

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 11th October, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

The District Allocation Budget for the year ended 30th June 2001 for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Tea Development Authority for the year ended 30th June 1996 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Tea Development Authority for the year ended 30th June 1997 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Tea Development Authority for the year ended 30th June 1998 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Tea Development Authority for the year ended 30th June 1999 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute for the year ended 30th June 1998 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute for the year ended 30th June 1999 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of National Irrigation Board for the year ended 30th June 1996 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of National Irrigation Board for the year ended 30th June 1997 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of National Irrigation Board for the year ended 30th June 1998 and the certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo) on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture)

NOTICE OF MOTION

REVERSION OF LEASED LAND TO INDIGENOUS KENYANS

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the fact that some foreigners allocated themselves land for commercial, agricultural or residential purposes long before Independence, considering that the land was allocated on leases of 33, 66, 99 and 999 years respectively, and taking into consideration that the said foreigners have immensely benefited from the said land from generation to generation while indigenous Kenyans remain alienated from these lands, this House urges the Government to ensure that at the expiry of these leases, these lands will revert back to public use and be allocated to landless Kenyans of African origin.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.447

RELOCATION OF CENTRAL KENYA SHOW GROUND

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kihoro is not in? We shall come back to that Question later.

*Question No.240*ESTABLISHMENT OF PINEAPPLE
PROCESSING PLANT IN KABONDO

Mr. Otula asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware

that pineapples of high quality are produced in Kabondo Division in Kasipul-Kabondo Constituency; and,

(b) what plans he has to put up a pineapples processing factory in the division.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Kasipul-Kabondo Constituency produces pineapples and has high potential for production of this crop.

(b) The level of pineapple production is not sufficient to satisfy the establishment of a processing plant in the division. In addition, given the liberalization process in the commodity marketing, investment opportunities have been opened up in areas of marketing, processing, storage and distribution. The Government is, therefore, divesting from such undertakings in order to give private sector an opportunity to invest efficiently in Kenya's agricultural and agrobusiness.

The Ministry will, however, continue promoting pineapple production in the constituency and the province in general, through intensification of production by increasing the area under the crop, improving crop husbandry and provision of extension services.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that there is high quality pineapple production in the constituency and, at the same time, he says that they have no plans to put up a factory within this particular area. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House how many acres of land have been used by farmers to plant pineapples in this particular area and how many acres are required for a factory to be put up in a particular area?

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, pineapple production in that district and the province in general is quite high. In 1998, the area under the crop in the whole province was 2,878 hectares with a total production of 63,656 metric tonnes. To put up a pineapple processing plant, at least 6,000 acres are required, while the area under the crop currently in Nyanza Province is approximately 5,000 acres. This is not economical for such a facility to be established.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that a similar Question was brought to this House by the Member of Parliament for Magarini Constituency. That the country has no processing factory for pineapples while there are a lot of pineapple-growing areas in the country, including Magarini. The same answer was given. Now that another potential area for pineapple growing has been found, could the Assistant Minister combine it with the area in Coast Province and look for investors who can put up a plant for the pineapples?

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry will consider establishing a processing plant to cater for Nyanza Province and the other provinces where they grow pineapples. But it will need a feasibility study to be carried out, so that we know exactly how much we can produce and, at the same time, the tonnage of the same throughout the country.

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has just told the House that for a processing plant to be viable, they need a minimum of 6,000 acres, and that there are already 5,000 acres in Nyanza. Given the Government's own policy of poverty alleviation, would the Assistant Minister not consider encouraging farmers in Nyanza to grow the extra 1,000 acres so that they can warrant to get a processing factory under that scheme?

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said in my earlier answer, we are encouraging farmers to increase the acreage of this particular crop. The only constraint will be transportation. For example, if we established a processing plant in Nyanza, it would be very difficult to transport raw pineapple from Coast Province. So, it would mean establishing a factory in Nyanza, another one in Coast Province and the other areas where this crop is produced.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, agricultural extension officers used to promote the growing of this particular crop in the region. Now that they have been retrenched, what method is the Assistant Minister going to use to promote the growing of this crop in the region?

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member that all the agricultural extension officers have been retrenched. Some have been left behind and they are going to assist in that particular field.

Question No. 419

MEASURES TO STREAMLINE MATATU OPERATIONS

Mr. Mwakiringo asked the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications:-

- (a) whether he is aware that blaring of horns by *matatus* and shouting by touts in the Central Business District areas in major urban centres is disturbing hoteliers and hospitalised patients; and,
 (b) what action he is taking to ensure that only numbers are used on *matatus* for people to board other than the hooting and shouting by touts.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the blaring of horns by *matatus* and shouting by touts in the Central Business District in major urban centres is disturbing hoteliers, hospitalised patients and wananchi in general.

(b) The Ministry is taking appropriate remedial measures. A Bill to be introduced in the National Assembly has incorporated aspects to control boarding, hooting and shouting by touts. The Revised Section 103 of Cap.403 Traffic Amendment Bill 2000 provides as follows:-

(i) No person for the purpose of obtaining passengers for any public service vehicle, shall make any noise or sound any instrument or do anything which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, or danger to the public.

(ii) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with this Section shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable to a fine not less than Kshs2,000 and not more than Kshs5,000. In addition, the court may order the confiscation of the instrument by which the offence is committed.

This Section, once enacted will control touts and ensure that only numbers are displayed on the dashboards of *matatus* and buses to indicate routes and destinations.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was a very nice answer from the Assistant Minister. As you may be aware, this habit has affected the tourism industry and wananchi in general. How soon will this Bill be introduced? When one is in hotels such as Hilton or Ambassadeur, these touts keep shouting "Dandora!" "Dandora!" So, Europeans ask where these dollars are sold in the streets of Nairobi because they hear "dollars" instead of "Dandora!" This fine is also too little for this type of offence.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, the Bill is in the office of the Attorney-General and it should be here as soon as---

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister in his reply to state that there will be confiscation of the instruments with which the noises are caused? How is he going to take out the tongue if a tout is shouting?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Michuki, I can understand your difficulty. Even if it is hooting, they cannot remove the horn because it will be against the Traffic Act. Let us wait until the Bill comes to the Floor of the House so that we can deliberate on it.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill does not provide for the confiscation of the tongue. The tongue is an organ but not an instrument. Let us wait for the Bill to come to the Floor of the House so that we can discuss it. As for the fine, we have proposed those figures, but this House is at liberty to change them when the Bill comes to the House.

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, legislation is a long-term measure to control the problem arising from the activities of *matatus* and touts. What short-term measures is the Government taking to make sure that this nuisance comes to an end?

Mr. Keah: The short-term measures include the use of the traffic police officers whom we see on the roads everyday. Unfortunately, they are not enough to cover all the roads which the *matatus* ply. We are also trying to educate *matatu* owners to be good citizens. This is a good campaign and hon. Members of this House, together with the citizens of this country should act as policemen towards that end and make sure that those who board *matatus* do police this particular aspect of inconvenience and annoyance. We will be depending on the co-operation of the members of the public to assist us.

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that the reason why this problem of *matatu* touts is increasing everyday is because these *matatus* are owned by "big shots" and particularly police officers? Who is going to arrest them if they are the ones owning the *matatus*?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the statistics of the "big shots" who own *matatus*. The law does not discriminate between the big shots, small shots and people who are not shots at all. I do have statistics of a number of cases that have been taken to court in various areas. But I cannot say whether this relates to big shots, small shots or no shots at all!

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how does the Minister intend to take care of those illiterate passengers who cannot read numbers when they are put there? It is not true that registration will solve the problem. Could the Assistant

Minister consider taking these touts to a seminar in order to explain to them the need to be organised? Imposing higher penalties and registering *matatus* on particular routs will not solve this problem.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are doing both those things in the campaign. We will certainly be introducing seminars for touts and so on. Hopefully, this menace will be overcome by a general education of all the operators. We hope the touts can be licensed like the Public Service Vehicle operators. We hope that they will get a certificate which will ensure that they conform to the general good practice to avoid inconveniences. As for the people who cannot read, they can, out of sheer custom and habit, get to know where *matatus* are travelling to. These people will not be gagged from talking. What we are trying to avoid is the shouting as hon. Michuki alluded to.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would the Minister, as an urgent measure, consider introducing road signs which are normally called "road furniture", indicating that there is no hooting or shouting in strategic points in the Central Business District before the Bill is introduced in this House?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Traffic Act, there are numerous signs which have an element of what hon. Mwakiringo is talking about. But I agree that we do not have those signs on our roads. The Act provides for it, but they are not there. I have taken note of that concern and we will do the best we can to expose those signs on the streets as practicable as possible.

Question No.622

FATE OF MR. OKOTH

Mr. Speaker: I have got instructions to defer this Question until next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No.205

IMPLEMENTATION OF NKUBU WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Murungi asked the Minister for Water Development:-

- (a) what happened to the Kshs25 million advanced to Nkubu Water Supply by Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA); and,
- (b) when work will commence on this project.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) The Kshs25 million earmarked for Nkubu water supply has not been released by JICA.
- (b) Work on the rehabilitation or augmentation of the project will commence as soon as the Government finalises the on-going bilateral consultations with the Government of Japan.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question came before this House last week. The Minister had the same answer which he has just read to the House. He had sought the indulgence of the House to go and bring a more comprehensive answer. Is he now satisfied with that same answer which was inadequate last week?

Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied that the answer is sufficient and competent enough.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally with donor funding, the Government is supposed to give a certain percentage. Could the Minister confirm that JICA has not released these funds because the Government has not contributed its percentage which is required to complete that project?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I stated before, the Government is still negotiating with JICA. Until that negotiation is finalised, the Government will not know the portion which it is required to contribute.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Ministry is notorious for promising things which will never happen. The four towns project has been in the development account since 1999 to date. What is the real problem here? The four towns project - Kandara, Kahuti, Liteini (?) and Sabaki has been in the books of the Ministry for a very long time. The French donors are there, but the Government is pussy-footing. When will this project ever take off?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, the proposal which will be financed by JICA covers seven projects and Nkubu is one of the towns which were identified for financing. The negotiations are going on. In fact, when Kshs25 million was indicated the discussions were fairly advanced. Due to changing circumstances and in view of the donor community the project has been delayed, but the discussions are still going on.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kshs25 million for Nkubu Water Supply was shown in the Development Estimates for 1997/98. It is now three years since then. An amount of Kshs25 million is not a lot of money. Can the

Minister assure this House that in the coming financial year, 2000/2001, Nkubu Water Supply will be allocated the Kshs25 million?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say that those seven projects are very lucky indeed because the chances of them materialising through JICA are high. The negotiations are going on and we expect them to be concluded as soon as possible. The Kshs25 million was an estimated amount and during that time the budgeting was different from what it is now. It was in good faith that the Ministry put that amount anticipating a quick conclusion of the negotiations. Unfortunately, they delayed otherwise that figure could even have been more.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister has not really answered my question which was: Will this amount be included in the 2000/2001 Financial year?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said as soon as negotiations are finalised the Kshs25 million figure might even be increased.

Question No.480

COMPENSATION TO MUTHETHENI LAND OWNERS

Mr. Katuku asked the Minister for Water Development:-

(a) if he is aware that 15 families on which Muthetheni Earth Dam was constructed in 1981 have not been compensated for their land; and,

(b) what has caused the delay and when they will be paid.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order that the Minister should start replying to this Question when, in fact, it does not make any sense because a dam cannot be constructed on families? There is a discrepancy here. Maybe the Question has to do with the land belonging to 15 families,

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Katuku, how is it constructed on people?

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure this is a typing error. I submitted the right Question and it should be "land" and not "families"

Mr. Speaker: Can I make the amendment? Mr. Michuki, you are right and I am sure Mr. Katuku drafted it correctly. We will make some correction that: "...the 15 families on whose land Muthetheni Earth Dam was constructed..." Mr. Minister, maybe you have an answer on an earth dam constructed on families.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will reply again.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) My Ministry has no arrangements to compensate the 15 families for their land. The agreement reached was that for a community to qualify for a dam water project under the Machakos Integrated Development Programme, it was expected to provide land and the Government to undertake construction works. Under the EEC/Government of Kenya arrangements, the water project was considered as a community project. The community through an elected Water Committee has continued to manage this project to-date.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very strange that a community can go ahead and make arrangements for somebody's land to be taken without the person being involved. If the Minister has got any agreements indicating that the 15 families participated in this arrangement which he is telling us about, I would like him to table them before this House. I would want to inform the Minister that when the dam was constructed, it took the whole land for these families and they have nowhere to farm. Can he seriously consider what to do with these families like maybe allocating them land elsewhere?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you will notice, the dam in question was constructed in 1981 which is nearly 20 years ago. According to the information we have, the community donated that land in order for the dam to be constructed.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the answer the Minister has given, could he explain to this House whether by "community" he means the 15 families or who is this "community" that is responsible for compensating the 15 families that hon. Katuku is complaining about?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 15 families were the people who were supposed to be community leaders who offered the land for construction of the dam. Naturally, the water users of that dam could have been more than that. The people who were affected were 15 in number.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are being given conflicting information. I do not know which one is correct. The hon. Questioner says there was no agreement, but the Minister says there was an agreement. We do not know who is right here. Can we know which is the correct version so that we know where we stand?

Mr. Speaker: What I will ask you Mr. Mwenje is let us listen to both. It is 19 years ago.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenged the Minister to table the agreement here which he has not done. So, I think you should believe me. These people had been told by the local chief that they would be compensated for all those years and this has not been done.

They have nowhere to farm. Can the Minister table the agreement he is talking about here?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Ministry is concerned, there is no agreement between it and the community, because this programme was under Machakos Integrated Development Programme. So, the Ministry was simply acting as an advisor to the Programme. The agreement was between the community and the Programme.

