go to these supermarkets. Just take lunch here at Parliament. If you have eaten lunch in the lounge of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya, you must have noticed that the butter that was there was imported from South Africa. The Minister consumes the same. This is the case, and yet we are supposed to be serious people. Our farmers do not have a place to take their milk to, when the National Assembly Dining Room serves butter imported from South Africa. We cannot be seen to be serious people

when this is happening. This is a big shame. Something should be done.

After saying all this, I would like to commend the Minister and his staff. We have worked together as a Committee and I do know that we have very competent people in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. But it seems as if they do not have a free hand to do what they are supposed to do. These officers require policies. Is that a serious Government if it can give the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development meagre resources at a time when the Second, my friend, the Minister for Rural Development, says that, that is the only sector which will guarantee rural employment? What are we doing? If you look at the money provided here, you do not see that seriousness. You do not see that aspect being translated here. That is a joke. This Government is determined to keep the Kenyan farmer poor.

The Minister also made reference to the Co-operative Societies Act. It is true that, in his wisdom, the Minister organised all stakeholders, had a discussion and agreed that the Co-operative Societies Bill should be brought before the House for debate. Some of the Bills we pass here cannot be implemented on the ground without the Co-operative Societies Bill being brought here, debated and passed. A good example is the Coffee Act. What is happening? If you ask the Minister why the Co-operative Bill has not been brought before the House for debate, he will tell you that he does not know and he will refer you to the Attorney-General. If you ask the Attorney-General the same question, he will tell you that the matter lies with the Minister. It is as if you are talking to two Governments. Could somebody tell us what is happening? Where is the Co-operative Societies Bill?

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): It is in the Attorney-General Chambers!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Attorney-General Chambers is not run by the DP Government, but your Government! You should sit down, as Cabinet Ministers and discuss this issue, for Heaven's sake. We think that decent Government do that.

What has been happening in the co-operative sector is that most of the co-operative societies which split-- We had that problem, and probably, that is one of the reasons why we looked at that Act. There are some co-operative societies which were placed under receivership a long time ago, and we would like the Minister to tell us, when he will reply, why these societies have stayed in that state for six years, or for a very long period. If you want to know where corruption thrives, then it is in that sector. Co-operative societies were put under receivership six years ago and to date, they are still under receivership. In Kapingazi Co-operative Society, even the workers have not been paid their salaries, and yet it is placed under receivership.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has also demonstrated his intention to improve extension services. We are happy about that, but what is he going to improve extension services with? Is he going to do it with that money? The Minister should have told us how he is going to improve extension services. Most of the extension workers have been retrenched! That is a fact because they are not on the ground. Is he going to use councillors or priests, perhaps? The agricultural colleges which used to train extension officers are no longer training them. There is no money for that purpose! In fact, there is no reference to those colleges in this Budget! How are we going to improve our extension services under such circumstances? I think we need to get practical sometimes!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all that will be discussed under the Vote of this Ministry will hinge on extension services. All sectors of agriculture depend on extension services! But those services are not there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should salute the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development where they have done a good job. The Ministry made strenuous efforts to trace those who were manufacturing fake fertilizers and selling them to farmers. We know that in the past, crop production had been affected by fake inputs. People have been manufacturing fake fertilisers and pesticides. We are happy that the Ministry is dealing with this issue right now. But while we are concentrating in Nairobi, where the manufacture of fake farm inputs is rampant, the problem could either be in Eldoret or Lamu where unscrupulous traders are mixing fertiliser with other things. What is required in monitoring such activities is qualified personnel. We must have people on the ground! But today, if you went out to any district agricultural office in the country, one of the things you will find is that it is understaffed and that is a fact. If we are serious about the control of fake farm inputs and seeds, then we have got to enhance our inspection services. We should be able to walk into those farm inputs shops at random and arrest those who sell fake farm inputs. In fact, Kenyans would like to see some traders arraigned in our courts for selling fake farm inputs and fake seeds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that while the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is under the docket of this Ministry, a lot of fruits are imported into this country. If you went to our rural markets, you would find plenty of fruits and vegetables. But our supermarkets are full of oranges imported from South Africa. That is crazy! It appears as if we have no Government in place! An orange does not float on the sea all the way from Israel up to the Port of Mombasa. Somebody must have been issued with a letter somewhere and went out there to import those oranges from South Africa and Israel. Those fruits are found in our supermarkets. They import even eggs! I think this is a reflection of a Government that does not think seriously. They talk about the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and yet, the people who produce these things are the poor people.

I can assure you that those importing fruits from outside this country are not ordinary persons. It is one or more of these "sharks"! They import those commodities into our markets to impoverish the poor Kenyan even more. This must stop! If it does not, you will face us this year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to salute our professional institutions, for example, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), the Coffee Research Foundation (CRF) at Ruiru and other research institutions. I beg the Government to support those institutions. We have left donors to fund our research institutions. We need to invest heavily in research. We cannot underestimate the value of research. If we supported research in all our endeavours, even the fake farm inputs we are getting now, would be a thing of the past. We would get the right type of farm inputs which would be useful for our agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot talk about improving agriculture without adequate management of water resources. Part of the problem which we have in this country is that we wait for God to "open his taps" from Heaven in order to get water. Is it not a big shame, that our Minister for Trade and Industry went to Egypt to discuss the fact that Egyptians refused to buy our tea because we did not buy their rice? What a shame! Egyptians are using our water to grow their rice! After they have used our water, they then turn round and tell us that, "we will not buy your tea if you will not buy our rice."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you please protect me from my hecklers?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Who are those hecklers at the back?

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Ndwiga, who is contributing quite well, refers to his colleagues behind him as "heckler". Can hon. Members be hecklers? Would I be in order to ask him to withdraw and apologise?

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, I think, Mr. Ndwiga was merely reacting to the nuisance value of the hon. Members sitting behind him!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Any group of people who are loudly saying things which are not honourable, can be referred to as "hecklers". I think that is the dictionary definition of a heckler.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Ndwiga, if I were you, I would leave it at that!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** I will do so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I was talking about management of water resources and the value of irrigation. We have been going through the Sugar Bill, at the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, together with the Ministry, on sugar production. We looked at certain issues which hamper efficient production of sugar. We know that sugar is being imported into this country at a lower cost than the cost at which we produce it. This is because if you go to Kenana in Sudan, you will find that they are not waiting for rain to fall from the skies. They are growing their sugar-cane under irrigation and that has helped increase the production of sugar in Sudan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have started hearing that the policy of the Government is to close down certain sugar factories. Could we reconsider the decision to close down those factories because there might be something we are not doing in the right way? I am pleading with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to go back and look at the studies which were carried out before those factories were put up. Something must have justified the construction of those factories. For the sake of sugar producers, the Government should rethink about this position. As we are closing down factories, I am sure the Minister is aware that this country has a sugar quota in the European Union (EU). The problem with this country is that we are not pragmatic business people. We do not love this country like other business people do in their countries.

There is a sugar quota for this country in the EU and the country which is using that quota is Mauritius! All the sugar produced in Mauritius is exported to the EU using our quota, while they import sugar for local consumption. That is thinking business! It is good that our Government starts thinking business. We do not want to start closing down those factories. Perhaps, there is a way of revitalising them so that we can make use of the quota given by the EU. If we have to sell all the sugar and import sugar for local consumption, so be it!

With regard to cotton production in this country, the statement I heard from the Minister made me feel very sad, because it is true that we have a lot of cotton in our ginneries, but where else is it going? It is lying in the ginneries!

