

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 30th March, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's President Address from the Chair on 28th March, 2000.

*(The Vice-President on 29.3.2000)
(Resumption of debated interrupted
on 29.3.2000)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Biwott was on the Floor yesterday; proceed.

The Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to hon. Michuki who accompanied me to the Bangkok Inter-Conference, was hon. M. Galgalo from this side. Today, there is no question that more emphasis is placed on regional integrations and co-operations. This deals with larger markets and groupings as the building blocks for the world order, where globalisation is the order of the day. I will be bringing a Motion before the House on ratification of the East African Treaty. According to the stipulation, each member State is expected to ratify the treaty within six months. As you will recall, that treaty was signed in November. So, we have only about two months before we do ratification. I hope that this House will support it wholeheartedly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by October this year, COMESA will be moving towards free trade area. The other day we held a meeting in Mauritius where every member State indicated their willingness to move to zero tariff by then, so that they will facilitate a free trade area. Again, I will be bringing to this House, a Motion on the full details. I hope hon. Members will support it. In addition to that, I will discuss in detail, the matter with the Defence and Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time has come when Kenyans must appreciate the fact that Kenya alone, is a small country compared to regional groupings in the world. Therefore, opposition politics based on community interest are becoming irrelevant and have no impact whatsoever in terms of the global scene. I think, it is time now for hon. Members who realise what is happening and know that Kenya must play a role in the globalised world, to move rapidly away from petty tribal considerations and politicking and come into national and regional groupings, so that we can make an impact as a country. I believe it is also necessary---

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform hon. Biwott that the only hon. Member of Parliament who has ever done something treasonable and asked for secession of a region of this country, because of political differences with other people, is hon. Twaha who is a KANU Member of Parliament, not an opposition Member of Parliament.

The Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not see the relevance of what the hon. Member has said, to what I am talking about. I am saying that, arguing, purely on tribal and community interest, and forgetting about the larger aspect of national interest, especially if we want to become a respected nation that can influence matters within this region, it is time for us to speak as a nation and look at issues on a national basis. If one is in the opposition, he should offer an alternative course of action and points, so that Kenyans and Parliament can listen to them. I am of the opinion that Kenya can only be strong if its people are united and build this country, purely on the idea of national consideration. For us to achieve that unity, we should respect views of other people and their cultures. By so doing, we will become a cultured society with set principles and order of respect for one another. When it comes to the Presidency, I think, it is the onus of every decent and respectable leader to

respect the Head of State, because the Presidency is the symbol of the State. Respect does not cost anybody anything and it is also mutual, in the sense that, if you respect other people, you will also be respected. All I am pleading is that, let us become national in our thinking and shun away from petty politics based on village issues. This is because the whole world with billions of people, has become a global village. So, if we think in terms of our villages, we become very irrelevant. So, by the time we come to the limelight of global scene, nobody will listen to us or have any interest on us. I am quite sure that Kenya which is renowned for its best human resource should play its role, according to that estimation which people respect. Wherever we go, we are told Kenya lacks only funding. This is because, as far as the human resource is concerned, we have very highly qualified and experienced people. This country is capable of becoming industrialised by the year 2020. I know that is attainable, provided that we work diligently and fight corruption. When we fight corruption, we should not just talk about it. We should report corrupt individuals to the relevant authorities and assist the police and KACA to fight it. Let us introduce laws in this House that will help us fight corruption. We should stop maligning other people in our crusade to fight corruption. If one has evidence on corruption, why should he not report to the relevant authorities, so that action can be taken?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to our negotiations with the officials of the World Bank and IMF, we are moving on very well. It is for us to show the lead. Today, in any conference with donors, the recipients are asked to formulate their own programmes and ask for funding from them. It is up to them to convince their would-be partners, as to the viability of the project. Let Kenya also formulate its own programme for the donors to fund. Kenya, with experienced people and good manpower, is expected to produce good viable programmes.

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

Mr. Wambua: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address. I am very much concerned and I was surprised to hear the Minister saying that if something like corruption is noticed by the hon. Members from the Opposition parties, or by anybody, it should be reported. I do not know which other reports the Government is waiting to get if the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and other Parliamentary Committees are reporting about the evidence they get on corruption. No steps are taken against those who are mentioned in the reports. This is because during this time, we have many "thieves." A lot of the public funds are, of course, with our people and most of them are senior Government officers and others are in parastatal bodies, but they are walking free. They are even driving Government vehicles. So, that is another extra expense when they have looted this country a lot of money.