*(Mr. Nderitu and Mr. Michuki
stood up in their places)*

Mr. Speaker: Between Mr. Michuki and Mr. Nderitu, I will choose Mr. Nderitu because there is a huge dam in his constituency!

Mr. Nderitu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have got people who were rendered landless at Masinga, Kiambere and Ndakaini dams. What is the policy of the Government to compensate those people who gave out their land to have the dams built for generation of electricity and other requirements for this Government? What is the policy of the Government to compensate those people?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Michuki, we do not do it that way. Do it properly.

Mr. Michuki: I will do it properly, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Michuki, I cannot see you that way. You have to make yourself "seeable" by the Chair. So, how do I see you? Either you stand up, I recognise you or if you are on a point of order, do so.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a point of order, but there is a constitutional point I want to make.

Mr. Speaker: Well, you can argue there alone then! Mr. Michuki, I cannot see you while you are seated.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can I raise this point?

Mr. Speaker: On what ground?

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister who is in the Government in order to ignore the Constitution of Kenya, which provides that where private land is appropriated for public purposes, the owners will not only be compensated, but the value will be enhanced by 15 per cent for payment? Is he in order to ignore the Constitution?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very surprised that hon. Michuki has raised a matter which is absolutely irrelevant here because the question here is about compensation for a piece of land, and I am saying that the Ministry is not a party to it, because there is no notice sent to the Ministry to the effect that those people want to be compensated.

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

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, Mr. Katuku. Time is running out. All your colleagues have the same problem. Let us move on to Mr. Kiunjuri's Question.

Question No.550

ALLOCATION OF KANU GROUNDS

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Kiunjuri not here? Let us move on to the next Question by Mr. Kikuyu.

Question No.503

GRADING OF ROADS IN MACHAKOS TOWN

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Kikuyu not here? Mr. Kihoro's Question for the second time.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask Question No.447 although I have not received any written reply to it.

Question No.447

RELOCATION OF CENTRAL KENYA SHOW GROUND

Mr. Kihoro asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the venue for the Central Kenya Agricultural Show was moved to Kabiruini Forest in 1998;
- (b) whether he is further aware that as a result of the relocation many people have boycotted the previous two shows; and,
- (c) whether he could order that the show be restored to its home ground, at the 60 acre Ruring'u Show Ground.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry if hon. Kihoro has not received his written reply; I will ensure that one is delivered to him. However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that it was necessary or it was necessitated by the need for additional space for expansion in view of the fact that the former show ground which occupied an area of about 7.9 hectares was congested.

(b) I am aware that there has been a decline in performance of Nyeri Show of late. However, the decline is attributed to the country's general low-economic situation which has affected most ASK shows countrywide and contributed to low quality of exhibition and poor show attendance. A decline is usually expected at the initial stages of developing a new show ground. We are, however, optimistic about the future growth of Nyeri Show Ground, considering that it is the only such facility currently in existence in Central Province. The new show ground is only 6.5 kilometres on the Nyeri-Nyahururu tarmac road and it is fairly accessible.

Mr. Kihoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Kihoro! Do you know why I said "the second time"? It is because you were not here and you owe this House an apology, otherwise, I will not "see" you!

Mr. Kihoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do apologise for coming late. I should have been here. In fact, I was in Parliament at that point, but unfortunately, I did not know that the Question was coming up. This is a very important Question. If we have done an act here which has no support of the community--- The show has been moved 12 kilometres out of town and not 6.5 kilometres in an area where there is no transport. This show used to be the centre piece of agriculture in Central Province and today, the centre has been relegated to an area which is fit for agro-forestry and zoology. My submission is that this show---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kihoro, you know that you and I used to do that in court. This is Parliament. Ask your question; we do not submit here!

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that this show was moved to this area to allow land grabbers to take over Ruring'u Stadium and also grab 600 acres of Nyeri forest? I have the gazettelement of 600 acres being taken in the name of moving Ruring'u Show to Kabiruini forest here with me. Is he aware of that? That is the document I will table.

(Mr. Kihoro laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that the moving of the show ground to a new area was to facilitate grabbing of land by whoever was grabbing it. It was way back in 1995 when the ASK asked for a new show ground due to congestion experienced at Ruring'u Old Show Ground at that particular moment. To answer hon. Kihoro's Question again, the new show ground is only 6.5 kilometres away from the town on the Nyeri-Nyahururu tarmac road and it is accessible. I know where that show ground is situated because that was the first police station I was posted to when I left Kiganjo Training College.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is talking about Kabiruini and Nyeri Town. What minutes of the District Development Committee (DDC) can he table before this House, which authorised the movement of the show ground from the centre of the town to Kabiruini forest, given that even the ASK has no power to do so, but the people of Nyeri had to decide where that had to go? Which authority of the people did the Assistant Minister act on?

Mr. Sumbeiywo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minutes of the DDC are not available, but that can be made available to the House to prove that the ASK applied for an additional piece of land to move out of the old ASK Show Ground, which was congested at that particular moment.

Mr. Speaker: I will give you time until next week to bring those Minutes.

I will defer Mr. Kiunjuri's Question to next week.

ALLOCATION OF KANU GROUNDS

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Jonesmus Kikuyu's Question is deferred to next week.

Question No.503

GRADING OF ROADS IN MACHAKOS TOWN

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MEASURES TO CURTAIL ACTIVITIES OF *MUNGIKI*

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

In view of the recent direct confrontation between the group calling itself *Mungiki*, the police and other members of the society, including the clergy, could the Minister inform this House the following:-

- (a) What is its leadership and areas of operation?
- (b) What is the Government doing to control and curtail the dangerous activities of the *Mungiki* Sect?
- (c) Whether there is any connection between *Mungiki* and the ritual killing of innocent young girls in Nairobi and other parts of the country?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) *Mungiki* is an unregistered organisation whose leadership is so far unknown. However, there are those vocal members who advocate the *Mungiki* call. The known strongholds of the *Mungiki* are in Nairobi, Laikipia, Nyandarua, Thika and Nakuru.

(b) The Government security machinery is on the alert and we are following the activities of the *Mungiki* group very closely. As a result, already 56 *Mungiki* followers are in court, charged with various offences.

(c) There is no evidence, whatsoever, to link *Mungiki* with the recent killings of young girls.

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Minister is really misleading this House. The Government cannot say that it does not know who the *Mungiki* followers are because this sect must have originated from somewhere. I think, what we have seen of late is very disturbing, especially to me as a mother, a leader and a grandmother. I think, the wave of crime, especially on the children must be connected, somehow, with the *Mungiki* sect because something has suddenly mushroomed and we need to be told.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Just for all hon. Members' advice, when you ask a question, do not express your opinion on it and do not make it a ground for debate; just put the question to the Minister.

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to have a further explanation on who the *Mungiki* group are and where they are from?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the *Mungiki* sect is believed to have been in existence since the mid 1980s. It is only in the recent three years when it has become evident that the motive of this illegal organisation is to disrupt the peace and order and establish unconstitutional authority in this country. Its real intention is to destabilise the country and set up its own authority. The cult advocates for retrogressive Kikuyu traditions which is only being used as smoke-screen. It is highly anti-christian, although it claims to borrow some of its tenets from the Holy Bible.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question arises from part "b" of Mrs. Kittony's Question. What is the Government doing to control and curtail the dangerous activities of *Mungiki* Sect?

I would like to know from the Minister about another dangerous sect in this country called "devil worshippers". Devil worshippers eat human flesh and they kill people; they worship when they are naked and walk backwards as was shown in one of the papers in this country. We have in the past raised this question of devil worshippers, both inside and outside this House. So, we would like to know from the Minister because he has said that this is a sect from the Kikuyu community and they are trying to advocate---

Mr. Shaaban: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to say that there are Members in this House who are worshipping devils? If it is true, indeed, could he substantiate his remarks? That is a

very serious statement!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did I say that? I did not say that!

Mr. Speaker: I did not hear it!

Mr. Ndicho: I said that I have raised that question of devil worshippers.

Mr. Speaker: You are correct.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want the Minister to tell us which is the most dangerous sect. Is it *Mungiki* whose leadership we know? Their leader is always on TV or he walks in the streets of Nairobi, and they worship during the day. What is the most dangerous sect? Is it *Mungiki* or devil worshippers?

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Chair has clearly heard hon. Ndicho say that he knows the leadership of *Mungiki* when the Minister has denied knowing its leadership. Would I be in order to ask hon. Ndicho to tell us who the leaders of *Mungiki* are?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody watches television in this country, and we have so many stations now. Many people must have seen somebody called Waruinge Ibrahim appearing on TV and saying he is the leader of *Mungiki*.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Ndicho, let the Minister answer the question.

Hon. Members, you will notice that we are running short of time and from what I see, there is considerable interest in the House. So, can we be precise?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of devil worshippers, I think that is a different subject. I will not attempt to respond to the issue of devil worshippers.

As far as we are concerned, we have discussed the *Mungiki* sect. I have said what the *Mungiki* group are and we are going to continue to track-down the *Mungiki* group.

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

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Ndicho, you will not monopolise it. Could we hear from Mr. John Sambu?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister said that the sect is out to destabilise the Government. But what we have seen and which was covered on TV is that, the sect harmed people in Murang'a. What is the Government doing to specifically contain the *Mungiki* sect? The *Mungiki* sect is harming people directly. If the Government is going to take care of itself, how about individuals like it happened to somebody in Murang'a? What is the Government doing to control these activities because the sect has been linked to the disappearance of young girls and boys?

Mr. Muiruri: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Sambu in order to mislead this House that the *Mungiki* sect is circumcising women? Could he produce one woman or girl who has been circumcised by the *Mungiki* sect?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never said such a thing!

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to what he said?

Mr. Muiruri, you are giving Mr. Sambu a very difficult assignment.

Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think over the recent days, you have seen that we have been tracking down and following the activities of the *Mungiki* followers. We will continue to try and ensure that they do not continue with such activities.

An hon. Member: You will not succeed!

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you heard somebody saying that we cannot succeed. Maybe he is one of the individuals whom we should get hold of so that he can tell us what they are up to.

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister not to go deep and answer part "c" of the Question? If it is not *Mungiki* and there has been this problem where even His Excellency the President raised the issue and fears of our children getting lost and their parts cut, is he, therefore, not in order not to go deeper and explain to this House what the Government is doing? If it is not *Mungiki* or devil worshippers, can he tell us who is doing all that?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as that is concerned, I did say that we are continuing with our investigations. We have got certain leads which we are following and until those investigations are concluded, then I will not be able to answer.

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has told us that the aim of *Mungiki* is to destabilise this Government. Can he table any evidence to show that *Mungiki* is out to destabilise this Government and it is not a religious sect?

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to mislead this House and the nation, that a full battalion armed with kitchen knives can overthrow the powerful Government of Daniel Toroitich arap Moi with all the weapons of mass murder?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Minister, have you understood what he has said?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you allow me, I will only answer what hon. Paul Kihara asked.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, go ahead!

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the very activities of *Mungiki*, why would they want to steal arms from police stations and what would they want to use these arms for? I could even go further and speak of their other plans.

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

Mr. Speaker: Time is up but I will give hon. Kittony the very last chance for two seconds. Proceed!

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the arm of Government is long enough, I think in order for us to rest in peace, it is necessary for the Government to move faster and let us know what is this *Mungiki*, because it surely seems to be known by some people in this House?

An hon. Member: Now, what is your question?

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked whether the Minister could undertake to go deeper and tell us how this *Mungiki* came into being because it seems to be known by some of us and because it is clear that there is something wrong somewhere? It is a threat to our lives.

Mr. Speaker: Time up! Next Question.

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO
NAIVASHA DAIRY SCHOOL WORKERS

(Mr. Kihara) to ask the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that workers at the Naivasha Dairy Training School have not received their salaries for the last two years?

(b) When will these workers be paid?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kihara's Question is deferred to tomorrow afternoon. Next Order!

(Question deferred)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read being
Fourth Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

(The Minister for Agriculture on 6.10.2000)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 6.10.2000)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Khamasi, I believe, was on the Floor. You have five minutes.

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I would like to continue from where I left. I was speaking on behalf of the Kenyan farmer. I want to talk a little about the tea farmers in this country. The tea farmers in this country get very little for their sweat. Kenya is still selling her tea as raw materials to other countries. We are the biggest exporter of tea and yet, we are not the biggest producer of tea. I think the Government should put in place mechanisms which should enable us to add value to our tea, blend it and export it in a blended manner for the Kenyan farmer to be able to get value worth his tea.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to mention something about the credit to farmers. As we are talking now, the farmers have no access to credit in this country. The only available credit is from the commercial banks which is very

expensive and the ordinary Kenyan farmer cannot be able to service loans from the commercial banks. A little while ago, there were requests from the farmers to establish a farmers' bank. The Government did not see the need for it. I would like to ask this Ministry to make sure that, at least, farmers can establish their own bank where they can have easy access to credit with interest rates which are affordable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the moment, we have debate going on about tobacco farming in this country. Many farmers, in fact, millions of Kenyans depend on tobacco and it is prudent that before anything is carried out, a Sessional Paper comes to this House, so that we can know the intentions and objectives of the Government about tobacco farming in this country. There will be no need for us to see a Bill here when the Sessional Paper has not been produced. It is necessary for this Government to know that there are millions of Kenyans who depend on tobacco farming and they should be protected, health notwithstanding. We should not be duped by the West about this business of what they are doing there. Our economy is not the same as theirs and, therefore, it is necessary that whenever we are introducing any legislation, it is necessary to be careful, so that the ordinary farmer is considered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch on rice farming. We had the opportunity of going round the country as the Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, to see how rice farming is going on. It was a shame. We went to Bunyala, West Kano, Ahero and Mwea. It is a shame that all those schemes are just about to collapse, if they have not collapsed already. I know for once that Bunyala, West Kano and Ahero rice irrigation schemes have almost collapsed because of poor governance and management of those schemes. All of those schemes were depending on the Mwea scheme and now with the farmers taking over Mwea scheme, the National Irrigation Board (NIB) has got no money to manage the other schemes. We would like to know what this Government is doing because it is apparent that we will now go on to waste a lot of money to import rice which would otherwise be very easily available in this country through those schemes. It is necessary that the Minister in charge, and I am surprised he is not listening and hopefully somebody is listening for him, must know that this country depends on agriculture and that it is his Ministry that will look forward to making sure that it helps the economy of this country get revived.