We have the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) agreement, which has been in operation for the last three years in this country. On the fourth year, this agreement will collapse because we have allowed Asians to come from wherever, with their machinery. We gave them the Export Processing Zone facility, they have put up their machinery in Athi River and elsewhere. What will happen next year? While we were doing that, and we have been giving free seeds to farmers all over the country to produce cotton, we have no capacity to develop yarn. So, as a result of that, Asians are importing yarn all the way from Pakistan and India to be used in processing textiles in this country for export to the AGOA market, and we are supposed to thank Americans for it. I can assure the Chair that, next year, Asians will unbolt their machinery and move to wherever that facility exists. We will be left here with nothing except

cotton in our ginneries and the farmers will run after the Minister with pangas because they want to know why he asked them to go back to cotton growing when nobody is buying it. Our cotton is not being bought and that is the sad part of the story and that is what is happening.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many other things that I would have loved to say on tea, pyrethrum - it is a very sad story - and coffee. We want to thank the Minister and his Ministry for what we have put in place together. Those of us who come from the coffee-growing areas want to assure the Minister that even the coffee farmer is solidly behind him in his war to tackle the vampires in the coffee sector. Through the Bill, we closed the front door for these vampires, but now they want to use the kitchen window to get back! This House will support the Minister and the Ministry, in their effort to strengthen the coffee sector.

Having said that, we would want to make sure that the Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK) is put in place. We would want the Minister to hasten and strengthen the CBK. For as long as the regulator is not strengthened, we will have done nothing and, therefore, the Bill will be nothing! But we need to hasten and strengthen the regulator, the CBK, and we shall give the Minister all the support that he requires. We need the Minister to strengthen Coffee Research Foundation, the KPCU and the Co-operative Bank of Kenya; in other words, institutions that help the farmer and, be made to work together. The Minister must exercise his powers and make sure that all these institutions are strengthened. Some are now busy trying to wreck others, and we are watching! This should not be allowed to happen!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do hope that in planning, maize farmers will not get a raw deal like they did last time. We appreciate that the Government did find some market for maize. There is a "theatre" at Mombasa! While our maize is being exported to Southern Africa, there is another ship docking with maize belonging to World Food Programme going elsewhere in this country! Is it not possible that this Government can sit down and discuss with these people? We are exporting our maize; one ship is taking off with maize and, another one is landing with maize from some other place, meant for refugee camps and other places!

With those remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Muchilwa): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this important Vote. To begin with, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Godana, and his counterpart in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Obure, for seriously trying to address the problems that farmers in this country face. Their efforts in that regard are commendable. Whereas the Ministers are working hard to help the farmers, there are some very unscrupulous businessmen in this country who would stop at nothing to ensure that they wreck the efforts being made, by trying to make money at all costs, even if it means breaking the farming industry or even killing Kenyans!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, take the case of Spin Knit Dairies. Last week, the company was reported in the Press as having imported huge quantities of milk powder, purportedly to be reconstituted into liquid milk for export under the Export Promotion Scheme (EPS). They did not say to which country they were going to export that milk. To my understanding, the market for liquid milk was Uganda. Then, towards the end of the last decade, there was the saga of contaminated milk powder having been imported from the Ukraine. Some of the milk powder was impounded and the rest somehow disappeared. Because of that, Uganda found it necessary to stop importing liquid milk from Kenya. Instead, Ugandans were coming here and buying many dairy cattle to go and produce milk by themselves. Right now, Uganda is self-sufficient in milk. It is not only that, but they have got extra supply which they are exporting to Tanzania. So, to which country was that milk going to be exported?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Spin Knit Dairies claimed that due to our country having had excess milk at a time when we should have had a shortage, it exported the excess liquid milk from farmers and remained with powder milk which they had imported. That does not make sense to me! Everybody knows that farmers have been pouring milk because they have no market. I am one of them! If they had been exporting raw milk, then there should have been a market for the farmers' milk; in which case, the question of pouring milk would not have arisen. So, whom are they fooling?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the company claimed to have got certificates from the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Radiation Board in April. That means that they imported the milk powder either in March or April. Did we need to import milk powder at that time? This country is short of milk during the dry months of December, January, February and part of March. So, what is that story about them importing powdered milk in order to export or whatever? If the company had certificates indicating that the milk powder was good for human consumption, why did they not apply for a court injunction to stop the destruction of that product, so that it would be re-tested? Why did they find it necessary to keep quiet until it was destroyed, only for them to come threatening to take legal action? What game are they playing? They waited until it was burned and then they came up with those stories. I do not believe them!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government must investigate that particular saga properly and make sure that nobody takes us for a ride, in order to make quick money. If the company is found to be playing games, then they

should face the law. What is more, they should be de-registered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the banning of milk powder and milk products importation. That is because, as long as we continue importing them, we risk unscrupulous people importing wrong products from countries where such products are subsidised like in Europe, New Zealand and so on. We hear that in some countries in Europe, there are mountains of milk powder. If the milk powder is about to expire, a businessman would be tempted to export that product at a throw-away price, reconstitute it and feed it to Kenyans. Some of them can even do that after the expiry date. We should not allow that. If we do that, we will be killing our own industry. We will be denying jobs to our own people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about the weevils that have come from Tanzania and invaded the maize in this country. They started off in Ukambani and then spread all over the country, and are ruining the maize crop everywhere. They attack the crop in the field and by the time the farmer harvests the crop and takes it to the store awaiting drying, they quickly destroy the maize. So, when shelling starts, it is only dust that is found. One of the chemicals that is supposed to control that particular weevil is called Actelic. Actelic is not working. The one that we buy in the market hardly controls those weevils. We are told that it is effective when the store has already been fumigated and enclosed. But how many farmers have got stores which are enclosed and can be fumigated? The problem has been made worse by the abundant availability of fake chemicals like Actelic. So, it is difficult to know which is the right one and which one is not. Unless that problem is properly addressed, the maize-growing industry in this country will be in very big trouble. Researchers must do a lot of work to ensure that such weevils are contained.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me now turn to the dry areas of this country. Most of Kenya's land mass is dry. So, year in, year out, we have famine relief food being distributed to people in these areas. Although these areas remain dry for the better part of the year, there are times of the year when they receive plenty of rain. Instead of waiting for the dry spell to set in, and then we send famine relief food to the inhabitants of these areas, why do we not use the money, with which we purchase this food, or even borrow some more, to construct dams and dig wells, so that these areas can be self-sustaining?

With those remarks, I beg to support.

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

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is very important. I think we need to restructure this Ministry. It is top-heavy with parastatals, which have caused it to be ineffective in its performance. Every hon. Member who spoke on the Budget Speech Motion underscored the need to enhance activities in the agricultural sector if we are to resuscitate this country's economy. What puzzles me is that the Government has allocated very little resources to this Ministry. In fact, I sympathise with the Minister and his team. I wonder how they are going to spend the paltry 5.4 per cent of the Recurrent Budget, which has been allocated to this Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every prudent business person puts his or her money where it can generate more money. If we are talking of agriculture being a very important sector of this country's economy, then the Government should be prepared to put money into this sector. The resources being put into this sector are not enough. One wonders how we consider our priorities during the budgeting process. The allocation to the Office of the President, for instance, excluding the Department of Defence (DOD) and the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) budgets, is close to a quarter of the Government Recurrent Budget. The agricultural sector, which everybody reckons is important for the resuscitation of this country's economy, has been allocated a paltry 4 per cent of the Government's Recurrent Budget. It is a shame. The Government, therefore, needs better thinkers who are forward-looking to put money into the agricultural sector, if we are to make any impact and resuscitate our economy.