I just wish to inform most of the Ministers and hon. Members from the KANU side that it is we in the Opposition who are helping this Government, or the President, more than they are doing. This is because sometimes when we see things going wrong, we point them out. But the Ministers and hon. Members from the KANU side wait, because probably, they do not want to be seen as if they are fighting the Government. So, it is we who are doing better for this Government. They should, at least, congratulate us for what we are doing. For instance, just recently, I reported about a Government plot in my Constituency which was carved out and sold. The District Officer's office in Kithimani is being sold and the one who is involved is the District Officer (DO) for that division. I reported that to the Government, but up-to now, no action has been taken. The new developer has started developing the plot. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request those in our Government to be more serious than they are now. We just see very good papers which are presented in this House. His Excellency the President does speak so well, directs the hon. Members to the right direction, but when we give information to the Government, that usually falls on deaf ears.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the Budget, it is a shame to hear, especially yesterday, that many Kenyans perished when two buses were trying to avoid a pothole. We usually pass the Budget in this House, where some money is voted for the repair of roads. So, to lose more than 100 people in a day, because of avoiding a pothole--- It is a shame even for our foreign countries to hear that. So, if the Government is serious, when we pass the Budget here, the money should go to the right course---

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Since he has mentioned about our 105 people who perished yesterday, could we stand for a minute of silence?

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Mr. Wambua.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Member for just reminding us about that. If you will allow me--- It is me who, of course, will ask the House to rise for a minute of silence to remember our people who perished in that accident.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that our economy is not good. But some of the things are being created by us. For instance, the tourism industry is one of the industries which brings in a lot of foreign exchange. But because of

the Likoni clashes, most of the tourists do not come to Kenya. This is because of bad roads and insecurity in our national parks. Of course, that is why our tourism industry is dying. The Government can maintain roads and give adequate security in the national parks and that will attract most of the tourists to come to our country.

The other issue is that we have been talking about water. I am very happy that the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources is here. Water is life and there is a lot of water which flows to the Indian Ocean. Our Government should give priority to the Indian Ocean water, instead of leaving it to remain unused. We do not have enough water in Machakos Town. We know that there was a project which was to pump water to Machakos Town but instead, it was diverted to flower gardens and farms which, of course, are being run by some of the Ministers and big men in the Government. So, the Government should seriously--- We, especially the Kamba hon. Members, have been talking about that. Instead of the Government wasting a lot of money buying us food, it should use that money to provide us with water. This is because our people are very active and hard-working and if we can get water in Ukambani, at least, we can have enough food for ourselves and even give it to other people.

The other issue is about politics and development. I am surprised to hear that most of the hon. Members are politicising most of the issues. The Government machinery in the Provincial Administration should supervise development, but if development is not being done in my Constituency, I would have to go out and politicise it. This is because I have to tell my people that development was not done, although it should be done, and the Government is not serious about it. So, when we say that development is being politicised, that is not true.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the next issue I would like to talk about is insecurity. We do not know why, especially in our country many people are dying because of insecurity. It means that, of course, thugs are far ahead than our security officers. For instance, when you hear that some of the thugs are preparing some bombs and bombing homes, why do the regular police officers and the administration police officers in those areas not detect those things before they happen? So, I would, at least, request the Government to be more serious on security than the way it is now.

Regarding poverty, it is high time that I would request our Government not to allow, especially the county councils and town councils askaris, to demolish kiosks of the poor people. They usually build them just to eke out their living, in order to provide food for their children, because there is unemployment. If there is unemployment and those county councils and town councils--- First of all, they allow those kiosks to be built, license those people to run their business and within a given time, some of them go there and when they are not given something little, they order for them to be demolished. It is a pity. We should not allow the property of our people to be demolished. For instance, traders at Kigali Road in Nairobi lost a lot of goods and up-to now our Government has said nothing about millions of curios which were burnt down by the Nairobi City Council. Those officers who order that to be done are allowed to stay in offices. Of course, these officers are corrupt and they do that because of truancy and when they are not given kick-backs which they ask for. So, it is high time that our Government became serious on those matters.