With those remarks, I support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very vital debate. I stand up to support this Motion, but with a lot of disappointment. I am disappointed because I have listened very carefully to the Minister's statement and I had a lot of hope in it, since at the beginning, there is so much hope in it and after the end of his statement, hopelessness crept into it. This is because the Minister and the Ministry, whether it was deliberate, by accident or by circumstance, completely ignored to address the plight of the pastoral communities in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pastoral economy is much more important than all these other agricultural economies in this country. We know that probably more than half or 70 per cent of the land mass in this country can support pastoral activities. People in those areas entirely depend on livestock for their survival or livelihood. Today, children in North Eastern Province cannot go to school because their parents cannot raise school fees. The economy of people of North Eastern Province and other semi-arid areas depend on the livestock. Due to the current drought, our people cannot sell their animals or dispose of their animals because they do not have the necessary mechanism to do that. I expect the Minister who is a good friend of pastoral communities in this country to at least confirm his friendship by way of providing certain incentives in the budget to pastoralist farmers. I read and I heard him say that he is addressing the problem of cotton, tea and coffee growers. The only thing I heard about the pastoral community was that he is addressing the problem of the dairy farmers. It is very disappointing. I want to request him to use his good office to address problems that we have spoken about over the years. Up to date, we do not know the fate of the KMC. We have heard policy statements from the Minister and his official several times to the effect that KMC will be revived. We also hear that KMC is not viable. We do not know which is the correct position. There is a risk that the few remaining assets of KMC might be vandalised and grabbed. It is very important to the livestock farmers in this country to know the fate of KMC once and for all, so that we tell our people the realities on the ground. A few weeks ago, I went to my constituency and all my people are worried of where to take their livestock because they are dying in large numbers. A pastoralist becomes poor overnight after losing 3,000 or 4,000 head of cattle. In fact, overnight he becomes a destitute. That is a crisis for our farmers. That is a very painful thing and we want the Minister to urgently put measures in place, using his contact, to see how best he can address this problem which we have repeatedly talked about.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is also very critical in terms of providing food for this nation. We say we have regions in this country which can provide food if the resources in those areas are well harnessed for the betterment of the people of North Eastern Province. In some parts of North Eastern Province we have enormous amounts of underground water. For example, the enormous water resources in Habaswein township is enough to supply this city with water for over 200 years. If that water is enough to supply the City of Nairobi for more than 200 years, why do

we not use that water to do some irrigation in that area, so that we can contribute towards feeding this nation? Year in, year out, people of North Eastern Province depend on relief food. If we harness our own resources, use land and water properly, we can feed ourselves and by extension the whole nation. So, I thought that in this year's budget, the Minister would have included programmes that would enhance irrigation in North Eastern Province. Unfortunately, it is not there; it is yet another disappointment. We want the Minister to address these problems because we have the necessary resources and we are part and parcel of this country. The money that is going to certain regions for such activities should also go to North Eastern Province, so that we are given an opportunity to utilise our own resources for the benefit of our people and the country at large.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said and I will repeat, we do not have even one single research station in the entire North Eastern Province. If there is a research station, possibly we could undertake studies that can support people of that area to grow crops that are drought resistant. For example, Israel is situated in the Middle East. They have the same climatic conditions just as ours, but they do not complain of lack of food year in, year out. It is true that we may not have enough rain, but we have a lot of water. Therefore, if research was undertaken to advise the people of North Eastern Province, apart from the ones who are pursuing pastoral economy, on what to grow, there could be so many people, especially those who live in towns, who would opt to pursue agricultural activities. We need to advise them on the kind of crops that can survive that kind of climate. Since we do not have a research station and there is no much interest from the Ministry, we cannot advise our people to undertake certain economic activities, apart from pastoralism, which are more economically viable for them. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister to consider establishing research stations in North Eastern Province in order for our people to undertake research work and grow crops instead of relying on pastoral activity alone for their livelihood. We can advise those who are not necessarily pastoral farmers to undertake agricultural activities, if they know the kind of crops that can do well in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have Government offices established throughout the country. For example, in Wajir, we have the office of the district co-ordinator who is in charge of livestock and agricultural sectors. However, those officers are not mobile. For instance, in Garissa, they stay in the office and cannot co-ordinate activities within the district. There are diseases which affect our livestock from the neighbouring countries, but there is little our people can do. Our officers should be provided with transportation means so that they can co-ordinate their activities within the districts. It is sad that this Government posts officers to that district, but they are not fully mobilised because they do not have vehicles and no proper funding. I would request the Minister to do something about this matter because I visited the office and I know we have competent officers, but they do not have the requisite material to be effective. They do not have vehicles and money, among other things. Therefore, in the process, they cannot perform. So, I request the Minister, and I can see his officers are here in attendance, to consider Wajir office and give them a vehicle that can transport officers from one end of the district to another. From Wajir town, an officer has to cover a distance of about 300 kilometres. It is a pity that those officers have no vehicles. How do you expect them to perform? How do you assess the performance of the officers on the ground? How does Parliament approve money for your Ministry when your officers cannot perform on the ground?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I support this Vote, but I want the Minister to urgently consider how best he can address the problems of pastoralists in this country.

Mr. Michuki: Thank you, Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity, and my party, with which I am very proud. The debate on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is a very straightforward debate. We, as Members of Parliament, and the people we represent, know exactly what activities are taking place in the agricultural sector. They also know about the activities that they cannot undertake because of lack of facilities of one form or another. Therefore, it is not a new issue. The only new issue is; exactly when is the Government going to implement what it says it will do in the agricultural sector? Before we went to recess, the Minister for Agriculture told this House and the whole country, including the world, that 30 days from the date on which he spoke here, the KMC would be in operation. That was in July. We are now in October and the KMC remains a dream. This in itself does raise the issue of credibility not only on the Government, but also on the part of the Minister himself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the agricultural sector is to be revived, there are many shortcomings that must be rectified as a matter of urgency. One of these is credit to farmers because farmers have no working capital of their own. They cannot borrow from the banks because of the cost of the funds. The Government has neglected the only other institution that used to help the farmers; that is, the AFC, which incidentally, very much relied on soft loans from the International Development Association of the World Bank. I will urge that the Government does send urgent application to raise money to support the farmers. I am sure the Bank will be willing to lend us money provided that corruption can also be tackled by this Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the other aspect of what is known as Sugar and Cereals Finance Corporation which used to raise short-term funds to finance the purchase of crops, but not the actual farming. It provided capital to pay to the farmers who produced sugar and coffee because this money was availed through KPCU to pay the farmers for their

produce. So, rather than continue a futile debate, can we see some action being taken by the Minister for Agriculture, if the Government is serious about the alleviation of poverty. How are we going to start alleviating poverty without, first of all, making sure that a family is self-sustaining with the resources at its disposal? Therefore, I would urge that some kind of action is taken so that we can begin restoring some kind of credibility on the part of the Minister and the Government. Otherwise, it will be the same discussion of *mama* and *baba* who do not deliver for all those years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about research? The benefits of research for many years have not reached the beneficiaries; that is the farmers. KARI has been doing a lot of work, but what they do is not reaching the farmers, either within the livestock industry or the crop husbandry, or if you like, all the activities of the farmers. The extension services have been neglected. Unless I am mistaken, I heard the Minister say, when he was introducing his Vote, that there will be no effect on extension services in the field. Unless the extension officers have uniforms so that everybody knows where they are, as it is now, we do not know where they are. If the agricultural sector is to be revived, if we have to attack poverty at the grassroots level; we must have extension services. We must make use of the results of research work which is being financed from overseas because we cannot do it due to corruption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to address the issue of infrastructure. The roads in the agricultural areas have deteriorated. Money is given by the European Union (EU) to repair roads and so on, but it does not reach those areas. The money is not being used. In the tea growing areas, the World Bank provided money for tarmac roads in those areas not necessarily for tea because those roads also promoted production of more food, like vegetables and milk. Some people do tend to say that it was the KTDA that financed those roads, it was not. I negotiated that loan myself from the International Development Association of the World Bank for the tea roads. I am sure here again, the World Bank will be prepared to give us money to repair those roads. I do not know why we do not do this. I do not know why we value corruption more than the benefits that are coming to the people. The only condition we are being given is that we alleviate corruption and I see no reason why the Government cannot put resources and even have an outlook in eliminating problems that prevent the advancement of credit to this country from international institutions. All I am trying to say is that, there is a lot of goodwill out there in the international institutions with donors; it is we who have failed. I do not think that the conditions that have been given are difficult to fulfil, contrary to what was being stated yesterday. These are normal conditions that we must correct certain behaviours. Why are we finding it difficult to sacrifice ourselves in Government for the sake of 30 million people in Kenya?

In conclusion, I would like to say Uhuru in this country is becoming a very rare commodity for the ordinary man. With proper analysis, one can reach the conclusion that Uhuru was actually gained for the ruling elite, particularly those in the Government. Otherwise, considering the conditions in which we are today, with 52 per cent of Kenyans living below the poverty line, resulting in worse living conditions than during the colonial times, it would appear that the issue of Uhuru must, therefore, be looked at afresh. So, those people who say that they are fighting for the second liberation from the Government are very correct.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as presented by the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the Minister has put a very convincing argument in defence of his Vote, it would appear that he wants to use the money he is asking for in the same way we have been used to in the past. We have seen, through the failures by the various Departments of this Ministry to carry out their functions effectively, that, there is need to effect a major overhaul of the Ministry's operations. It is in that regard that I would like to make some suggestions to the Minister for Agriculture. Several hon. Members have spoken about the various problems that we have in this Ministry. Agriculture is the mainstay of this country's economy. The fact that the Ministry is not performing is affecting the performance of the rest of the country's economy. It is, therefore, very important that the Minister considers adopting a completely new approach to the issues that hon. Members have pointed out.

I would like to suggest that, maybe, by way of departure from the past practice, the Minister should consider establishing a completely independent organisation within the Ministry: Something like a board, which would ensure that various decisions of the Ministry, or certain proposals passed by Parliament, are implemented. Something similar has been done in the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, and this has now started yielding good results. So, we think that, agriculture being so important to this country's economy, especially to the country's population, such an approach should also be considered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

I would, therefore, like to recommend that the Minister considers adopting such an approach, by establishing an independent board that will oversee the operations and implementation of the policies of his Ministry. For instance, I come from a district which has been infested with tsetse flies. Four years ago, it was decided that some assistance be sought from outside, and an organisation called FITCA was established. The intention of that organisation was to eradicate tsetse flies. The pest had attacked animals and people in that area were left without any animals for milk and meat production as well as oxen for ploughing. However, the officers responsible for the operation of FITCA seem to

believe that they must, first of all, buy animals and then treat them to eradicate the tsetse fly. What has happened is that the animals that have been supplied to the farmers have died, because the people responsible are not liaising with the local officers to ensure that, first and foremost, they eradicate the fly from the area before they can introduce animals to the area. So, I think it is a big joke that so much money is lying there, farmers are suffering, and nothing is happening. Therefore, this is the reason for my suggestion that the Ministry should consider establishing an implementation board, and have it removed from the Ministry, to ensure that whatever the Minister has promised to do is done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the example I would like to give is the organisation called International Fund on Agricultural Development (IFAD), which used to operate in my area. Huge sums of money were brought in to this country and given to that organisation. However, four years later, nothing has happened in that district despite the fact that those moneys are being spent by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. I understand that donors are now withdrawing that support, because the officers concerned are not, really, interested in implementing the projects that they are employed to implement. Therefore, my suggestion is that we have an independent board outside the Ministry, that will ensure that the Ministry is performing to the expectations of the public.

It is very important for us to ensure that there is food security in this country. If established, the board I am talking about should be responsible for monitoring food stocks in stores and ensuring that they are full with food. Also, if necessary, the board should ensure that farmers acquire machinery and seeds at subsidised prices, and that they fetch good prices for their crops, so as to encourage them to grow more food crops. This way, this country will have food reserves. It is a disgrace for this country to be an agricultural country and fail to feed its people, especially when we know that it has the capacity to do so. Parliament votes money for agricultural activities year in, year out, yet, every year, our people suffer from famine.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, talking about the famine issue, I sometimes wonder. There are some of our brothers and sisters who are suffering from the effects of famine, and whom we must maintain every year. A time will come when some Kenyan taxpayers will ask: "Why should we pay taxes for the Government to feed only a certain section of this country's people who are unable to feed themselves every year". Why, therefore, should the Minister not come up with plans that can give those people incentives, so that they can produce their own food instead of spending that money to buy food for them? He should encourage them to grow their own food, so that they can be independent and plan for the amount of food they would want to grow.

The question of loss of livestock has been raised here already. It is a pity that we have seen very many animals die because of drought. This is not the first or second time we have witnessed this. For those pastoralists whose survival depends on livestock, this is a great loss; it is also a great loss to the nation. Why is it not possible for us to borrow some money from some source and rehabilitate the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), so that pastoralists can sell off their animals to the KMC when drought strikes? The factory will process and sell the meat and the livestock by-products. This way, pastoralists will have some money from the sale of their livestock in advance, knowing that if they do not do so, their livestock will die. Today, there is nothing livestock farmers can do about their dying livestock; they just watch desperately until their animals die.