During the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), Kenyans from all walks of life clearly talked about the need to develop our crops and livestock, so as to ensure food security. Surely, Kenyans talked about strengthening our agricultural sector. Nobody went out in advance to tell them what views to give. They literally said that agriculture is important. So, one would have expected the Government to put money into this sector. If the Government is serious about strengthening agriculture in order to resuscitate the economy, therefore, we must look at how to invest money in this particular sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless we finance our farmers, we cannot make any progress in the development of the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, all the institutions which used to finance farmers in one way or another are dead. I really sympathised with the Minister when he brought a Sessional Paper to this House, requesting us to consider writing off loans owed to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). He is hard-pressed to convince us that there are legitimate reasons for writing off the debts owed to the AFC.

At this juncture, therefore, I would like to ask the Minister to prepare for a hard time. He should come up with a convincing language to convince us to endorse the request. Through the Sessional Paper, the Minister is asking us to write off loans owed to the AFC and refinance the institution. However, he is not telling us what is going to happen to

the management of the Corporation. Should we give money to the same people who ran down the Corporation? We should not do so. We should, therefore, be prepared for this position. Some of us will convince the House not to approve the Minister's request. He should tell us how he intends to restructure the AFC, and amend the AFC Act, to reflect the changes. Only then can we be convinced that we can, indeed, be in a position to write off the debts owed to the Corporation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, we enacted the Sugar Act which, in my opinion, is very good. But what is happening is that sugar companies, which mill sugar-cane, are actually going round the Act. For example, the Act provides that weighing of sugar-cane shall be done at the farm gate. What is now happening is that Mumias Sugar Company, and others, is entering into illegal contracts with farmers, forcing them to bear the cost of ferrying sugar-cane to the factories and agreeing to have it weighed there, thereby literally going against the Sugar Act. I am sure that the Government is aware of this violation of the law. What has the Minister done about it? The sugar-cane farmers are still suffering. So, we would like to know what the Government is doing to address their plight.

As if this is not enough suffering for the farmer, even the sugar that is being milled cannot be sold due to sugar imports, which are flooding the local market. On its part, the Government is helplessly telling us about the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Treaty, to which Kenya is a signatory, when our farmers are suffering. Why should we allow this to happen? It is not right. It is necessary that the Government comes up with a policy and tells farmers that because of the declining sugar prices on the world market, we cannot match the low cost of sugar production in other countries and, therefore, it is unnecessary for them to get involved in sugar-cane farming. The Government should be bold enough and say so, rather than go round in circles as the farmers continue to suffer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so much has been said about the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). Here, again, the story is similar to that of the AFC. The big boys behind its collapse - who looted its resources through fictitious companies - now want us to endorse a Sessional Paper, which seeks to have its debts written off. We should also have a clear explanation of this proposal. The Minister talked about provision of extension services to farmers. Agricultural extension services are now completely unavailable to small-scale farmers in rural areas. This very important service used to be readily available in the past. These days, it is as if the service has completely been scrapped off.

What has happened to this service? Previously, farmers used to get advice from field agricultural extension service officers on all crops. I am a small-scale tea farmer myself; I never see anybody at my farm to advise me. Even if you ask for the services of extension officers, you will never find an officer coming to your farm, yet we are saying that we are strengthening extension services. How are we strengthening extension services without the extension officers going to advise the small-scale farmers?

With regard to the fishing industry, there is too much exploitation of the fishermen, particularly along Lake Victoria. If you read about the tales that are going on around that area, you will find that it is a shame. Ladies who deal in fish are now threatened by HIV/AIDS infections from the hawks who deal in fish. It is necessary that the Government takes stringent measures to ensure that this kind of business does not go on. It is necessary for the Government to protect its citizens. So, it is important for the Government to investigate and find out exactly what is going on along Lake Victoria.

**Mrs. Mugo:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are very confused and we are trying to find out what business is taking place along Lake Victoria.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Do not make a speech!

**Mrs. Mugo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could Mr. Khamasi, at least, enlighten the House as to what is the connection between HIV/AIDS infections and the fishing industry along Lake Victoria? How are the ladies who deal in fish threatened with HIV/AIDS infections and from whom? Is it from the beach boys?

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

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The next speaker is on the Floor.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the mainstay of this nation's economy. It employs the largest number of people in this country. Agriculture provides livelihood to a vast majority of Kenyans and Kenyans know that. It is only the Government which does not realise that. It does not realise that this economy depends, almost entirely, on agriculture.

This is reflected in the budgetary provisions as outlined by the Government in the Budget Speech. If you look at the Recurrent Expenditure, you will find that the agricultural sector has been given about Kshs7 billion when, in fact, the Department of Defence has been given Kshs14 million. This is twice as much. Yet if you compare the number of people employed in the agricultural sector to the people who are employed in the Department of Defence, or the number of people who depend on agriculture for their livelihood to the number of people who depend on the

Department of Defence for their livelihood, you will find that there is no comparison.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what has happened to our Government. It is not giving priority to the sectors that deserve to be given priority. I would have thought that the agricultural sector would have been allocated a big proportion of our Budget as compared to the Department of Defence. In fact, all the army men should have been deployed in our farms. Maybe, we could have rice irrigation schemes in the country and deploy the army men there. We are paying them for staying in the camps. We thank God that we have not been involved in external wars, but why can we not utilise that chance that we have been given by God, and deploy the army men in irrigation schemes? We can tap water from Lake Victoria and from the main rivers in our country, so that we can compete in the production of such crops such as rice, wheat and the production of livestock.

The main sector that earns this country foreign exchange, that we use in all other aspects of the Government's operations and activities, is agriculture. For example, tea, coffee, pyrethrum and horticulture are the four main crops that earn this country foreign exchange earnings. But it seems as if our Government does not recognise that. If all the tea, coffee, pyrethrum and horticultural farmers went on strike and failed to produce anything, this country would go on its knees because it would not get foreign exchange earnings, especially when foreign donors are not supporting us. We need foreign exchange to buy weapons for our army men, listening gadgets for our National Security Intelligence Service officers and *rungus* for Administration Policemen (APs) to beat people up around the country. We also need foreign exchange earnings to buy big cars to be driven around Government offices, and money to be stashed in bank accounts in foreign lands by people who misappropriate our funds. It is these crops that earn foreign exchange that some of these people here, who have squandered our resources, have enjoyed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take particular interest in coffee. Coffee used to be the largest foreign exchange earner for this nation. But we got "hyenas" into our coffee industry, namely, co-operative societies officers, APs and members of the Provincial Administration, who made sure that proper management could not be maintained in coffee co-operative societies. They do not want to have people who cannot be corrupt and who cannot give them handouts. For example, in my home area, APs and co-operative officers have joined hands and destroyed the coffee industry. I wonder when the Minister for Agriculture will tour that area, and see how factories have been vandalised and cannibalised. If the Government is serious about turning round the economy of this country, it should revive the coffee industry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have seen a lot of sugar being imported into this country and destroying our sugar industry. I believe you are a sugar-cane farmer and you have seen the industry being destroyed in broad daylight. Why do we allow this kind of thing to happen? Why can we not ban the importation of sugar into our country completely? Why do we allow the importation of cereals into this country? Why do we allow importation of dairy products into the country when we are pouring our milk on the ground? We should put money into promotion of growing of crops such as tea.