The other issue is about the welfare of our people. For instance, we know at this time in our schools, as it has been said by many hon. Members, it is hard time for parents. In most of the schools, children go home immediately after they have just reported.

It is high time the Government at least told teachers to find out other modalities of collecting money, instead of sending pupils home. When a child is sent home, and there is famine in their family, they would still go back to school with nothing, even after two months.

With those few remarks, I support.

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to also express my condolences to the victims of the grisly bus accident that happened outside Kericho yesterday. For a long time it has become a habit of Government, that when there is a tragic accident, we hear all manner of statements about orders for drivers to be more careful and even talk about the re-introduction of speed governors. But once we have mourned the dead, we forget it until the next accident happens. For a long time, those of us who use the route to the west of Nairobi, have been very aware of the recklessness with which the Shaggy buses are driven on those roads. All of us are potential victims of Shaggy buses. It is incumbent upon Government, apart from shedding crocodile tears or even genuine tears, to do something to return sanity to the use of those roads.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Awori, sit down!

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure some of the people who perished in that bus are constituents of hon. Awori! It would be in his interest to also listen to this. Parliament must reflect the mood of the country, as we mourn the senseless loss of lives on these terrible roads of ours.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I like listening to a little lecture from hon. Biwott, about the need for us to respect the President, and how respect is mutual. I agree with him, that respect between those who wield high power; those who hold high office and their subjects, regardless of party divides must be mutual. Every time I go to international fora, I want to be proud of my Government. But it has to earn my respect. It must embody the values that make me proud of it. If my Government is going to announce to me today that sub-chiefs are gone, I start celebrating, and before I have even drowned two drinks to celebrate it, the head of that Government announces that the chiefs are not gone. Do I celebrate and be proud of that Government? The Government must do things in certain ways to deserve our respect. Those who advise the President, should tell him some of the things he needs to do to earn our respect. To tell us to work together in the spirit of being friendly is not going to Mombasa and announcing to KANU hon. Members to keep off Opposition hon. Members because they are bad. Why is the Opposition good if they are co-operating with you or if you are talking to them in Parliament, and bad when you go to address some group gathered at the commissioning of some project belonging to some dubiously rich businessmen? These are some of the issues that are important, to earn our respect in the President and other persons in high office. I like something that---

The Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Biwott): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to perpetuate something which the President has clarified? He said that he did not ask KANU hon. Members of Parliament not to work with the Opposition hon. Members. He asked them to do so when they are dealing with KANU affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Biwott! That is an argument!

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Biwott has even clarified another matter. That when the President says something, and it is unpopular, the next day he denies that he said it, even if you saw it on television. Then he wants us to respect him. Thanks very much, hon. Biwott for reminding me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Biwott said an important thing: That out of international pressure, and only partly because of local dynamics, we are moving in a very rapid and uncertain phase of liberalization. The reduction of tariff walls between countries and the creation of regional trading bloc. We can celebrate, vis-a-vis certain economies, that the creation of a regional bloc like COMESA and East African Community might in need terms be good for this country. But it is more important that the Government tells Kenyans another thing: That unless we enhance efficiency and cut down on the costs of production, we are going to be net losers in the growing regional integration. Today, the factory cost of producing a tonne of sugar in Sudan, is less than 50 per cent of a similar cost for producing sugar in Kenya. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa will force us to open up our sugar markets to Sudan. There is no way Muhoroni Sugar Company, for example, can survive competition from Sudan. Unless we start addressing the question of reducing costs, not rewarding farmers more, but making it possible that factory gate prices of our produce is competitive, we are not going to celebrate liberalization for too long.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I read a statement, allegedly made by the President, bemoaning the absence of Ministers in Parliamentary audit committees. I wondered why the President cannot be advised about the liberalization that has happened at Parliament. First, you might be frustrated that they are saying things you do not like hearing, but secondly, there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. More importantly, can they not get the head of Government to understand that audit committees audit Government accounts, and Government cannot be part of the audit committee, auditing Government. It might be a bit difficult for him to understand, but if they explained to him slowly, he would understand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a matter that is of immense concern to this country today.

The Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Biwott): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to indulge in gossip?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am again glad the hon. Biwott is again telling us that what the President says is gossip. Who am I to deny?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a major problem that is facing our country today. The problem of insecurity. The proliferation of small arms has turned petty thieves into armed robbers. Persons who stole with a stick are now stealing with an AK-47 rifle. The crisis of competition for pasture in Northern Kenya is a major long-term security problem. When Samburu, Pokot and Tugen pastoralists overrun private ranches because they have no access to pasture at home, they are raising a question that goes beyond tribalism. They are raising a question about the viability of pastoralism; the way we have used resources in those areas for other things. When it is becoming fashionable, like hon. Wambua mentioned, that gangs of robbers are going door to door in raids. In my own Constituency, over the past two weeks, there have been systematic night raids in Kimilili Town and much worse in Kamukuyua Market, where armed robbers are going from door to door beating up people and even stealing old bedding. In one case at Kamukuyua Market, the local vigilante beat up some of the people who were robbing and killed two people. One third person who was grievously injured, was a member of the Administration Police from Kamukuyua Chief's camp. If the Government cannot help us deal with insecurity, at least, let it restrain members of its own security machinery from abating the

problem by being part of the robbing case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been a bit confused by the way the Government is handling the problem of poverty. We know that unemployment and poverty are major problems today, and we know that some of the donors are putting conditions to Government, about when they can intervene. How can a Government find assistance from the British High Commission and UNDP, prepare the National Poverty Eradication Plan, Eradication of Poverty by the year 2115, they troop us to Mbagathi to show us how hopeful they have been in planning this programme, they appoint a poverty commission, and two donors tell them three months later: No, this is not good enough? Hurriedly, they do a new one and now troop us to the Kenya School of Monetary Studies with a new found religious view, that they are now doing a new poverty eradication programme.

Is the desire to develop a blueprint in fighting poverty donor-driven or domestic-interest-driven? If it is domestic-interest-driven, why should the sections of the donor community dictate the temple and content of the Government poverty eradication programmes? If tomorrow another set of donors go to the Government and say: "The approach that you have taken through the Kenya School of Monetary Studies discussions is not good", will the Government pretend away the Mbagathi and the Kenya School of Monetary Studies poverty eradication strategies and come back to us calling for a meeting at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) with views of doing a new development programme on poverty eradication? It is fundamental that the Government should now start acting as the Government of Kenya and not as a public relations front for the British High Commission, and secondly, for the Bretton Woods Institutions. Apart from embarrassing the Government itself, it also gives the world the impression that we are all running along as the Government goes into these exercises in futility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, a colleague of mine here whom I respect very much, in contributing to the debate here yesterday, the hon. Raila Odinga, mentioned that it was very unfortunate that the donors came to Kenya and they were talking to the churches as if there was no Government in Kenya. First of all, the donors have a right to talk to any registered and recognised entity in this country. Secondly, if the Government is unhappy that the donors are talking to the churches, I would assume that hon. Raila is in the Opposition. Why should he wail more than the bereaved?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kajwang: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I looked at the Presidential Address very carefully and I saw a few points which I would want to refer to. I saw something about poverty eradication, which I would rather call "poverty alleviation". I saw something about the Government creating an environment for growth, unemployment, politicisation of poverty and abuse of office and misuse of public funds. Of course, there was the issue of the debt burden. I want to choose a few of these issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, there is nothing called "politicisation of poverty" because poverty is a great hit of political and economic engineering. It is this Government of KANU which has politically and economically engineered this country into a deadlock called "poverty" for more than 30 years. So, when the Government tells us not to politicise poverty, we will tell it that it has brought bad politics. In fact, at one time, the President used to remind us that: "Siasa mbaya, maisha mabaya". So, if life is bad at the moment, the result will be equivalent to the cause, and the cause is bad politics.

Mrs. Kittony: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to mix languages in this honourable House?

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was quoting the President and I wanted to be exact.

Let us not talk about politicising poverty. We should talk about it because it has been created and see how to get out of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to give you a few reasons which have led us to poverty. One of them, which was also stated by the President, is abuse of office and misuse of public funds. This is equivalent to corruption. That is one of the causes of poverty. How do we get out of poverty? There was a Commission one time and I was not quite old enough to know about it, but I have read about it now in the library. It was called the "Ndegwa Commission". The Ndegwa Commission did something very strange. It stated that public servants could also at the same time engage in business. This was so that an engineer or a Permanent Secretary in charge of roads could also register a company to build roads. He would then offer himself a contract to build a road and even before the road is built, he would pay himself. That is what has destroyed our infrastructure in this country. That is the cause of poverty. I would want this House to soon debate this Ndegwa Commission and repeal it, if it was passed into a law.