So, while supporting the Minister's request for this Parliament's approval of the money he has requested for, I suggest that he should have asked for much more money; I am sure that this Parliament would approve the same. Therefore, I recommend that the Minister should come to this House with a special, perhaps emergency, request for specific funding for us to deal with these specific issues, which are of paramount importance to the survival of this nation. We cannot pretend to be improving agriculture every year when, indeed, the sector is not improving. So, we need to take radical measures to ensure that, this time round, something beneficial happens. I was very impressed by the manner in which the Minister presented his request for money. Maybe, if he had come for more money, with more imaginative plans as a way forward, I am sure this House would have approved it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is another organisation called the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA), and I am sure that there are other authorities like that. The LBDA has spent so much money, and nothing can be seen on the ground. I am not ashamed to say that, that is an organisation which just cons the farmers. I have been a victim because I paid that organisation Kshs100,000 in order for them to plough my shamba. They did not, and they took the money. They just told me that their machinery is not working. I am a Member of Parliament and also a Minister of this Government, and if that is how I am treated by the LBDA, what about the ordinary farmers?

We need to review all those programmes. I know that the Minister has good intentions, and we hope that he will improve them. But, Mr. Minister, you are dealing with people who have been handling that kind of a scheme for a long time.

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

Mr. Speaker: I will give this chance to the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for, at least, realising that I need to say one or two words. I

would like to begin with congratulating the Minister for Agriculture. He is one of the real Ministers we have in the Front Bench because I have had an opportunity to work with him. I can assure the House that he is one of the Ministers who can work from 8.00 a.m. to about 10.00 p.m. I wish it was procedural to ask the House to re-allocate the money in both the Vote of the Office of the President and the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development to his Ministry. This is because the Kshs3,594,782,945 that we are now giving to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is not enough. I wish to concur with my friend, hon. Ekirapa, that the Minister needs an emergency Vote; he needs to come to this House and ask for more money, and we will give him. Mr. Minister, we will vote for you the Kshs3,594,782,945 that you are asking for.

We have talked about policy papers on eradication of poverty. If the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development properly works, that is a sure way of eradicating poverty because if we revive farming in this country, about 50 per cent of our people will remain in the rural areas, and we will create employment opportunities and our people will have a source of income. There is nothing more important than food because whatever one has, one must eat. The Ministry is doing fundamental work in trying to revive agriculture.

We have worked very effectively on the Tea (Amendment) Bill, and the Minister made all the efforts to make sure that the stakeholders and the people who grow tea were fully involved, particularly the farmers. At the outset, I thanked the Minister because I was particularly taking into account that aspect because whatever we do, the farmer must be taken care of. There is no other sure way of doing that, and I would request the Minister to improve on the growing of cash crops in this country. We have a Sugar Bill which is coming to the House, and we had Papers on coffee, cotton, pyrethrum, tobacco and castor oil. I would want the Minister to follow the same system he followed when he was introducing the Tea (Amendment) Bill here so that each cash crop in this country would be fully discussed in this Parliament. Possibly, the Minister should go round and meet the farmers and solve all their problems. If we take care of the farmer, the farmer will take care of the crop and, the marketing system will be improved.

I would like the Minister, at least, to form a consultative committee with a few Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Co-operatives Department which is under his Ministry. That is because we need to have an inter-locking committee which will consult with other stakeholders on what to do. This is because whatever the Minister for Agriculture is doing, it might be watered down by the environment because they are polluting that water which the Ministry would have used. The issue of water development is also mostly inter-related with this Ministry.

We have talked about food policy. When we talk about self-sufficiency in food, we must talk about the policy of sub-division of our land. At one time, Rift Valley used to be the granary of this country in the production of food. But what you find now is that the plots in those areas, those large tracts of land which used to be economical--- It is difficult for one to hire or buy tractors and other agricultural equipment because this has become too uneconomical and the land is so much squeezed. Could the Minister come out with a more befitting policy on land, particularly the sub-division of land? This is because the smaller the pieces of land are, the more difficult and uneconomical it becomes to borrow and develop them. We request the Minister to come up with some solutions.

I was shocked last week when we were talking about developing sugar fields. I read in the Press where a Minister, while in the Coast, proposed that people ought to be settled on Ramisi Sugar Factory land. What kind of policy is that? This Minister is in the Office of the President. The Minister for Agriculture ought to organise a short seminar to discuss with his own office and the Cabinet so that, at least, they come to an agreement. They should have some supplementing efforts and commitment to support each other on that.

A lot has been said about giving assurances to the farmer so that when a farmer will be able--- We are asking the Minister to try and revive the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR) because, at least, GMR is one sure way of assuring the farmer that he or she can invest in that farm whether there will be rains or not. The Government should be able to take the risks the farmer would encounter. We have seen in countries, like in South Africa and the United States of America where, when the farmers want to protest against the Government, they throw their wheat on the streets to protest against mismanagement. The Minister ought now to give assurances to the farmers; that they can take all the risks that they encounter because the Government would take care of them. But it demoralises a farmer to do all the farming, and when the farmer---

I was in Kitale and Cherangany, where farmers are doing well, but soon after they harvested, they hoped to sell maize, maybe, for between Kshs800 and Kshs1,000 a bag. Immediately, the Minister directed that food should be imported from elsewhere without payment of taxes in order to force that farmer to sell his or her crop at Kshs600 per bag, which is very low. This is one way of ensuring that the farmer is demoralised and will not be able to invest. We have talked about sugar. This country has many sugar growing areas particularly in Ahero where rice is also grown. We can satisfy our own market with the sugar we produce in this country. I agree with hon. Nassir on what he was saying in Mombasa, but I do not agree with him when he says: "Tutawapatia watu wetu." What kind of a policy is that? That is a negative policy. We should encourage those farmers. We know what happened in Ramisi. The land was

mortgaged and there are some encumbrances here and there. This country can afford to bail out whatever else was mortgaged in that area and go out to grow more sugar because we can consume the sugar we manufacture in this country.

My Committee began talking about rice growing in Mwea and up to now we are still talking about it. At the moment, those farmers have no dryers and these are issues which the Minister ought to know. I would want this most effective Minister - because these days they never know how long they will stay in a Ministry - to make sure that a decision is made on the Mwea matter before he is asked to quit the Ministry because we cannot have more confidence in any other Minister in an important Ministry like this. We would like cotton growing to be revived. Dry areas like Mwingi, where hon. Musila comes from, have better climate for growing cotton. Makueni, Coast Province, Budalangi and several other areas also have good climate for growing cotton. This country can be self-sufficient in cotton. What has actually happened and why are we now importing cotton from countries which are poorer than us? Our cash crop policies ought to be discussed properly. As we talk about food policies, we must think about subsidies on inputs like fertilizers which have become too expensive for our farmers. We are requesting the Government to come out with a policy on subsidy.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Chanzu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for availing me the opportunity to support this very important Vote. I am supporting it because the Ministry of Agriculture is the key to all that we do. Without food, we cannot do anything. This country is basically agricultural. Therefore, there is need to exploit all available avenues so that we can maximise on available financial resources, land, personnel and so on. The Ministry is important because of provision of food and employment and these go a long way in poverty alleviation. Generally, all of us have noticed that when you pass through some of these places where agriculture is practised, it portrays a lot of prosperity and that is why it is very important that we look after this sector very well and carefully. This is a growing nation and, therefore, we need to feed our people well so that in turn, they can help in nation building. Therefore, it is very important that we have enough food.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

All the time the food situation in the country has remained very worrying. Some of the main issues which contribute to this are sometimes inherent organisational problems. We do not plan well. When we get surpluses, we do not keep enough strategic reserves. In a sector like this which is very much determined by the weather, it is good for us to try as much as possible to focus and to be as pro-active as possible so that we can prepare for any eventuality that comes up. In the recent past, we have had chaos in the sugar sector and up to now we have not known what happened. It is very worrying because right now sugar is costing a lot of money to the ordinary people. Some businesses and unscrupulous traders have taken advantage of that to exploit the wananchi. I do not know whether this is because of hoarding or what has happened. That is an area on which we need adequate explanation because in the long run it could create a lot of chaos.

We also do not do proper timing in the agricultural sector. Sometimes, we announce the incentives when the farmers have already spent so much money in production. That does not help even in planning. We should have adequate incentives like duty and tax waivers on imports such as fertilizers and so on. We have talked several times about the cost of fertilizer. You will find that a bag of fertilizer sometimes costs over Kshs2,000 and a farmer is supposed to use it in order to produce food for the nation. At the end of the day, you end up operating at a loss. These are some of the aspects that the Government should look into. The other aspect is proper utilisation of the available resources. There is a lot of wastage in whatever resources we use in the agricultural sector. We have got extension service which is a very important aspect. Whatever the extension officers do must be properly focused so that we can see the results. Officers have had a tendency of running all over the country, driving vehicles and going for seminars, but I think they are not properly focused. We do not come up with proper outcome of what those seminars or those services mean to the people. If, for example, we could intensify and the farmers could be educated on how they can improve on the produce say, per acre, it would be more meaningful to observe that kind of scenario than just moving all over the place and not getting feedback on what is supposed to be achieved.

The other problem that we have had in the agricultural sector has been poor infrastructure. Occasionally, we are unable to transport tea to the collection centres and yet a lot of money has been deducted from the payments that are supposed to go to the farmers. I know that last year, we passed in this august house the new Tea Act which was meant to improve on this, but I think there is need for follow-up so that there is improvement. In this particular case, I would like to say that in Vihiga District, we have got a road called Kidundu-Magui road which, for several years, has

been earmarked for rehabilitation using cess money, but we still have organisational problems. I would like to appeal, for intervention, so that this road can be done. This is because people produce tea, but they cannot benefit from the cess money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have horticulture which, if it is organised well, can earn very quick money for our people. But because of transport problems sometimes you will find that most horticultural crops which are perishable, get spoiled very quickly. So, it is very important that we look at the infrastructure and other services in order to reap more benefits from this sub-sector.

On livestock farming in the rural areas, you will find that most of the people have not been well exposed so that they can have high yielding breeds which can yield more. If it is milk production, we should have high yielding breeds and if it is meat production, we should also have high yielding breeds. This can only be done through extension services and exposing the farmers to better methods of production. I would also like to urge the Minister to look into this area. According to our planning, we should industrialise by the year 2020, and if we do so, this being an agricultural country, we will rely more on our produce from the farms. This is why it is important that we should produce enough, apply more research and be self-sufficient in terms of what we produce, so that we can have reserves in whatever we produce for export.

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

Dr. Oburu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I would like to start by questioning the policy of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in relation to development in our country and particularly, in relation to the development of agriculture. We have a team of experts here who have been posted to work in various Ministries in the country. This team is described by the Press as the "Dream Team". I do not know what the "Dream Team" is doing about our agriculture which is going to the dogs; when we do not have food security and we have to import maize and basic food within just a spell of six months of drought. I do not know why we cannot store enough food to feed our people. A nation which is hungry cannot be democratic; it cannot come up in the world map as a country which supports human rights because food is a basic human right.

In the developed countries, agriculture is protected and it is highly subsidised by those governments. That happens in the United States of America (USA), Europe, South Africa, Australia and all the developed countries. Why is it that we cannot subsidise agriculture in Kenya? We cannot rely on imposition of taxes on imports. We must go down to the farmer. We must go down and give him credit and subsidise basic inputs of agriculture like fertilizer, diesel and so on. We must go down to support the farmer by all means, because that is what is done in those countries where the IMF and the World Bank are deriving their policies. I do not know why they are imposing--- I do not know whether those people who are called the "Dream Team", brought here by the IMF and the World Bank, are dreaming about the USA and Europe, or they are dreaming about the ordinary mwananchi in this country. It is high time they started dreaming about us and not about those people.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can see, for instance, that this budget on agriculture is based on privatisation. It is the responsibility of the Government to support the farmers. The Government cannot abdicate its responsibility and put everything in private hands. You can see a very lucrative item called "Promotion of Agriculture and Livestock, Private Sector Development" and, yet, there is nothing there. They are not supporting the farmer in private development. They have Kshs120 million and the whole of it goes to the infrastructure in coffee growing areas. There are so many crops which are important for the development of this country. It is not only coffee which is important. Why is it that such a big title or head is only meant to finance infrastructure in coffee areas, if these people were thinking of the farmer and the interest of development of agriculture in this country?

You can see in the Budget that there is no money allocated for the purchase of fungicides, insecticides, sprays and so on, and this is very basic for development of livestock in our country. Where I come from, there is an insect called tsetse fly. This insect is killing animals left and right and farmers are losing more animals than the Maasais are losing because of drought. We are losing our cattle because of tsetse flies and, yet, year in, year out, the Government has been allocating money for the purchase of insecticides and everything disappears somewhere between the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture, the provincial veterinary offices and the districts. I do not understand how such huge sums of money, have been disappearing year in, year out and, yet, we lose our animals, such as donkeys and even our people, when they die because of sleeping sickness caused by tsetse fly infection.