Recently, we visited the Far East and I discovered that our crops such as tea, coffee and pyrethrum have not been promoted there, yet we are saying we cannot earn enough foreign exchange. Our per capita income is deteriorating. Three years ago, our per capita income was US\$322 per head, but today it is US\$260 per head. It has gone down by over US\$62. People who are living below the poverty line have increased from 57 per cent to 73 per cent of our population, yet we are watching this happen without supporting the agricultural sector, the only sector that can bring down this percentage.

We have seen the Government preside over the destruction of agricultural institutions. We have seen it preside over the destruction of the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). It has allocated all KMC land to individuals and has destroyed the livestock industry. We have seen the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) being destroyed. By the time KCC started to be destroyed, it had assets worth Kshs5.5 billion. Where did those assets go? Those companies which are being formed now belong to bogus owners. They are bogus owners of the KCC. They are owned by 140 people. Most of them are dead by now and that is why everybody is acting like a hyena in order to devour the assets of KCC.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought we should establish abattoirs in areas like Wajir, Mandera, Tana River, Lodwar and Kapenguria. If we did that, maybe we could stop cattle rustling in those sides of the country. Some should be established in Narok, but we are not doing it. I wish our Government could look into these things. It should dig big boreholes and construct dams in those areas to harvest water and feed our livestock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Parliament will be judged very harshly if it allows our people to continue being impoverished. We have the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. A "Young Turk" is the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The "Young Turk" is not performing any better than the "Old Turk". Could I ask that Minister who is a "Young Turk" to move around, instead of politicking, to see how our co-operative societies are being run and also see how we can revive the co-operative movement in this country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that you and I will come back to this Parliament after the next elections

and I would like to see in the Supplementary Estimates, funds devoted directly for the promotion and marketing of our products. We need to block the importation of products that compete with our own products. These are funds that are allocated for extension services so that our farmers can enjoy the fruits of Independence instead of being condemned to poverty.

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

**Mrs. Mugo:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to also add my voice to the Motion on the Floor. It is a very important Motion which is the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Let me start also by congratulating the Minister, at least, for getting about Kshs1.1 billion more than last year. However, that is not enough. We know it because the PRSP said, after people were interviewed, that agriculture is the most important area where we should be investing money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government gave us a growth rate some time; not so long ago. I think it was over 2.2 per cent or more or 3 per cent and we all know that any growth will only come from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, looking at what has been voted for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I think it is common sense to say that there will be no growth whatsoever. It is very sad that year after year, we talk about giving more money to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, but when the Minister of Finance allocates money to it, it is the same story. Right now, under Kshs4 billion is being allocated for Development Expenditure for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. What can that do? Is it for research? I would like to ask the Minister to, at least, go back to the Ministry of Finance and request that some of the money that has been allocated to the Department of Defence be re-channelled to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development because we do not know what its use is. We are not at war. We should be feeding our people instead of allocating that money to the Department of Defence. The Department of Defence has been allocated Kshs14.3 billion. It is a shame to manufacture guns. This House should rethink really about re-channelling that money from the Department of Defence to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something a bit about the small farmer. There are no incentives for the small-scale farmer and yet he is supposed to guarantee food security in this country. For example, we are reading that even fake seeds and fake fertilisers are in the market. What checks and balances has the Ministry put in place to ensure that, that small-scale farmer is not cheated, at least, to put food on the table and pay for other things? The services that help the small farmer must be intensified and money is there. We have noticed the Minister talking about food security. We know that Kenyans are hungry. We know that this modified food is supposed to be a way to ensure food is put on the table, but we do not want to invest in a monster that again we will be crying about. We would like to know from our researchers the security of modifying foods instead of just going haywire with it and only after a few years, to go back looking for cures. We know that in developed countries, like America, they are now discouraging people to grow foods with fertilisers and yet now we are going a step further to modify them. What is the security in modifying foods? Could we be told if proper research has gone into that?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to also say something about the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). We have been told what this Kshs200 million is going to be used on. Is it meant to pay back part of the Kshs52 billion or what is it for? Or is it meant to rehabilitate and develop the KMC? It is not enough to develop anything. I want to suggest to the Minister to use that money in modernising abattoirs in Dagoretti. Abattoirs in Dagoretti are polluting water and rivers. This Government says that there is no money even to develop these abattoirs. The rest of the money must go for research. Abattoirs should be built where the cows are kept; as the Shadow Minister for Agriculture said. We should not make cows walk for all those kilometres. Could the Minister do something about the abattoirs which are already there like those in Dagoretti because we want to encourage private enterprise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to recommend that this Government reviews the open door policy in order to tax agricultural products that come into this country because that is the policy that has impoverished our farmers. If it is eggs, we should receive them on the market. Milk products, sugar and many others have flooded our local market. There is no way we can develop our economy and feed our people unless we start looking into the issues that impoverish the farmer because the answer to our problems lies on that farmer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also the Coffee Act which has come into effect this year and there are many farmers especially the small-scale coffee farmers who still do not understand how this new Act affects them. I think it should be made public. There should be a way, especially through the marketing sector, to ensure that they do not lose their money thinking that this Act has come to help them. That goes also for the Sugar Act as well. We make laws here and we should realise that the very people for whom these laws are made to benefit from, have no clue about them. They do not know exactly what is their part and how they should act in relation to that law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something about fertilisers. The inputs for the small-scale farmer are still very expensive and I believe that, since many people are living below the poverty line, the first thing we should do is to produce enough food to feed the people. If the small-scale farmer cannot afford the inputs, then how are



we going to grow enough food?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very important that this Government thinks about its people. But what we hear now are just policy pronouncements without any action. The Government says that it wants to eradicate poverty, but when you look at the Budget, there is no money set aside for that programme. We urge the Minister to ask for more money and this House to consider reducing some of the money that has been allocated to the Office of the President, and particularly for defence. Some of it seems to be hidden there so that it can be used for campaign by KANU. We are not shown where and how that money will be spent.

There are also many firms that have been created, like the Macro-Finance Fund, the Water Fund and Kenya Rural Development Strategy Fund. It does not show how those firms will be harmonized to help operationalize or link with the agricultural sector. If they are created for agricultural purpose, that money should not be left hanging somewhere. How will the micro-farmers access that money so that they can benefit from it?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry** (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. First, I would like to agree with my colleagues who have paid tribute to the efforts the Ministry and the Minister have made on this occasion by producing a very good budget for their Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is a very important Ministry and I would like to share the views of my colleagues that the amount of money that has been allocated to it is hardly adequate. It is difficult to understand how we are going to spend this little money in such an important operation. The problem, of course, is that we do not have adequate funding as a country to meet all the requirements that our various Ministries have. But, maybe, the way out in this one is to ask the Minister and the Ministry to consider the establishment of a farmers' bank that will enable farmers to borrow money for agricultural activities in their farms. We have now reached a stage where small farmers are totally helpless and they are unable to fund their farming activities. The funding that the Government used to give before is not possible because of the meagre resources that the Ministry has been given. I would like to propose that the Ministry does consider establishing a farmers' bank or some institution, like the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). I think that should provide adequate funding for the farmers to enable them to borrow and buy inputs for their farming.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to confine myself to a number of areas because I think everybody has touched on the most common ones. But we do have an arrangement with financial institutions and international organizations, which come to this country with a lot of money, but which, perhaps, the Minister in his response will have to explain how it is being used. I want to specifically mention the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This organization has been in this country for sometime and I think the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is supporting it. It has given it a lot of money to come and develop agriculture in this country. My district happens to be one of those areas which are supposed to benefit from this Fund. I want to say here, that there is nothing on the ground that our people can show which this particular organization has done. There have been people there, but they have now withdrawn without explaining to the public or to the farmers what has happened. They started some projects that are not realistic. A lot of money has been spent by that organization and there is nothing at all to show on the ground. I think farmers are entitled to find out, through the Minister and the Ministry, what exactly has happened to that money, how much it is, whether it has been audited and accounted for because we know that it has not. The withdrawal of IFAD from the area has just left the farmers totally confused.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, in my district, and generally in that area bordering Uganda, a lot of livestock was lost some seven to eight years ago through the tsetse fly infection. Again, an organization called Farming in Tsetse Fly Controlled Area (FITA) was established there. There is no relationship between this organization and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The organization is simply free to do whatever it wants to do. There are no controls or accounting. I believe when the funds will be audited, they will find that a lot of money has been misused. This organization has been there for nearly four years and we do not seem to have control over it. So much money is being wasted by somebody, who has absolutely no idea about livestock farming. For example, it was surprising that although the animals had died, instead of this particular organization considering its efforts, first, in clearing bushes so that tsetse flies can be eliminated, they decided to buy new animals to be infected by the same tsetse flies. Of course, they have all died. No sensible person who is trained in that kind of business would have adopted this line of action. We would like to demand that the Minister does ask this particular organization to account for the money that it brought to this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in that area, again, and of course, large areas of the country today are engaged in cotton farming. We, as Members of Parliament in our areas, took active responsibility to encourage our people to grow cotton and the farmers responded positively. The issue of cotton has already been mentioned and today, those farmers have no market for their produce, and yet we have allowed middlemen, people who have no factories and who do not