There is no money allocated for development of fisheries infrastructure in the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and, yet, this is the most important cash resource for our people, who are around the Lake. Under fisheries, you will see what they call "Commercialisation of Landing Beaches", which has been allocated a sum of Kshs3.4

million whereas there is no provision for construction of cold storage facilities. In fact, they have been given Kshs0.5 million which is nothing and, yet, this is the most important facility because fishermen need to bargain for their produce. In order for them to bargain effectively, they need to have cold storage facilities, otherwise, the fish goes bad because it is a perishable commodity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about extension services. During colonial times, we used to have proper extension services in our areas. We used to have people with badges who used to be referred to as "AEs" and they used to go everywhere and advise the farmers. I am a farmer and I have never seen these people anywhere! During those days, extension officers used to inform the farmers about the dates for planting, weeding and even harvesting. If you missed those dates, you could actually lose your crop. Those days they used to advertise in the chiefs' camps and talk about them in barazas. But this has disappeared and I do not know where these people have gone to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also the sugar industry. We have Miwani Sugar Factory which is going to the dogs and Muhoroni Sugar Factory which is collapsing. At Miwani Sugar Company, for instance, the Government has been having directors from Kenya Sugar Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and from the Treasury and yet the people who privately own those factories have been looting them at the expense of the ordinary mwananchi. I do not know whether these people were sleeping! Right now these factories have huge debts. The Government needs to streamline the sugar industry because there is no way those factories can be sold to private people viably, if their debts are not written-off or turned into equity by the Government, like it was done for the Kenya Airways. Kenya Airways supports very few people while the sugar industry supports so many people; the workers, the farmers, transporters and even the business community. There is no reason why the Government should not take decisive measures to revive the sugar industry, particularly, Miwani and Muhoroni Sugar Factories, which have huge debts incurred by people who are no longer there. Even if you put genius managers in those factories, there is no way they are going to revive them, unless a major restructuring exercise is done by the Government to revive them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue which I want to mention here, and which affects my constituency, relates to the Yala Swamp. The Yala Swamp is a vast area which is capable of producing food to feed the whole of Nyanza Province and even the whole of Kenya. Over the years, it has been under the management of the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA) and yet the LBDA does not have the expertise to do agriculture. I would like to urge the Government to take decisive measures and look for funds, from any source, in order to place Yala Swamp under food production. I am sure that if the Yala Swamp is run properly and given to mwananchi, and irrigation canals created--- We shall not rely on rainfall because Bondo District is on the rain shade area and, therefore, it cannot produce sufficient food, unless irrigation is undertaken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Agriculture is always talking about privatisation. We understand there is a plan to privatise the Tractor Hire Unit which has been helping the farmers. What is the Ministry doing to support the farmers, if everything that is supposed to be done to support the farmers, like the dam construction in our rain shade area, is not done? We need to construct dams, using that Tractor Hire Unit, which has been giving farmers tractors at affordable rates. If the Tractor Hire Unit is taken to private people, I do not know who is going to have access to it because wananchi are poor and they are being made poorer by the Ministry of Agriculture which is killing all the agricultural sectors. If people are getting poorer and poorer, how are they going to raise money to hire those tractors from private people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can see my time is up. I would have liked to contribute a little more, but because of time, I cannot.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili nizungumze juu ya Wizara ya Kilimo ambayo inahusika na kila binadamu katika nchi yetu yote.

Bw. Naibu Spika, hii ni Wizara ambayo haiwezi kufikia Wizara ya Habari, Uchukuzi na Mwasiliano, ambayo iko na mashirika kama Kenya Airways, Kenya Ports Authority na Kenya Railways Corporation. Wizara ya Kilimo inahusika na mambo mengi na wakati tulipopata Uhuru, tulikuwa na watu milioni 15 au 16 ambao hawawezi kulinganishwa na watu milioni 33 sasa. Hii ni kwa sababu ni lazima watu wapatikane waende kujifunza na kupata ujuzi katika nchi za nje ambazo zilikuwa kavu sana kama Israel, Saudi Arabia na kwingineko. Yafaa watu waende katika nchi za nje kugundua kile nchi hizo zilifanya ili kukuza michungwa na mizabibu na aina nyingi za vyakula na wanajitosheleza kwa kila aina ya chakula, ilhali nchi hizo zilikuwa jangwa.

Bw. Naibu Spika, leo hii Mungu ametujalia katika nchi hii ambayo ina maji mengi. Kwa mfano, kiangazi hakingetuathiri kama tungetumia vizuri yale maji ambayo Mungu ametujalia. Kuna maji katika Ziwa Victoria na katika Mto Tana, unaopitia pande za Ukambani na kutiririka mpaka baharini bila watu kufikiria njia ya kuzuia maji yake ile yawafae katika kilimo.

Bw. Naibu Spika, yafaa Wizara ya Kilimo ipewe pesa nyingi kwa sababu kilimo ndicho uti wa mgongo wa

uchumi wetu. Vile vile, hii ni Wizara ambayo inakabiliwa na shida nyingi. Kama itapewa pesa nyingi, haitakopa pesa nyingi kufanyia miradi katika sehemu kavu kuzalisha mimea ya chakula. Maji ambayo yanatirika na kuelekea baharini yafaa yazuliwe na kutumika vizuri.

Kuna Mbunge mmoja aliyezungumza kuhusu ubinafsishaji wa mali ya umma. Kwa upande mmoja ni kweli, na kwa upande mwingine, kama ubinafsishaji wa mali ya umma utawahusu wananchi, si vibaya watu wa nchi za nje kusaidia kwa sababu ya hali ya uchumi wetu.

Kuna mambo mengi ambayo ningeseema kuhusu kiwanda cha sukari cha Ramisi. Serikali inafanya bidii lakini pesa hizo hizo ndizo zinakwenda katika elimu, barabara, afya na kadhalika. Kwa hivyo, ili bajeti ifanye mambo yawe sawa, ni lazima tutafute kila njia. Vile vile, yafaa wapewe uwezo, kama ni kikundi au halmashauri fulani, waangalie jinsi maji yatakavyotumiwa kusaidia miradi ya kunyunyizia mimea maji.

Kuhusu mambo ya Kenya Meat Commission, nafahamu shida zilizoko kwa sababu Wizara yangu inahusika kidogo. Tutafanya bidii kurekebisha zile taabu zilizoko. Kila Waziri anayeingia ofisini anaachiwa shida katika ofisi hiyo na watu hawawezi kufahamu hayo. Hata Katibu Mkuu anarithi shida kama hizo. Lakini ni lazima wapewe uwezo wa kufungua ukurasa ili Wizara ya Kilimo iendelee.

Bw. Naibu Spika, pamba inakuzwa katika sehemu nyingi humu nchini. Mnunuzi anaweza kukubali kununua pamba kwa bei yake. Lakini mtambo wa kuchambua pamba ni ule ule mmoja tu. Wakulima wa pamba wakiona kwamba hawapati faida, wataacha kulima! Mkulima anapopunguza bei ili pamba yake inunuliwe kwa bei rahisi, anakosa mtu wa kununua. Yafaa mitambo ya kuchambua pamba isimamiwe na Serikali ili uuzaji wa pamba uweze kufanywa katika nchi za nje. Yafaa Wizara ya Kilimo iunde idara moja ya kuza mazao yetu.

Mkoa wa Pwani si sehemu inayostawisha kilimo sana, lakini kuna msimu wa maembe na wa machungwa. Mara nyingi, mazao haya hukosa soko na kuozea barabarani pale Mwembe Tayari. Kwa hivyo, hali ni ngumu kwa mkulima, kwa sababu hana soko. Ni wajibu wa Wizara hii kupeleka watoto nje, yaani wanaotoka katika chuo kikuu, kwenda kufanya uchunguzi katika nchi nyingine waone zinaenda vipi kwenye mambo ya kilimo. Lakini nikienda katika Wizara na kuuliza mambo ya sheria, nitaambiwa: "Ndio, Mheshimiwa Nassir, nakubali lakini siruhusiwi kufanya hivyo". Anakufunugulia kitabu chenye sheria ambazo ni za kutoka enzi ya ukoloni. Watu walikuwa ni milioni 13 wakati huo na ninafikiria kama kila Waziri angepewa uwezo zaidi wa kuimarisha Wizara yake, inegekuwa ni raha kubwa. Lakini vile mambo yalivyo, tunaweza kulaumiana lakini nataka Wizara ipewe pesa nyingi na iweze kusaidia kwa kila jambo liwezekanalo.

Bw. Naibu Spika, tuna maji upande wa Kwale na Tana River lakini maji hayo yanatakiwa yatumiwe kwa kilimo. Kama hayatumiwi kwa kilimo, itakuwa kazi bure. Ni vizuri kama Kenya itatengeneza mitambo ya kusagia mbolea ili iuzwe katika nchi za nje. Kuna mambo mengi ambayo Bunge hili linahitajika kutekeleza. Watu tulio nao ni wengi na tunazaa na ni lazima tuwatafutie pahali pa kuishi kwa uzuri, kabla ya sisi kuondoka. Hata tuna mambo ya Katiba. Ni lazima tuweke Mungu wetu mbele kabisa, ili tuketi na kuzungumza kama Wakenya, na tuangalie taabu ya watoto wetu wa Kenya ili tuweze kuwafanyia mambo mazuri. Tusiweke fikira zetu zote katika bendera tu. Fikira zetu, kama viongozi waliochaguliwa--- Tujiulize ni kitu gani tutafanya ili wananchi wa Kenya wawe na umoja, ili waishi kwa uzuri na waweze kusaidiana katika mambo ya chakula. Mwenendo huu tulionao wa kutoana makosa si mzuri. Hii ni kwa sababu binadamu ukitaka kumtoa makosa, mtu mwingine atakwambia ya kwamba fulana yako ya ndani pia imekatika. Hii ni kwa sababu binadamu hakosi makosa, awe mrefu au mfupi. Lakini wakati wetu tulionao--- Ni lazima tujue, kama tunazaana zaidi, yafaa tutafute njia za kupata chakula cha kutosha na bajeti ya Wizara hii iongezwe zaidi. Pia ni lazima wafanyakazi wachunguze kila jambo la kusaidia nchi hii, ili iweze kupata manufaa.

Bw. Naibu Spika, tumezungumza hapa habari ya KMC kwa ufupi. KMC haiko peke yake, bali ina watu wenye ng'ombe. Kama leo wakati wa kiangazi, ng'ombe wangeweza kuuzwa huko. Najua Wizara hii, na hata ile yangu na Treasury, zinatafuta njia ya kuweza kuona KMC imeanzishwa haraka. Namuomba Waziri afanye bidii na hata maofisa wote walio hapa wajaribu kufanya kazi na waache tabia ya kupiga simu kutoka Wizara moja hadi nyingine. Ni lazima twende kutoka afisi moja hadi nyingine, ili tuzungumze na tuweze kuwasaidia.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Murathe! By the way, you have only five minutes! So, you had better make your statement within those few minutes.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the total budget for this Ministry's development, from the Consolidated Fund, is Kshs1.6 billion. In effect, the Minister is asking for an additional Kshs800 million. This is a big joke, considering the importance of this Ministry in our industrialisation and the transformation of our agricultural base. There is something very wrong with our priorities. This is the most important Ministry in the Government and to stand here and ask for an additional Kshs800 billion, from the Consolidated Fund, means there is something very wrong. Mr. Minister, your total budget for development is Kshs4.7 billion of which Kshs3.1 billion is Appropriations-in-Aid. There are no guarantees that you are going to get this money. So, in effect, you are feeling Kenyans that out of the whole Kshs200 billion, you should be given only Kshs1 billion to develop agriculture. There must be something

very wrong with your arithmetic!

In the Recurrent Estimates, this Ministry is taking Kshs4 billion. The Office of the President is taking Kshs15 billion. Your Ministry retrenched the highest number of people in the current exercise and the major reason why your people are not working is because they do not have the working tools and the equipment to work. The field extension services are not well equipped; the veterinary doctors and advisory services in food production. Could the Minister go back to his books and ask for tangible money to be given by this Parliament, to empower and give him adequate capacity? This is a country which begs for food year in, year out. We are allocating more money to Shariff Nassir for relief than we are allocating to the Ministry of Agriculture to produce food. As we are sit here, there is a ship docking in Mombasa with food from the USA which is contaminated with radiation and cancerous stuff! I am not even sure if you have the capacity to investigate whether what we are receiving is good for human consumption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we need to be very serious about our allocations to this Ministry of Agriculture because it carries the backbone of this economy. The Co-operative Ministry was dissolved while the saccos, which are supposed to mobilise savings in the rural areas and the co-operative management, have collapsed. What is the allocation for the Department of the Commissioner of Co-operatives? It is peanuts. Unless we are not serious about the business of distributing the available resources, no matter how meagre they are, there is something very wrong with the figures of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we appreciate what the team at the Ministry is trying to do in the policy framework initiatives and in harmonising the various laws that have hindered economic and agricultural development. However, the team that has been seconded to the Ministry is on contract and they are very thin on the ground and we do not know what is likely to happen when their contract expires. They must expand that base and make sure that there is going to be continuity and sustainability for those systems that will be put in place, to be able to be carried forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development has also been lumped together with the Ministry of Agriculture. Where is the money to carry out irrigation programmes? We have asked the Minister to put aside Kshs500 million to revive KMC. It is nowhere in these Estimates. Look at the KCC in the dairy sector. There is even an audit report with the Commissioner of Co-operatives which had implicated our people in running down KCC and yet, nothing is being done in this direction. The KMC has been grounded by some of the hon. Members who are sitting in this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the liberalisation that we are talking about will give a leeway to multinationals to kill our own local agricultural industry. Farmers in the coffee sector are not paid. Companies like BAT and Brooke Bond are lobbying all over---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Murathe, your time is up. Mr. Obure, it is now your time to reply.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this early opportunity to thank hon. Members for the tremendous interest they have shown in the affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Secondly, I would like to thank them for the positive contributions they have made on the Vote of our Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Members in particular, for helping me to express the importance of the agricultural sector to the entire economy and for emphasizing the need for the sector to be allocated more resources. I may not be able to deal with every specific issue raised by each hon. Member, but I would like to assure hon. Members that their contributions have been noted. A lot of suggestions and proposals that have been made will be taken into consideration during our review of matters related to the various sectors in agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me reiterate that the allocation to the Ministry for the fiscal year 2000/2001 has fallen far short of what could adequately enable the Ministry to achieve its set objectives of producing enough food for ourselves and to contribute towards poverty reduction. For example, the present Ministry which resulted from the amalgamation of three former Ministries plus the Fisheries Department, has been allocated a total of Kshs5.53 billion. This is only 4 per cent of the total Recurrent Budget. The Development Budget, on the other hand, was reduced from Ksh 2.14 billion in the 1999/2000 financial year to Kshs1.65 billion in the current Financial Year. The current budget will also cater for 21 parastatals and regional development authorities that have been allocated a total of Kshs1.75 billion in the Recurrent Vote and Kshs984 million in the Development Vote. This is definitely inadequate given the crucial role the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to play in the national economy. I hope that the sentiments which have been expressed in this House will go a long way towards convincing the Minister for Finance to increase financial allocations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the next financial year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the available resources have been allocated as detailed. We will require a total of Kshs5,533,634,880 to cover our recurrent requirement. On the other hand, we will require a total of Kshs1,655,931,010 to cover our development requirement. As hon. Members will note from this distribution, the Ministry has allocated more resources towards service delivery and the rest of this money will be used to meet administrative activities. That is a notable feature of the Ministry's budget; more emphasises will be given towards

service delivery as opposed to administrative and remuneration expenditure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry is committed to the promotion of agriculture, livestock and fisheries development in the country. The Ministry, in conjunction with other stakeholders, has been reviewing policies and legal framework to assist specific sectors and commodities. The legal framework for tea has been finalised, while that for irrigation for horticulture, coffee and sugar will be finalised within the current fiscal year. Maize, wheat, pyrethrum, rice, cotton, coconut, oil crops, sisal and dairy sectors will be similarly addressed in the coming month. Besides the specific policies touching on the various commodities and various sub-sectors, the Ministry is preparing a rural development strategy to guide the development of agriculture in the rural areas for the next 20 to 30 years. This is underway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me turn to more specific areas on crop inputs. I would like to start with seeds. I would like, in this respect, to respond to various statements expressed by hon. Members. A concern was raised on the question of the capacity by individual farmers to access seeds during the current planting period. I would like to say that we have provided for budgetary support in this respect to cover 26 districts which have been severely affected by drought. I would like to say that we in the Ministry will be procuring 180 metric tonnes of seeds which will be catered for directly by the current budget. These seeds will be made available to those farmers in the areas which were severely ravaged by drought. I would also like to say that in this respect, we did put out an appeal to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). In turn, FAO has sent an appeal to various agencies and organisations to come to our support. I am pleased to say that this appeal has been successful and we have now got information that FAO and various other agencies will provide us with 800 tonnes of seeds which will be made available in time for planting during the short rains. That will be in the next two weeks.

In addition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are several NGOs working in various districts by way of providing seeds to farmers. In particular, I want to mention GTZ. This is a German NGO operating in the Eastern Province; in Kitui, Mwingi, Machakos and Makueni districts. At the moment, we have already obtained 887 tonnes of assorted seeds consisting of maize, beans, pigeon peas, cow peas, sorghum and green grams for farmers in those particular districts. We hope other donors will respond positively, so that other affected districts can also benefit. So, in the area of seeds, I think we do not need to show too much anxiety because it has been catered for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on fertiliser, sentiments were expressed to the effect that the fertilisers that we receive from various donors abroad should not be sold, but should be distributed free to farmers to reduce their cost of inputs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the past we used to obtain donations in the form of fertilisers from a number of countries, including Germany, Italy and others. But some of those discontinued aid to us in the form of fertiliser. The only fertiliser we receive under this category comes from the Japanese Government. I would like to emphasize that even that aid comes with very strong conditions. It is intended to raise additional funds to support our budget. Some of these funds are very useful because they have been put into very productive use, for example, in the construction of cold storage facilities for horticultural development. Therefore, this aid in the form of fertiliser comes with those specific conditions. For example, one of the conditions is that it must be sold at competitive prices in the open market and so, we cannot deviate from those conditions. I would also like to emphasize that it is not a lot of fertiliser, it is only 19,000 tonnes of fertiliser per year. That is only 6 per cent of our total requirement of fertiliser. We require approximately 280,000 tonnes of fertiliser every year. So, what we get from even the Japanese Government is only 6 per cent of our total requirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, concerns were expressed about the high cost of fertiliser and I would like to say that I am optimistic that the cost of fertiliser will come down, firstly, because there are more players entering that market. So, competition will inevitably reduce the cost of fertiliser to the farmers.

Secondly, there is the issue of the improvement of roads. The major component of this cost is mainly transport and price. I would like to say that with the improvement of roads, particularly the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway, the cost of transportation is likely to come down. I hope it will come down.

On the question of land owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and parastatals working under the umbrella of the Ministry, strong sentiments were expressed on this by various Members in this House. I would like to say very briefly that all the institutions working under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have been instructed to proceed and obtain title deeds for land falling within their jurisdiction. I hope that this will be completed by all those organisations, including the Ministry itself, in the course of the next few days. On KARI land and others, I do hope that my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Settlement, will be making an appropriate statement in due course in this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of holding grounds, particularly those in respect to marketing of livestock, I want to say that holding grounds are very important because they are used for disease control, for fodder pulping and livestock marketing and are found all over the country. However, I would like to admit that some of that

land was allocated to private developers; some of whom have already obtained title deeds. But the Ministry has acquired a letter of allotment in respect of the sheep and goat holding ground at Athi River. This is a crucial piece of land and I would like to assure this House that the process of acquiring title deeds for that, together with the remaining parcels of land all over the country, is underway at the moment.

On the question of credit facilities---

Mr. Raila: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. On the issue of holding grounds, the Minister is saying that part of the land has been allocated to private developers. We know that the Government has a right to compulsorily acquire land that was irregularly allocated. Is he in order to mislead the House that the Government is powerless to repossess land that was irregularly and illegally allocated to private developers for public use?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is a very valid concern. I have been advised that under the current legislation, we must respect the sanctity of title deeds once they have been issued.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! The Government acquires land for public use whether there is a title deed or not. So, what you should be telling us is that the Government is preparing to acquire more land for purposes of holding grounds.

(Applause)

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we share the same sentiments on this issue. We are carrying out further consultations and where it becomes necessary, I believe that we may require to come to this House to get that authority by way of changing certain statutes so that we can then proceed and do so. But where the need arises, we will certainly do what hon. Raila and the Chair have suggested.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on credit facilities, we recognise the fact that credit remains the major constraint to agricultural development in this country. It is because of this that we requested, during the budget process, that we be allocated Kshs500 million for this purpose. Unfortunately, because of the various ceilings set, it was not possible to allocate us with any money under this category. However, the co-operative movement is a promising source of credit facilities to farmers. So far, the Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCO) operating in both rural and urban areas have been successfully implementing credit programmes in certain districts like in hon. Michuki's Murang'a District, in the three districts of the larger Kisii and Mumias for both tea and coffee. These SACCO are giving affordable credit to their members. Another source of credit for farmers is contract farming. Again, we are encouraging farmers like BAT on tobacco, East African Breweries on barley and others to come along and assist farmers to acquire the specific commodities they require for their industrial operations. We believe that credit could go a long way in alleviating poverty among fishermen. It is for this reason that we would like to assure this House that every avenue is being explored to establish a definite source of credit for fish farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in respect to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), we have already put a mechanism in place and we have asked AFC to give us details of all their loan portfolio, details of each loanee and why the loans were not repaid. It is our hope, in keeping with the sentiments expressed in this House, that we will provide farmers with a fresh start. It is our hope that we will come to this House with a Sessional Paper that will guide, particularly the restructuring of AFC, so that, that organisation can enable the farmers to start all over again. But that will require the approval of this Parliament. A Sessional Paper is being prepared towards that end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the STABEX Fund, again I would like to emphasize that this is a scheme administered by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and not ourselves as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I am advised that people could go to the Ministry of Finance and Planning with their proposals and they will get direct assistance under the STABEX Fund. But I would like to emphasize that in agriculture, out of the Kshs5 billion made available under this arrangement, the coffee sub-sector received Kshs1,550,000,000. This was used as follows: Kshs135 million went towards Ruiru Coffee Project on the tissue culture; Kshs375 million was used on the Coffee Factory Rural Electrification; Kshs660 million was given out under SCIP II for building and expansion of coffee factories; Kshs100 million was used for training farmers to improve their skills, and hence improve coffee quality; Kshs266 million was given to the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), for the execution of the retrenchment programme for its staff; another Kshs4.3 million was given to KARI for research work; and, Kshs3.5 million was spent on the Agricultural Sector Investment Programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I mentioned something about the expansion of the cotton industry in this country. We have taken a lot of measures to ensure a revival of the cotton industry. We already have the Ginners Association (GA) formed, which is working closely with the Ministry and KARI, to multiply seeds, which could be made available to farmers. We in the Ministry, under the current Budget, have provided 23 districts with seeds for planting. The western part of the country will plant in February, while the eastern part does so in the next two weeks or so. I am,

therefore, confident that we will soon see a revival of the cotton industry.

On the sugar industry, I would like to say very briefly that the draft Bill has now been submitted to the Attorney-General for final drafting before it is brought to this House for debate. So, I hope that, that will happen in the next few days. We hope that once the draft Sugar Bill becomes law, it will pave the way for the re-organisation of the sugar industry, its expansion and resolve most of the current problems being experienced in that industry.

Let me turn to issues raised here regarding the livestock sector. I would like to assure this House that the Ministry attaches a lot of importance to livestock development. The livestock sector contributes 25 per cent of the Ministry's total output. It is, therefore, a very major sector of our Ministry's activities. In particular, I would like to refer to a statement I made in this House, in response to a Question, some time in July, relating to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). I would like to clarify that, when I made that statement, the Government had every good intention. At that time, plans were under way to re-open the KMC. Negotiations for the funds that were required for the revival of the KMC plant had reached an advanced stage. I said then that the re-opening of the KMC was conditional upon the Ministry receiving the bulk of the required funds from our friends and agencies. Unfortunately, these funds were not forthcoming. Therefore, we found ourselves in a situation where we could not re-open that plant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in short, I would like to say that there are two approaches to the issue of the KMC, namely, long-term and short-term approaches. The long-term approach entails privatisation of that parastatal. The Government's long-term intentions would be to allow livestock breeders, who are the stakeholders, to take an interest and take over the project. We believe that, that is the best course of action for the KMC in the long-run. What we announced here in July was meant to be a short-term measure of dealing with the ravages of the drought. As I said, our intentions were very good; unfortunately, they have not been realised. We had negotiated with some bi-lateral donors and friendly agencies, and funds were to be made available. Unfortunately, the World Bank (WB) came in with a long-term programme of dealing with the current drought and advised us that the KMC project could not be feasible or make any economic sense. Thus the plan to revive the KMC could not start. The WB, instead replaced that project with a programme where it provided funds to be paid directly to livestock farmers in the drought-ravaged areas of the country. That programme is on-going at the moment. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are buying the animals directly from farmers and paying for them at farm level. That is the substitute for the initial project relating to the KMC for the time being.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure this House that the Government is still pursuing the long-term objective relating to the revival of the KMC; we will, very soon, bring here a Sessional Paper, asking for the support of this House for the various long-term proposals we are making regarding the KMC. I would like to allay the fears of my friends, in particular those in the North Eastern Province, that we still place a lot of emphasis on livestock development. As a matter of fact, a National Livestock Development Policy is being formulated--

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would not like to interrupt the Minister when he is making his key statement. However, on the KMC, the Minister is talking about long-term programmes at a time when we have seen the devastation by drought in this country. Maasais and other pastoralists are moving their herds of cattle all over the country in search of pasture and water. Could this Government conceive a short-term programme to re-open the KMC, even temporarily, so that those animals can be taken care of? These are unusual times, which call for extraordinary initiative by the Government. This is a time when this Government should not be talking about long-term measures. For this Government, "long-term" means 100 years or 50 years, because KANU is supposed to rule for eternity!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Gatabaki, now that you have made your speech, could you raise your point of order?

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will stop standing up and being seen!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, you did not have any point of order after all!

Proceed, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure hon. Gatabaki that it was this category of people that we were trying to cater for under the emergency programme. We want to take advantage of the facilities, which exist at the KMC; these are two canning lines. Unfortunately, that has not materialised. I would like to say that we are in the process of developing a livestock development policy - which will be in place by next year - to promote production, marketing and consumption of livestock products, from cattle, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, ostrich and other animals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, future extension services will include a change in methodology, staff attitude through re-training, and a change that will involve the private sector as well as farmers themselves. The new approach will be demand-driven.