know where to sell the cotton, to be the go-between between those who are ginning cotton and the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers are being exploited. Today, although we have agreed as a policy that the minimum price of cotton delivered to the factory should be Kshs15 and Kshs17, farmers are still being paid Kshs9, Kshs10 and Kshs11 for their cotton. Those farmers can hardly be encouraged to grow cotton next time and yet we need this crop because we are now targeting the AGOA market. As an hon. Member mentioned, it is now three years down the line since this market was opened to us and we are still struggling without really growing cotton. I think it is very important that the Minister does attend to this issue. There is still plenty of cotton in the stores and farmers just do not know where to sell it. This is embarrassing for us Members of Parliament. I hope that the Minister will take that action immediately.

Issues of research in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have already been mentioned. This is a very important Ministry. It has got very highly trained people, but a lot of them are lying idle because they do not have facilities or money to continue doing their research. In Alupe, which is within my District, we have KARI, KETRI and KEMRI - although KETRI is not under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - and these institutions are supposed to be doing research. Eight hundred hectares of land are just being wasted there with buildings and structures which are rotting away because research cannot be carried out for lack of funding. I would like to suggest that if we cannot carry on with research, perhaps we can privatise these institutions and let them be attached to universities because they are better endowed with funding. The universities can assist in carrying out more research instead of letting very useful institutions like these ones just rot away. It is frustrating for people in that area to see these institutions just die away because we have failed to carry out research and yet those institutions were established to deal with specific problems like tsetse flies and leprosy, among others. That is the reason why they were established there. Today there is no research going on and I would like to suggest to the Minister that perhaps we should turn these into training institutions so that our young people can undergo training there instead of the buildings just being allowed to rot away.

Another issue is that of marketing of these crops. Earlier on I had mentioned cotton. There are many other crops being produced by farmers, but there is just no clear marketing strategy. Perhaps the Minister will look into that area to enable farmers to sell their produce and make profits so that their sweat can be rewarded. I would like to ask the Minister to address the question of subsidising inputs, for example seeds.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to contribute to this Motion on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I wish this Ministry could be put together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and not with the Ministry of Rural Development, because these two go hand in hand. Looking at the funds that have been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development it shows that either this Ministry is not serious and, therefore, they did not give their own proper proposals or they were given funds that would not go towards the work that should be done. Kshs3.5 billion is really not enough in a country where we depend on agriculture.

Over the years the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has been requested by many districts and rural areas to set aside funds especially for water to ensure that we get enough food. Eighty per cent of farming in this country is carried out in the rural areas by women. When we were making our proposals during the PRSP debate, we did say that we would like to have more funds allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. Very fortunately, in the last two years we have had adequate rains to enable us to produce food in our farms. We now can see food that we have harvested going to waste, which also means that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has not taken this into account and set funds aside for proper storage of the food that we already have.

We have been insisting on a participatory kind of Budget but we did not see what is being done to improve the rural areas, especially the involvement of women in the Budget formulation. If the Minister for Agriculture is really serious about what he is doing, he needs to see what is happening in other countries. Without water we cannot have adequate food in our country since only a third of our land is arable. I read about Egypt in a book where, in 1971, the then Head of State, President Nasser knew that he was having problems with food. He went to Britain to look for funds so that he could harvest water from River Nile which starts from East Africa. When he went to Britain, they refused to give him funds to develop the water canals.

President Nasser went to the United States of America and they too refused to give him funds for water harvesting. He did realise that his people needed water for food production and domestic use. He then went to Russia where he was given money. Today Egypt produces enough food for its own people and for export. How much money do we need to make water available for domestic use in this country and to ensure that we have adequate food for everybody? How bad is it for this country that year in, year out, the President of this country has to travel to other countries to look for food, instead of funds so that eventually we have food sustainability? We do know that this year

we will not go out to look for relief food. But surely we know that if we do not get enough rains in the next two years, we will have to look for relief food. What measures has the Minister put in place this time to ensure that the food we have is not sold at throw-away prices?

Presently, we harvested enough food in the four districts of Ukambani, that is Machakos, Kitui, Mwingi and Makueni. That notwithstanding, we still have got surplus food in our stores such that farmers are selling it at throw-away prices. Why can funds not be set aside to buy this food and store it well so that in times of need, we can once again sell it to the farmers and not at such exorbitant prices as we have seen in the past? I have also noticed something happening with the extension officers. We have women and young people who are currently engaged in poultry and bee keeping projects. I believe that such people should be helped with the funds that have been set aside for crediting farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time and again, the field extension officers would be called by these young people when need arises, but they would not come. They would tell the young people: "We have no funds to take us to where you want us to go. Unless you give us funds to fuel our own vehicles, we cannot go where you need us to go." If these people call for attention, and they can do something worthwhile, why can funds not be set aside for them because they are not asking for too much?

As long as we also do not have enough food in this country, we cannot expect our young people to get education. I have now noticed that there is a lot of food that is going to our primary schools. I am wondering why this food also cannot now be bought by the Government from the farmers because it is coming from somewhere. I think it is coming from the World Food Programme. Why can the food that is going to primary schools not be bought by our own Government and supplied to the primary schools instead of this food coming from elsewhere? This is because our food is being sold elsewhere and food is coming in - being bought - and taken to our primary schools.

I would like to talk about what we have noticed; lack of support by the Ministry to some of the programmes that are on the ground. I have noticed that a lot of people now on the ground are trying to harvest water from the small rivers, and women are the ones doing it. They are carrying stones and sand, and they are doing the work themselves. I believe what the Ministry should do is to give funding, cement and materials that women themselves cannot find so that they are able to harvest water when it rains. But on top of that, I also think that they will need technical support in the development of these water catchments.

I think if we give this support, we will not only help women in having enough food for their own families, but it will also help them to send some of the products that they produce to the markets. Towards this end, we have got to look at our roads. I believe the Ministry of Roads and Public Works has done its own work in providing little money. We may call it little money, but I do believe that the Kshs5 million that has been going to our constituencies has helped a lot. The delivery of products into our markets has become much easier for the business people. I think this is something that should be supported.