Very briefly, I would like to inform this House that we have only three agricultural attaches around the world; there should be no confusion on this issue. There are trade attaches, but we have only three agricultural attaches. One is

located in Pretoria, another one in Rome, and the third one in London. We believe that we need representation in those countries, because they assist in the transfer of agricultural technology. The attache in Rome, for example, represents this country in the FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), IFAD and in other organisations.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. Musila took the Chair)]*

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:- THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,594,782,945 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001 in respect of:-

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

(Question proposed)

VOTE R10 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 190 - Headquarters Administrative and Technical Services

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want the Minister to explain about Head 190, Item 182 on page 342. Last time, we approved, for them, about Kshs43,000,000 for payment of rent and rates for non-residential. Today, they also want Parliament to approve for them about Kshs28,000,000. Could the Minister explain and elaborate more on that payment? What are we paying for? This is because, in the summary, they have not identified those offices or residential places. Could I go further to another Head so that he can give the two replies together?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I was going to give a chance to Mr. Munyasia because he has stood up to ask a question. Let the Minister note that and then I will ask Mr. Munyasia to ask his question. Mr. Minister, I will come back to you.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to ask a question on Head 190, Item 176 - Show Expenses. Last Financial Year, the Government spent Kshs1,580,000, and this year this has been drastically reduced to only Kshs396,000. Could the Minister explain the reasons for that drastic reduction?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, I have two questions. I do not think that I should get more questions because I have one question from hon. Ojode and another one from hon. Munyasia. I think we need to dispose of those two questions.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the main reason for the increase in rent is because we have recently entered a new lease arrangement on the Re-Insurance Plaza in town where we are accommodating the offices of the Department of Co-operatives as well as the offices of the newly inaugurated Co-operatives Tribunal. The second one is that we have been leasing the Hill Plaza because Kilimo House does not have sufficient space for all of the officers allocated to the Ministry. That is the main reason for the increase.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Are you satisfied?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if they had leased the Re-insurance Plaza, the lease should have gone up. It could not go down.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Let us make clarification. Mr. Minister, it is not an

increase. It is a decrease because the question hon. Ojode is asking is that last year, it was Kshs43,543,360 and now it is Kshs28,324,423. So, it has gone down. The question is: Why has it gone down and not gone up?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it has gone down because we moved away from the main Kenya Commercial Building where we had leased out a large number of offices at a rate far higher than what we are getting at the Re-Insurance Plaza. Regarding the second question raised by hon. Munyasia - on the Show Expenses - I would like to say that we asked the Show to give greater priority to livestock. Therefore, it meant that we had to spend much more funds in disease control during shows. That is partly why there is an increase in the amount of money that we are spending.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Again, Mr. Minister, the question by hon. Munyasia was: Last year, it was Kshs1,580,000 and this time it is Kshs396,000 and he is asking the reason for the drastic reduction in the amount. He is complaining about the decrease and not increase.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is an increase on the amount of money that we are spending on the shows, and it is attributed to the fact that the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) are involved in more and more private sector, through sponsorship, so that they do not any more look forward to the Ministry for support.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. How do we now take this Minister seriously when he stands up after he understood that it was an increase and he explains why there is an increase, which is not there, and then you remind him that it is a decrease we are talking about, and he has an explanation for that? Which is which?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I suppose you have to take the Minister seriously. I think he has given you an answer.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 343, Head 190, Items 364 and 365, I can see, again, we have a decrease in the amount of money allocated for the "Desert Locust Control Organisation" and the "International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa." Could the Minister explain about it because that might be a very big disaster if we under-estimate it? We have Item 371 which is also on the same question and it touches on a very serious issue of natural catastrophe.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Ngure, the question is taken. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Yes, I will reply in a moment.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): While consultations are going on, can we hear from Mrs. Seii?

Mrs. Seii: I would like to ask a question on personal emoluments, Item 000. There is a difference of about Kshs12 million and I am wondering whether the Ministry is employing or retrenching staff. I would also like to look at Item 068 on training expenses. Last time, there were no training expenses and now you have Kshs1 million for training expenses. What training is this?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, would you like to deal with the first question?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): I will deal with the one on training later on. Let me start with Items 364 and 365. On the issue of pest control raised by the hon. Member, we would have liked to get more allocation but, unfortunately, because of the various limitations that the ceiling imposed, we could not. Therefore, we had to do with this lower amount. On the question of personal emoluments raised by---

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am really concerned about this particular item because it is about a natural catastrophe. If you reduced the amount, did you talk to locusts?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is not possible to talk to locusts. They do not talk. We are aware that our budget is lower than our requirements. There is not much we can do in the light of the ceilings which have been imposed thereby reducing this Vote. On personal emoluments, I would like to say that there has been an increase in this respect because of the increase in house allowance to staff in the Ministry. There has been no new recruitment whatsoever.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to add on the sentiments raised by the Member for Kabete, hon. Muite, on personal emoluments. How do you put two officials of the "Dream Team" seconded by the World Bank to your Ministry considering the hearsay to the effect that they are earning about Kshs10 million per month? Are they included in this kind of emoluments?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Before the Minister answers that question, I would like to caution hon. Gatabaki and others, that in this House we do not go by hearsay. The Minister will give facts and not what we have heard. The Minister will now answer.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the two senior members of staff who were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are working there now in very key positions. I would like to emphasise for the benefit of the House that these---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Just before you continue, Mr. Minister, I am informed that there is a question coming tomorrow in Parliament on that issue. I think it is related. You may disregard it and we will deal with it tomorrow. As long as it does not touch the substance of that---

Hon. Members: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! Messrs Ojode and Ngure, I have only cautioned the Minister; I have not told him not to answer the question. I was only cautioning him so that he does not preempt the issue.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was going to emphasise that these two senior members of staff are making a very positive contribution, particularly in the area of the various reforms that we are carrying out in this sector and their contributions should not at any time be underrated whatsoever. The emoluments of these two staff members are not included in this particular Vote.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you heard the Minister saying that the emoluments have gone up by Kshs12 million as a result of the increase on housing allowances. The house allowance element is indicated under Head 190, Item 050. Why should the Minister mislead this House by saying that the increment was occasioned by the increase on house allowances? He is misleading the House. Is he in order?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sorry I may have misled the House. The main reason for this increase is due to the normal annual increments awarded to staff.

Head 191 - Agricultural Attaches' Offices

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister three questions. The first one is under Head 191, Item 173 on Library Expenses. Last time we gave the Minister Kshs69,000 and he was comfortable with it. This time round, he wants us to give him about Kshs400,000. The second one is Item 190 on Miscellaneous Charges where last time we gave him Kshs85,000 and he was so much comfortable with it. Why is he requesting us to give him Kshs500,000 this time round?

Head 193 - Development Planning Services

The last question is on Head 193, Item 068 - Training Expenses. Last time, the Minister did not even bother to ask us to give him money for training expenses. It was zero expenditure and he was so comfortable with that. Why should he ask us to give him Kshs300,000 this time round? What is it for?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, when you are answering that question I want to remind you that Mrs. Seii's question on training expenses, Head 190, Item 068 has still not been answered. She did ask you why last time there was nothing and this time there is Kshs1 million and you said you would deal with it. Since you are going to answer the question on training by Mr. Ojode, you may as well include Mrs. Seii's question in your answer.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the question of the increase on library expenses, I would like to say that there was an urgent need to enhance the library services for our officers in London, Pretoria and Rome to be in a position where they could advise us more effectively than they have done before. We needed our officers to be up to date with the current development, for example, on WTO requirement. Our officer in Pretoria had to carry out some investigations on our behalf and we needed to equip him more on that to be able to give us the latest technology on agricultural development. That is why we needed an increase in the library expenditure in those areas. Item 194 has, in fact, been transferred to Item 068, if hon. Ojode could care to check.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, he has not answered my question on Item 190 - Miscellaneous Other Charges because the figure has gone up from Kshs85,000 to almost Kshs0.5 million.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, that is on page 343, Head 191, Item 190, - Miscellaneous Other Charges. It was Kshs85,240 last time, and now you are asking for Kshs418,000.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in addition to enhancing

their libraries, it became necessary for our officers based abroad to have some money to clean up their offices in order to work in a more conducive environment. That is why they required these additional funds.

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. You can even hear the Minister; he is misleading this House. You cannot require Kshs0.5 million to clean offices. It is wrong, because the other activities had already been taken care of by office expenses. So, he cannot tell us to give him almost Kshs0.5 million from Kshs85,000. If he was comfortable with Kshs85,000, why can he not just ask for the same sum?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we must contend with the fact that the cost of doing things abroad, particularly in certain countries, for example, Rome, has gone up considerably in the last few years. Let me say that we have spent something in order of Kshs133,000 per office to raise this to the standards required. Again, the requirements of these offices have gone up, because of the WTO and all the various seminars they have had to attend in order to give us accurate information back here. It is necessary to raise those expenses.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I will allow the last question from Mr. Munyasia on this particular head.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 190, Item 000, you heard the Minister say that there are some officers in that Ministry whose salaries are not shown in this particular item. Could the Minister tell us where the money is stashed? Under what Item are we paying these particular officers?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in fact, you made reference to that question earlier on. Very correctly, that question will be dealt with separately by the Minister for Finance when he will answer a Question which is before this House.

Mr. Murathe: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. We are discussing the Vote of this Ministry. We know that he has good officers there, but he has told us that they are not paid his Ministry. Where are they paid from? They do not work for him for free!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is why it is a different package altogether, and I will ask my friend, hon. Murathe, to hold his horses until the right moment.

(Heads 190, 191, 193 and 195 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 101 - REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Head 240 - Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services

Mrs. Seii: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 240, Item 192, I would like to know if there is a difference between the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Expenses, the Grants to the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services and Plant Health Inspection Fees. Are those different items, and if they are, I would like to know if the grant-in-aid is available. This is because what has been voted is Kshs100 million as grant in-aid and only Kshs64 million--- So, it looks like if this money is not available. Then it means that one of the services will not be carried out.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, have you heard the lady? Would you like to have some time to consult?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): As he consults, let us have Mr. Khamasi asking his question.

Head 229 - Agricultural Machinery Testing and Development Centres

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 229, Item 110 on page 345 - Travelling and Accommodation Expenses, we are moving up from a mere Kshs183,000 to nearly Kshs1.2 million. What is the necessity for that big increase? Similarly, maybe, this is due to power cuts, but I do not know. On Head 229, Item 140 - Electricity Expenses, last year, he was comfortable with Kshs89,000 and now, he wants Kshs1.2 million when even the power is not available. Why do you want that increase? On the same Head, Item 220 - Purchase of Plant and Equipment, you did not purchase anything last year, and now you want Kshs1.4 million. What do you want to purchase particularly, with all this money and, yet, it is not in the summary?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, would you like to start with Mrs. Seii's

question?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will start by saying that Item 192, which makes a reference to Appropriations-in-Aid actually relates to the actual collections made by the Kenya Plants Inspectorate Unit, while Item 306 relates to grants made directly from the Exchequer to the KPIS. So, there should be no fear that, that organisation will be underfunded. We believe that their requirements will be made by the two organisations. The other one is in relation to a question which was raised by hon. Khamasi.

(Mrs. Seii stood up in her place)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Just say which question has not been answered.

Mrs. Seii: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, is Item 652 different?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): It is on Appropriations-in-Aid.

Mrs. Seii: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Items 652 and 192 seem to share Kshs100 million.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier on, Item 192 is Appropriations-in-Aid relating to revenues collected by KPIS. Item 306 is grants made directly by the Exchequer, while Item 652 relates to revenue to be collected under various charges on the services provided by KPIS.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in response to the question raised by hon. Khamasi, I would like to inform him that Item 140 on electricity, the large additional sum required from Kshs89,000 to Kshs1.2 million relates to our obligation to pay some pending bills on electricity from the previous years.

Mr. Kajwang: Thank you, Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. There is Head 229, Item 250, on Maintenance of Plant Machinery and Equipment. The figure has risen from Kshs44,950 to Kshs4,782,000 and on Item 260, Maintenance of Buildings and Stations it has risen from a mere Kshs48,000 to Kshs1.2 million. I just want an explanation on that astronomical growth.

An hon. Member: Move faster!

Head 240 - Kenya Plant Health Inspection Services

Mr. Kajwang: I also need just a small explanation as to what Kenya Plant Health Inspection Service (KEPHIS) is. This is because I can see that there was nil approved Estimates last year on Head 240, Item 192, but all of a sudden it has grown to Kshs100 million although it was projected to grow in the next two years to Kshs120 million. So, what is it? We want to know why we are spending too much money.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): It is quite a lengthy question. I hope you got it.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Yes, I got it and I am consulting.

Head 266 - Livestock Improvement Stations

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my concern is on the low level or low priority given to computer expenses.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Could you, please, give us the Item so that you can assist us?

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it on Heads 266, 185, 405---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! Order, Mr. Gatabaki! We would like the Minister to get your question so that he can address it. Could you be specific and tell us the Head, Item and the page? Deal with one Head after another, do not read many because he will not be able to answer them all.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I can pick on only one Item on Computerisation, under Head 266, Item 185. It is all the same, there is a low priority given to computerisation. Is it my understanding that this Ministry is averse to computerisation; it is not concerned about computerisation, or it is not in the 21 Century already? What is going on in this Ministry when computerisation is the order of the day?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Gatabaki, the Minister has got your question. That is on Item 185, Computer Expenses, page 348. Mr. Minister, hon. Gatabaki, is worried that you are not putting a lot emphasis on computerisation.

Mr. Gatabaki: On every one of them!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, question raised on Head 220, regarding Item 250, I would like to state that the large amount of money is required for the rehabilitation of the earth moving equipment for dam construction. This has become necessary at a time when we need to conserve water.

We have taken the decision that dam construction is the right way forward and that is why we need this additional funds to be able to rehabilitate the equipment that we have.

On the second question, regarding KEPHIS and why it requires additional funds, I would like to say that this is one organisation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which must be strengthened. The KEPHIS has the responsibility to certify seed. We know what a catastrophe we will have if we do not certify the seed we allocate to farmers. We are in the process of enhancing the capacity of that organisation to be able to deal with this aspect.

Secondly, KEPHIS also checks on the quality of the fertilizer and all agricultural products that we import. We have asked them to position officers at all the entry points into the country. So, they need funds to carry out that assignment.

In addition, KEPHIS is the only organisation which has laboratories for testing of fish for export to the European Market and we need to enhance their capacity to check the quality of fish now that the Ministry of Agriculture is the competent authority to handle this.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Gatabaki's question still remains unanswered. Let the Minister address the question of computerisation first.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, hon. Gatabaki raised concern about the low levels of spending on computerisation and I cannot agree with him more. If we had funds, that is the area we would expand because we would computerise all our operations. Unfortunately, our capacity to do this is limited by the resources available.

Under Head 220, I would like to add that, we are, nevertheless, purchasing a new computer at a cost of Kshs116,420 and this is partly why that Vote is high.

Head 324- Holding Grounds Services

Head 407- Animal Production Farms

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the Minister also explain on Head 324, Item 100, Transport Operating Expenses and the same on Head 407, Item 100, Transport Operating Expenses. Why do we have these sudden increases? This is because last year, we only gave them Kshs550,000 and they were so much comfortable with that amount. However, today, he wants us to give him Kshs1 million. Under same Head 407, they need more or less a million. Could the Minister explain why he needs so much money on transport expenses and yet there are no holding grounds in the Ministry?

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, before the Minister answers that question probably it would be of interest to us to know which holding grounds. This is because we know for sure that, almost all that we had in terms of holding grounds have been grabbed.

An hon. Member: By what?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Just give the Minister a few moments.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 324, Item 100, I would like to say that, the big increase there is attributed to the fact that we took a decision to rehabilitate motor vehicles, most of which were grounded at the time. This is because we wanted the vehicles to assist us in mobility. That is partly why there is such a huge increase under that Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to confirm that we do have six holding grounds in Kajiado District, which serve as livestock improvement centres and provide grazing and water facilities. We have one holding ground in Kitui District, three holding grounds in Koibatek District and also three holding grounds in Baringo District. We have also one holding ground in Bomet District for poultry rearing and six holding grounds in Isiolo District. In Kwale District, we have one holding ground. There are four holding grounds in Laikipia District and two holding grounds in Lamu District. Four in Mandera District, one in Marakwet District, two in Meru District, three in Migori District, three in Moyale District and four in Nakuru and there are three holding grounds in Narok District, among other districts. We are in the process of obtaining title deeds for these parcels of land.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on that same Sub-Vote, considering that you are spending so much money in personal emoluments on those holding grounds, are those holding grounds functional? What are they holding?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is public property. In some of them we are doing disease control. On others, there are various other activities. Some may be under-utilised at the moment, but there are plans to use them particularly when we come to the area of livestock marketing.

*(Heads 229, 240, 266, 324, 407, 445, 446,
478, 481 and 549 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 102 - PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

*(Heads 305, 306, 425, 462, 463, 465,
466, 532, 534, 537, 539, 548,
995 and 996 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 103 - FACILITATION AND SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES AND EXTENSION RESEARCH

*(Heads 202, 224, 232, 235, 236, 238,
255, 260, 265, 280, 286, 291, 408, 477,
513, 543, 634, 635, 638, 639, 660,
661, and 699 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR

*(Heads 198, 257, 258, 259, 261,
467, 468, 471, 472, 473, 474,
636, 637, 642, 645, 759 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 105 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

(Heads 502 and 503 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 106 - CROP AND LIVESTOCK DISEASES AND PEST CONTROL

*(Heads 230, 233, 290, 426, 431, 432, 437, 447, 448,
490, 551, 552 and 553 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 106 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 107 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES BASE FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Hon. Members: We are confused! You are too fast!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I do not know why you are confused. It is page 391.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, you are too quick for us and some of the issues raised there are very serious, indeed. Please, could you go slowly?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): The Chair cannot hear you, Mr. Gatabaki.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, you are too fast and there are some questionable estimates we want to refer to.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I think it is good to put it on record that I am not fast. I have been careful to see whether there is anybody raising any issue. I want that to go on record. We are on page 391.

Head 247 - Agricultural Mechanization Services

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, on Head 247, Item 065, medical allowance, while on personal emoluments one can see they will have just about the same staff, medical allowance is reduced by over Kshs1 million. Can the Minister explain why he thinks they will require less medical allowance this year than they did actually spend last year?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Have you got it, Mr. Minister? Is there another question while the Minister is consulting? Very well. So, Mr. Minister, you can answer that question on Head 247, Item 065 - Medical Allowance. Is that it, Mr. Munyasia?

Mr. Munyasia: It is Head 247, Item 065 - Medical Allowance.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Can you repeat the question, Mr. Munyasia?

Mr. Munyasia: I said medical allowance has been reduced by over Kshs1 million although the personal emoluments you can see they will have just about the same staff as they had last year.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in the previous year, there was provision for settlement of pending bills. This year, however, that provision has not been incorporated, because the issue of pending bills does not arise in this particular item.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the allocation made under Item 110, Head 247 is double that of previous year. Why has the travelling and accommodation allowance been doubled from Kshs8 million in the previous year to Kshs15 million this year?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Very well; Mr. Minister, the question is on Item 110, Head 247, travelling and accommodation expenses. You have been asked to say why you have doubled the allocation for that item.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said, there is much need to conserve water. A decision has been taken to build dams and other forms of infrastructure. This amount is required to pay night out and related allowances to our officers, who are in the field doing the construction work.

*(Heads 228, 246, 247, 250, 254,
449, 451, 452 and 461 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 107 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 108 - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*(Heads 455, 573, 707, 944, 945, 989,
992, 993 and 994 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 108 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 109 - DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*(Heads 589, 705, 706, 708, 709,
710 and 711 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 109 agreed to)

(Vote R10 agreed to)

VOTE D10 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 100 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

(Heads 190, 192 and 193 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 100 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 101 - REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND OUTPUTS IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

(Heads 324, 407, 481 and 490 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 101 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 102 - PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Head 534 - Fisheries Stations

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to ask a question on page 141, on Items 432 and 435, Head 534 - Fisheries Stations. Regarding Item 432, there is something on Construction of Fisheries Cold Rooms. You can notice that last year, there was no provision for it, but now there is a provision for Kshs500,000. Is the Minister satisfied that the Kshs500,000 will do anything constructive in the construction of these fisheries cold rooms? I am asking so because I happened to have one in my place, and it has been there for almost a decade now.

Then, there is Item 435 on Commercialisation of Landing Beaches. What does that mean, and why are we spending money to commercialise them? First, explain what commercialisation means and then tell us why we need the Kshs3,400,000 to commercialise landing beaches?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Very well. Is there another question, so that the Minister can answer them together while we also give him a few minutes to consult?

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to know where these beaches that are intended for commercialisation are located.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Chairman, Sir, I know that we did not have any provision for that in the previous year. It has become necessary to make that provision. Although I know that money is not enough, it has been provided within the limits available. The objective is to enable us to complete certain projects which were outstanding. I would like to mention, for example, Mbita where we were constructing a fish cold plant. Sir, I would like to inform hon. Members, through you, that authority to incur expenditure has now been issued out to be able to complete that Mbita project which has been outstanding for a long time. That has been done under this Vote.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, the question asked by Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko has not been answered. He wants to know where the beaches are located.

Mr. Obwocha, do you want to ask a question? Please, go ahead.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 141---

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I can deal with the question by hon. Ochilo-Ayacko.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Hon. Obwocha, wait for a minute, and then, you will ask your question.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this was one of the conditions of the European Union before lifting the ban on fish. The idea is to improve these sites, so that before we hand them to the operators, they are in such condition that is acceptable in terms of hygiene. So, we are spending this money to improve these sites before we finally hand them over to the operators.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): The question is: Where?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Chairman, Sir, the beach landing sites are located on various points along the lake.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Chairman, Sir, I am not asking about the commercialization on Item 262, Head 534 - Rehabilitation of Mkowe Ice Plant. Mkowe Ice Plant is situated on the mainland of Lamu. This ice plant was vandalised. I personally visited it with Members of the Public Accounts Committee and the Ministry promised that they were going to rehabilitate that ice plant at a cost of about K£1 million. However, there is nothing allocated here. Could the Minister tell us what is happening to the rehabilitation of Mkowe Ice Plant?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am aware that this ice plant has not received any money. This is due to various limitations. We will try and do that in the next Financial Year.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am concerned about commercialization. Although the Minister has told us that this money is going to be spent on beaches along the lake, I would be interested in knowing which beaches and what commercialization. If you are commercializing landing beaches without cold storage facilities, then that is not commercialization at all.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, some of the beach areas are in Bondo known as Uhanya where we will spend a substantial amount of money to improve the status of the landing site. We are also talking about one beach in Suba where we shall spend considerable sums of money to improve the landing facilities at that place. The other one is close to Kisumu Town, where we will be spending slightly more than Kshs1 million to rehabilitate it.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, does the Minister plan to commercialize any landing beaches on Lake Turkana?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Not at the moment, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

*(Heads 237, 238, 463, 465, 532, 533, 534,
537, 932, 995 and 996 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 102 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 103 - FACILITATION AND SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES AND EXTENSION RESEARCH

*(Heads 192, 193, 241, 260, 271,
408, 424 and 513 agreed to)
(Sub-Vote 103 agreed to)*

SUB-VOTE 104 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR

*(Heads 258, 259, 261, 467, 468, 471,
472, 473, 642, 645, 759, 760, 761,
763, 764 and 765 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 104 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 105 - MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

(Heads 491 and 508 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 105 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 106 - CROP AND LIVESTOCK DISEASES AND PEST CONTROL

Head 447 - Tsetse Control Services

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Item 263 - Maintenance of Tsetse Camps, you notice that no money has been allocated to that item and yet, tsetse fly menace is a serious problem, especially in my constituency around Lambwe Valley and Gwasi Constituency. Our farmers have problems with their animals because of the dangers tsetse flies pose. Is the Minister satisfied that when he does not allocate money for tsetse fly control, he is eradicating poverty afflicting the farmer in Mbita Constituency, Suba District?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, work to control tsetse flies is catered for under the Recurrent Expenditure.

Head 448 - Disease and Pest Control Services

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want the Minister to note that there is no provision of funds under Items 121 and 171. How does the Minister propose to run those organisations without telephones and money for the purchase of stationery?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is no expenditure involved in this. So, it does not come under Development Expenditure. However, there is a provision for it under Recurrent Expenditure.

(Heads 447 and 448 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 106 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 107 - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE BASE FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

(Heads 246, 250, 254 and 451 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 107 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 108 - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*(Heads 455, 707, 944, 945, 989,
992, 993 and 994 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 108 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 109 - DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

(Heads 708, 709 and 711 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 109 agreed to)

(Vote D10 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

REPORT

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr. Musila: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs3,594,782,945 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001, in respect of Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that this is not the time to make a speech. However, I want to say this about fisheries: I have noticed that there is very little money put in the development of fisheries and that this country has been until very recently, earning several billions on fish products from Lake Victoria, but because the Government has not invested on fisheries, fish landing, beach cleanliness and hygiene, we have lost a big market. I was in Germany recently and we were told that the fish from lake Victoria and especially the Nile perch, was voted two years ago, as the best dish in Germany and now they cannot eat it because the European Union has put a ban on it and we are doing very little to improve the fish landing and harvesting. This is injuring not only the country, but also the fishermen and not helping in alleviation of poverty. I wish that the Ministry would put a little more money next time in the development of fisheries and be serious about cutting down poverty in that area.

Thank you.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, while I agree with my friend there, I want to bring a new issue. I have been disappointed that in this Vote, I see nothing about the coconut industry at the Coast. There are 52 products that can be produced from the coconut tree and I would ask the Minister, as time goes on, to find it possible to make a provision for the development of the 52 products of the coconut tree in the Coast Province.

Thank you.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very brief one. I am also very disappointed that a project in Lamu that benefits the local community, particularly the Lamu Fishery Co-operative Society has remained unrehabilitated for a long time. Since 1995 when the PAC started dealing in this project, the Mkowe Cold Storage Ice Plant - the Ministry had not seen it fit to assist the people of Lamu. I do not come from Lamu, but if you go there, that is the livelihood of those people. So, the promise that my brother, hon. Chris Obure gave to this House that next year, the Ministry will look for some money to rehabilitate that project, please, I am appealing to the Ministry to rehabilitate the Mkowe Ice Plant Cold Storage Project.

Mr. Ngure: I would like to congratulate the Minister for a job well done in the Budget. However, I would like to add that the Minister's pledge that cotton growing needs to be revived is good news to some of us because it is the only cash crop that we had and it collapsed. I would also urge the Minister to consider the development of cold storage facilities for fish along the beaches. If we do not have cold storage facilities then the fisherman cannot bargain for his pay. I would urge the Ministers at large to compete and turn their ministries round particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development because Kenya is an agricultural country. We have had enough of powerful Ministers. We want Ministers who---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, on this occasion you are expected to merely draw the Minister's attention to what you consider to be salient points he should pick up after the approval of his estimates and not to open debate. I will not allow anybody to introduce a new matter to try and pin down the Minister because he will not have much time to respond.

Mr. Ngure: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but I will ask the Minister to use the Vote to turn round this country so that we do not experience famine any more.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to congratulate the Minister for a job well done and urge him to improve further and request for a write-off of the coffee co-operative societies' loans and the sugar factories' loans, the same way they have written off loans for Telkom Kenya and the Kenya Airways.

Mrs. Seii: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the issues that affect extension workers. They seem to be operating without supervision or fuel in their vehicles. As a result of that, they do not get to the grassroots level. Also, notwithstanding the fact that there are many giant milk collecting institutions such as KCC, the Dairy Board continues to frustrate the small milk hawkers who have nowhere else to sell their milk. I would like the Minister to look into that, especially in areas where there is no other source of income, but milk.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Minister, do you have a few words to say?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Thank you. That is very kind of you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We have done every thing possible to fulfil the conditions of the European Union on fish exports. In fact, next week, the appropriate committee operating under the umbrella of the European Union will be sitting to consider Kenya's case, among others. I am confident that the ban will be lifted and that the fish exports will start to flourish again. On coconut, I just want to inform my colleague hon. Keah that we are focusing on it a lot. In fact, recently we were in Mombasa talking about coconut with farmers and other participants and plans are under way to hold consultations with the stakeholders to revive that sector which we think can contribute a lot. Hon. Obwocha's sentiments on Lamu ice land have been taken into account and I would like to give that undertaking that we will take that into consideration in next year's Budget. I think we have said enough concerning cotton and we have made a firm commitment on that. That is one sector that I am confident will be revived, given the current measures, which have already been taken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue raised by hon. Mrs. Seii on the dairy sector, it is a very important one and I think it can contribute much to our economy. We are trying to revamp the administration of the sector by bringing in professional management to raise the status of the industry. I have already hinted to the House on what measures we are taking on extension work. I think this is crucial for the revival of the sector as a whole. I have already hinted on the measures we are taking to revive the sector, as a whole, and we are confident that with the support of this House, hon. Members and the entire agricultural fraternity, the farmers, in particular, we shall put back this sector on foot.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. This House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow 12th October, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 7.00 p.m.