Maybe, in finishing my contribution, I might say that in the area of agriculture, we need to have funds set aside for each constituency so that this can be supported specifically for agriculture.

I wish to stop here.

**The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology** (Mr. Karauri): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I also wish to commend Dr. Godana for a job well done. I know that he is bold, intelligent and he does his work well.

I want to say that the weather forecasts must be right, if we must develop agriculture in this country. I wish that department was put directly under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is unfortunate that that department is in the Ministry of Transport and Communications just because of controlling the aviation industry.

As an agricultural country, we must put our heads together; we must do things right. Weather forecasting is important in agriculture and, occasionally, we are told that there is going to be *El Nino* rains. Because that means that there will be a lot of rains, one is tempted to plant maize, but the rains fail and the whole crop withers. At the end of it all, you do not produce anything. Again, you will be told by the Department of Meteorology that rains will not be sufficient, and you decide to grow beans. I have tried to grow beans based on that kind of prediction. Then, the rains are so much that the whole crop is destroyed.

I think the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development can assist in having weather stations in several areas near the people. I am told that the biggest problem with the Department of Meteorological in this country is that they do not have stations all over the country. So, prediction for the areas around Nairobi and East of Mount Kenya which falls under one area is done at one station. It is a wide area. For example, if they say that, that area will have rains, maybe, there will be little rains in Nyeri and there will be no rains in Nairobi, Meru and Ukambani. So, this department would have served us very well if it was under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and if the department took upon itself to have weather stations almost in every administrative division of this country where they can monitor weather conditions accurately.

Regarding the question of irrigation and agriculture, it cannot be over-emphasized; we need it. Instead of looking for funds to buy food from other countries when there is famine, we should be looking for funds to irrigate our own land where there is agricultural potential. We all know that, for a long time, we have been spending over Kshs10 billion annually on famine relief. That can irrigate the whole of North Eastern Province in one year so that forever they would not ask for famine relief. The following year that same amount of money can irrigate the whole of Ukambani so that the following year they would not need famine relief. They would become self-sufficient. We should look at these priorities and act on them. Let us not be scratching the surface of things when we need to go deeper.

On the co-operative movement, many people have complained about their co-operative societies. They have been run down by greedy leaders, but they do not do that alone. They do that with full knowledge of the office of the Commissioner of Co-operatives. Instead of the Commissioner of Co-operatives listening to the farmers, he listens to the management committees. I am talking especially about the farmers' co-operatives. This is because the biggest mistake that we have made is that after the introduction of SACCO co-operatives, we have forgotten the farmers' co-operatives which are very important. Instead of listening to the co-operators, the Ministry and the Commissioner tend to listen to the management committee so that the management committee runs down a co-operative society. The management committees have access to the office of the Commissioner. The farmers do not have that access, and they continue to suffer.

I have a case in point, and that is why I am congratulating the Minister because I had a co-operative society in my place where the chairman had almost made it his own society; employing his own son as the secretary manager and refusing the farmers to hold any elections. When elections are called, he produces cards that he gives to particular people and he says that those are the members. When we complain to the Commissioner of Co-operatives, we are told that there is nothing wrong with that. I wonder what happens when there is no manager who is interested in assisting people. Societies collapse. I would like to request the Minister to ensure that the Commissioner of Co-operatives listens to the co-operators and not the management committees. Any time there is a complaint, somebody should be sent to listen to the co-operators in order to save the co-operative movement. As I am talking now, do you know what a union means, especially where there is coffee? It means, several societies joining together to form a union so that, that union can further their interests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has happened is that some unions have been allowed to operate illegally, for example, in Meru North. The Meru North Co-operative Union should have been dissolved a long time ago. We have written a letter of complaint to the Commissioner, because all the societies that own that union were put under receivership. They were dissolved, but the union has remained with a few officials for the last 13 years despite our complaints. We had some property in Nairobi which they sold. They have also sold some property in Nanyuki and Meru. There are a few officials who are taking that money. There is a building in Nairobi where they have been collecting rent every month, in excess of Kshs500,000 for the last 13 years. We have complained, but the Commissioner of Co-operatives sees nothing wrong with that; that those officials can continue collecting that money monthly and sharing it amongst themselves. God knows where they take the rest of the money as protection fee. This is wrong, and the Commissioner of Co-operatives must protect farmers. We would like that property, that was owned by the Meru North Union, to revert to the newly-formed society, instead of six officials collecting money on a monthly basis and selling property worth millions of shillings under the pretext of managing a union which does not exist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister for Agriculture to think of ways and means of raising money to improve tea roads. It is a shame that an agricultural country that has tea, which earns it a lot of foreign exchange, is not well taken care of. Tea farmers would like to borrow money which can be repaid through cess money, so that during the rain season, tea is not poured on the road, and so that areas that grow tea can be accessed. There is a difference between tea and other crops, because tea is mostly harvested during the rainy season. So, when the roads are bad, delivery to the factory is impossible. The lorries always get stuck on the road, and they have to be off-loaded, thereby wasting the tea. This Government relies on tea as a foreign exchange earner. I would like the Minister to borrow money in order to rehabilitate the tea roads. This money can be repaid over many years, through the cess money that is taken from the farmers. The same applies to coffee growing areas. If roads in coffee growing areas are improved, then farmers will feel protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I finish, I support the sentiments by hon. Members who have said that if we write off AFC loans, then we must also write off coffee co-operative societies loans.

Thank you.

**Ms. Karua:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I appreciate the contribution from hon. Members who have spoken before me, especially the latter one. I would like to begin with the issue of unions. It is time this Ministry paid attention to the Co-operative Societies Act, and the role of the Commissioner of Co-operatives, the Registrar of Co-operatives and the entire Ministry. The farmers are getting exploited by unscrupulous management committees with the connivance and assistance of the Ministry and co-operative officials. Why should we continue paying salaries to

people who are helping others to destroy our constituents? The co-operative movement officials have a supervisory role. When they notice malpractices they can alert the Criminal Investigations Officers, and they can also help initiate prosecutions. This Ministry has completely failed to come to the aid of the farmers when their monies are embezzled. Instead, the co-operative officials are helping management committees to cover up. This is a very sorry state of affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the liberalization of the agricultural sector, this Ministry has failed to define the role of district co-operative unions like the one my colleague on the other side was talking about. Today I do not see the role of the union. The role of the union is to pay fat salaries to the top executives without helping the farmers. Most of our co-operative societies are debt-ridden. These are debts that could be extinguished if we liquidated the unions and divided the money among the societies that form the co-operative union. What has happened is that failure to give a clear guideline on the fate of the unions after liberalization started in 1993 has meant that the officers manning the district unions have behaved as though they are the owners of the assets. The Ministry has an opportunity to save the farmers in Kirinyaga from having their property mismanaged and sold off for little sums like the Kirinyaga District Co-operative Union. The officials are currently trying to sell off the assets ostensibly to pay debts. If the union is not viable and is not serving the farmers, why should we let it continue existing? It should be wound up, and the money paid to the various societies so that they may either develop their societies or pay off the debts. I am inviting the Minister, and especially the Commissioner of Co-operatives, to take the correspondence he is receiving from the farmers seriously. Why should that office exist at all if they just file away the letters they receive from our farmers without any response? He should also pay attention to the role of the District Co-operative Officers who are enriching themselves by encouraging disputes between management committees and the farmers, and receiving royalties from the various groups. We need to have an audit of the co-operative societies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the co-operative auditors are also worthy of mention. When they are asked to audit the societies, what they do is to help those societies cover-up. Could the Ministry redefine the role of the Ministry of Co-operative officials, and could we have urgent amendments of the Co-operative Societies Act, so that we can rid off the farmers the suffering?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with my colleagues who said that if we bail out AFC debtors, then we should do so with the rest of the farmers. I have in mind the small-scale coffee farmers whose societies are now being auctioned because of debts. These are the people the Ministry should be seriously thinking of bailing out. I also have in mind the sugar-cane farmers whose factories are under threat of being wound up because of debts. It does not make sense to me for the Ministry to be more concerned with the large-scale farmers - the list reads like "who is who" in Kenya - who owe the AFC money and whom we are about to bail out here in Parliament. We should be more concerned with the ordinary small-scale farmer who is actually bearing the burden of helping this country in terms of foreign exchange. We need to urgently have a uniform policy in agriculture and not selective bailing out. I hope the Minister will take the sentiments of hon. Members seriously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no quarrel with the Ministry pushing to bail out KMC. But could this Ministry have a clear policy and give us an undertaking that, once we bail out these institutions, they will not be sold off for peanuts to the politically-correct individuals, and that they will not be sold without the authority of Parliament? Why should we bail out these institutions so that we sell them to those who have plundered the economy of this country?

I am disappointed to see that the total amount allocated to this key Ministry is only Kshs6.6 billion as compared to the Office of the President which has been allocated close to Kshs40 billion. How can we hope to eradicate poverty if we are not ready to support agriculture? I would expect this Ministry to come up with new and innovative methods of supporting agriculture so that we eradicate poverty in this country. One such method is to subsidize farmers. Farmers cannot continue growing food or cash crops if they will suffer losses every year. It is time the Government became a facilitator either by securing markets for the farmers or bailing them out when the occasion calls for it. Otherwise, we shall never achieve food security.

I am surprised food security is not under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In my view, it is misplaced in the Office of the President. It should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to worry about food security in this country. The Ministry should find out how best maximize on the arable land in this country. My colleague, Mrs. Ngilu, did mention about Egypt. The amazing thing about Egypt is that they farm on only 4 per cent of their land and yet they are able to feed 67 million. It is a shame that we are farming on over 22 per cent of our land, but we cannot feed ourselves although our population is only under 30 million. Could this Ministry get serious and find ways and means of achieving food security in Kenya? Could there be negotiations within the Government Ministries so that all matters relating to agriculture, including food security, are housed by this Ministry.?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also would want to see a link between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development and universities that deal with agriculture. I have in mind Egerton University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). If we hope to have innovative ideas and policies that can benefit the farmers, we need to link the activities of the Ministry to those of our institutions of higher learning like the two universities I have mentioned, so that they can share information for the benefit of Kenyans.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to see this Ministry help the farmers to maximize use of water for agriculture. I have in mind the issue of irrigation. Our farmers irrigate using furrows which cause a lot of water to go to waste. This Ministry should teach and support the farmers in terms of money to be able to have efficient methods of irrigation. I believe that, in Kirinyaga District if this Ministry assisted horticultural, tea, coffee and rice farmers, we would have eradicated poverty in that district. I know, throughout Kenya, if agricultural activities are supported, we will have gone 80 per cent towards eradicating poverty. It is time the Ministry woke up because we are tired of seeing the same items in its budget every year. If it has not worked for Kenya, come up with new and innovative methods and let us rescue ourselves from hunger, want and poverty.

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

**Mr. Sambu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

As my colleagues said, it is surprising that the Ministry which is expected to feed, employ many people and contribute significantly to the GDP of this country is allocated only Kshs6.6 billion, whereas the Office of the President is allocated Kshs40 billion. Can we compare the productivity of a DC to that of an agricultural officer? This is a very skewed way of planning. We allocate our resources to the consumptive end of the economy and not to the productive end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to state that we need to do something about liberalisation in this country. We have allowed people to import many foodstuffs, including powdered milk. It is a pity that some of these importers defend themselves saying that the powdered milk is destined for export. That is a farce. That milk is being mixed with some water in Nakuru and then sold locally as Kenyan milk. That milk is from one European country which was rejected because of radioactivity exposure. That is why they imported it duty-free. Officers in the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Port of Mombasa are doing Kenyans a great disservice by allowing people to import contaminated food. Why should we allow powdered milk allegedly for export to be sold in our local market? If that market exists, why can we not convert our fresh milk into powder and sell it abroad? We know relief agencies need some powder milk. If our investors have the capacity to put up a powdered milk producing plant in this country, why do they not do so? Then they will be able to buy our surplus milk and sell it to relief agencies. It is a farce. What that investor in Nakuru is saying is not a fact. I have also said here and I will say it again, whether somebody says I am a racist or not; when you place your economy in the hands of foreigners, then you are in for big trouble. Recently, some Indians were allowed to own British passports, therefore, they will go back to Britain. They are here to milk our economy. When the dairy industry collapses, like the sugar industry is on the verge of collapse because of the Indians, they will flee to Britain, Canada and other countries. I urge the Government to step in and stop this Indian in Nakuru from importing more powdered milk.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the use of regional development authorities? We vote, for these authorities, a lot of funds year in, year out. What do these authorities do? Tell us what the Coast Development Authority has done. What has Ewaso Nyiro Development Authority done? What has the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) done? Maybe, what this Authority has done is to put up a big building in Eldoret Town. What has the Lake Basin Development Authority done? These are just conduits for people to earn big salaries but without productivity. If we had put that money together and started a farmers' bank, Kenyan farmers would be better off than having all those regional development authorities, whose productivity is nil. In fact, the new Minister, Mr. Jirongo, when he was appointed, visited one of the regional development authorities and agreed with us that they do nothing. So, I am not making an allegation here. This was a fact. It came from the Minister himself. So, why should we have these authorities in place? They should be scrapped and we use the money to set up a farmers' bank, where a farmer will access credit at controlled interest rates. This bank will also enable farmers to be assessed by agricultural officers. Right now, farmers are being assessed by industrialists or people who are trained in credit lending. If you will restructure the Agricultural Finance Corporation, and the House has referred the matter to the relevant Department Committee, we are saying that let the farmers' bank be established.

I would like the Minister, when he will reply, to tell us what has been happening to donor aid in the form of fertilizer. We understand that various governments, including the Government of Japan, have been donating fertilizer to the Kenyan Government in the form of aid or grant. What has been happening to this fertilizer? I know that they have been doing awkward tendering and an Asian in Eldoret Town, called "Turbo Merchants" has always won the tender. How come that one person always wins the tender? This Asian buys Ammonium Phosphate fertilizer at below Kshs600 and sells it at Kshs1,200 in Eldoret. He also gets Ammonium Phosphate 18400 at about Kshs700 but sells it

at Kshs1,200 in Eldoret. Why do we exploit the people of Japan and other donors for the sake of some Turbo Asians? I am an annoyed man and I represent farmers. I do not like what the Ministry does with the Asians. Woe unto them when we will have new changes! These Asians, in collaboration with our civil servants whom we have employed and pay salaries from our sweat, have exploited our people. So, let the Minister tell us, when he will reply, who has been winning these tenders and where the money is, if they have been repaying at all? This is because these Asians take the fertilizer and we doubt whether they have been repaying.

This year, we told our maize farmers to spread out his 100 bags of maize on the floor and select good grain from the bad one when we had a bumper harvest. Who supplied the farmers the planting seeds? It is the Kenya Seed Company which supplied them with the planting seeds. The planting seeds were inspected by the Kenya Plant Health Inspection Service (KEPHIS). After planting the maize seeds and harvesting, the farmer is told that the maize is rotten and he has to select the good grains from the bad ones. The Chair knows that in years of plenty, people start being arrogant to their God and their farmers. This year, the maize stalks in the North Rift are about one metre tall and they have started to flower because of insufficient rains. This is because we told God that last year's maize was a lot. I asked my Almighty God to forgive us our sins of the arrogance of our Government. This is because when we tell a farmer to start selecting maize, and yet the planting seeds he used were supplied by the same Government--- Later on, I will request this House to bring an amendment to the National Cereals and Produce Board Act because the NCPB is established by an Act of Parliament. We have to amend the NCPB enabling Act so that this Board can be made to buy all the maize produced by the Kenyan farmer. In Ukambani, when they harvested a lot of maize, it went to waste because the NCPB could not buy it. This is the case, and yet this Board was established with the taxpayers' money. The Board told us a year ago that it had to import maize used by donor agencies.

Finally, if the Government wants to eradicate poverty in my district, let the officers not hold meetings in Sirikwa Hotel. Let it buy for us tea seedling tubes so that we can diversify and plant tea. This will enable us to generate employment for our youth. Let the officials not hold poverty reduction seminars in Sirikwa Hotel and other places because this will not help eradicate poverty.

**Mr. Munyao:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to start my contribution by supporting the Minister for Agriculture and his members of staff, whom we have worked together. I know these officials are hardworking.

This is one of the Ministries we would have liked to be allocated five or 20 times the money it has been allocated. This is because the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development can eradicate poverty in this country. We are sure that once the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is supported, farmers will produce and it will support them to find market for their produce. Therefore, these farmers will not only feed Kenya but also generate income and employment opportunities.

I would like to request the Minister, who has been listening to the various hon. Members who have made their contributions, to perform a "miracle" this year. I would like to remind the Minister, who is left with only five months in the Ministry--- Change will come soon and the Minister will be seated on this side of the House while I will be seated on the other side of the House, and he will talk to me. I would like to remind the Minister that the first Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Mackenzie, made history and performed miracles. He made rain to fall. If that trend had continued, perhaps North Eastern Province would have been like Mount Kenya region because he would have made that province to experience rainfall. He would place some gadgets in areas where there was no rainfall and clouds would form and then rain would fall. During that time, Marsabit experienced the same amount of rainfall as Nanyuki. I am sure if that trend had continued, we would have been very far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that the Minister who has the interest of Kenyans at heart has taken the points that have been raised by hon. Members in this House, and he will change the policy of agriculture. It was just last month when we had a meeting on food security in Rome, and my name was almost tarnished. Food security in this country is very important. This means that we need to store food when it is plenty. This also means that we need to support the farmer so that he can get market to sell his food when it is harvested.

In the Rift Valley, for instance, some farmers could not prepare their farms because they had not yet harvested their maize. On the other hand, maize harvested two years ago is still in the granaries because there is no market for that maize. It is hurting to learn that for a farmer to produce a 90-kilogramme bag of maize, he puts in about Kshs600 to Kshs800 and because there is no market, the farmer is forced to sell that 90-kilogramme bag of maize at Kshs400. If a farmer produces maize at Kshs800 per 90-kilogramme bag and is forced to sell it at a throw-away price of Kshs400, that farmer will be discouraged and will not grow food any more. Rift Valley Province is the granary of this country and we need to support farmers in that province so that they can continue to produce more food. The Ministry should ensure that those farmers can sell their maize without any difficult, so that they can continue to produce in order to feed this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers should know where to sell their crops. The Government should also assist

farmers to store their crops. In Ukambani and some parts of the Rift Valley Province, for instance, the "grain borer" weevil has invaded and destroyed all the stored food. That food which has been destroyed by the grain borer is being sold at Kshs2 per tin. When the Minister replies, he should tell us--- I know that there could be two reasons for allowing that weevil to destroy food in Ukambani. I know that the KANU Government is always very bitter to see the Akamba people go to the General Election with food in their stores. If that is the intention of allowing the grain borer to destroy food in that area, I do not know. We sometimes think that the grain borer weevil which has invaded Ukambani is---

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Lomada): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member on the Floor to allege that the Minister for Agriculture deliberately allowed weevils to destroy food in Ukambani because he is a KANU Minister?

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. Even the hon. Member who has just spoken knows that, that is not a point of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Lomada! Mr. Munyao was merely expressing an opinion. He did not say the Minister allowed weevils to destroy food in Ukambani!

Proceed, Mr. Munyao!

**Mr. Munyao:** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister is capable of commenting on what I have just said! In fact, I had asked him to comment on it when he stands to reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has become a routine that as we approach the General Election, Ukambani, which is a hunting ground for KANU, is left to go without food, so that they are given maize on a two-kilogramme tin, and they will be influenced to vote. At the moment, the grain borer weevil seems to know the borders. It appears as if the weevil in that area is laboratory-manufactured, and it knows the boundaries of Ukambani.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think a responsible Member of Parliament cannot be allowed to get away with such allegations, even under the guise of campaigning. He has just said that the weevil in Ukambani is laboratory-manufactured. Could he substantiate and give us evidence?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Minister! That is not a point of order!

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had not even finished saying what I was saying. I was trying to build up my argument! We have now purchased the Super Actelic pesticide which the Minister had assured Kenyans through this House, that it is effective. But this has not born any fruits as well! The Minister should admit that this weevil is KANU-manufactured, in order to make sure that the Kambas will not have enough food in their stores. We have had several meetings with the Minister and the manufacturers of Super Actelic. How come that even after the Minister had given a directive on this matter, the Super Actelic pesticide has not been supplied to farmers in Ukambani? When will it be supplied to those farmers in Ukambani? The reason why we feel that this weevil is laboratory-manufactured is because it has destroyed all the dry maize and it is now destroying even green maize. It is even destroying trees! So, if nothing is done within the next one year, there will be no forest left in Ukambani.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think it is utterly out of order for an hon. Member to wilfully give a false statement to the effect that, that weevil has been laboratory-manufactured for political purposes. Could he substantiate or withdraw that allegation?

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will do that. But could I offer to stop here and travel to Ukambani tomorrow with the Minister and give him that insect? In fact, we took that insect to his office sometime back. He has got it and he should prove to us that it is not laboratory-manufactured. In fact, we know that HIV/AIDS was also laboratory-manufactured in order to cause a certain damage.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Dr. Godana): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, both of you! Mr. Munyao, I allowed you to get away with that allegation initially because I thought it was a joke. If you now repeat it severally, it ceases to be a joke. I will have no alternative but to ask you to substantiate by bringing those laboratory-manufactured weevils to the House. But anyway, your time is up.

**Mr. Kimeto:** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country should have been a donor in terms of food. Our country is bestowed with a natural environment and we should produce a lot of food. I wish to propose to the Minister for Agriculture that funds should be availed to all the constituencies in this country for our people to produce food. The Government should bring a Bill to this House in order cushion farmers in matters of food production. Rift Valley Province alone can produce enough food for the entire country. If we could construct barrier lakes or dams, then food production in this country could be easy. We should not allow our waters like those of River Tana to flow into the Indian Ocean



without constructing dams where it passes. If we do that, the people of North Eastern Province will produce a lot of food. If we avail some money to all the constituencies in this country to enhance food production, under supervision of local Members of Parliament, then food production would be easy. By so doing, we will donate food to other countries. We should exploit our land because we have got a lot of human resource in this country. We have got about 30 million people loitering everywhere. We should employ them, so that they can produce food for this country---

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until Wednesday, 17th July, 2002, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.