Mr. Kihara: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead this House about the Ndegwa Commission report? You and I were there, and you know that this is not what the Ndegwa Commission said. The Commission clearly stated that if there is a conflict of interest, a person should not engage in that kind of business. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead the House?

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will read the Report with him later and I will show him that the

Ndegwa Commission's Report, at least, allowed public servants to do business and those are the things that they call business. Those who have been Permanent Secretaries and good people in the Government must defend this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cause of poverty in North-Eastern Province and the ASAL areas is due to lack of market for their livestock which includes goats, cattle and camel. The Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) used to help them in that, during the dry seasons, they used to take their animals to the KMC. The President has talked about the KMC several times. He has said that he would revive it and after reviving it, he would privatise it. But how would you revive KMC without holding land? How would you hold animals there for even two days when there is no land to keep them on? The President knows very well that there is no land there because it has been allocated to certain land grabbers. If you were given KMC today for free, you would not take it because it would not be useful. So, how do you privatise something which is useless?

When we went to the so-called "poverty eradication seminar", we recommended and said that the only way to revive the KMC, for the betterment of the North-Eastern Province and all those people who survive on animals, for example, people from my place in Suba, will be to compulsorily acquire the land which was given to these people, so that the KMC can have a holding ground. When we publicly and compulsorily acquire this land, we can pay them back the premiums which they paid. We will not give them the value of that land, because in any event, they should have known that they were "killing" a big industry and "killing" almost two-thirds of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is research about animal and plant seeds. In this Paper on eradication of poverty, they have talked about cotton which my constituents survive on. Cotton is an enterprise that will have profound impact on poverty reduction of the rural folks in arid and semi arid areas. I agree with this. But they have also said that there are no good seeds and although they have found the correct variety, they cannot multiply it because there is no land on which to multiply it. The Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) land has been given away to very prominent hon. Members on the other side. All research institutions have no land. Where will we develop our seeds? Where will we do our research and how do you eradicate poverty? We are joking when we say that we want to eradicate poverty when we cannot multiply seeds, sell our animals or do research.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I looked at the poverty eradication proposals and there is something about them. The Government has stated that the domestic debt now stands at Ksh167 billion. The Government has said that it will reduce it by Kshs26 billion in three years through the sale of certain parastatals. In three years' time the interest on Kshs167 billion alone, will be several times higher than this Kshs26 billion. So, this is a big gimmick. We must find a way of clearing this domestic debt which we created ourselves. It is a burden which will "kill" this country unless something is done. No public resource will be sold to pay this debt. So, how will we deal with it? Somebody must tell us!

We are joking! We are not serious! We will continue to beg! We will go into more debts! What has caused this debt to be even more? Why have the businessmen and their businesses collapsed? Why has every fisherman and peasant collapsed? It is because they cannot access credit. But even if you tried to access credit, at 28 per cent interest rate, you will be very lucky to make any profit, unless you engage in sale and buying of bhang and chang'aa! There is no other business which can give you that kind of return! Our banks charge 28 per cent interest rate, when they collect our money for free! The other day, my father told me he would rather remove his money from the bank and buy a few animals, because he realised he was getting only 2.5 per cent interest from Barclays Bank. They give only 2.5 per cent interest in a savings account, while they give it out at 28 to 30 per cent! What kind of business is this? In fact, the other day, one of the leaders of Barclays Bank told me: "Mr. Kajwang, we are doing something about this! We are tired of getting this kind of indecent profits!" In fact, he called the profits: "Indecent, obscene and embarrassing windfalls!" Nobody ever does any kind of business like that; where you get money at 2.5 interest rate, and give it out at 28 to 30 interest rate! So, unless we check the banks, we are joking about eradicating poverty. There is no Jua Kali man who will get money from the banks! So, how do we talk about eradicating poverty?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must talk about cholera in Mbita. Cholera is a poverty-driven disease! Our people are really suffering!

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Keriri: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. In contributing to the Speech by the President, I would like to say this: We have spoken about the causes of poverty and lack of development many times. We had a big conference in Mombasa where we spoke about poverty. We went to Mbagathi and spoke about poverty. We have had about three sets of Budget Speeches; one by hon. Nyachae, another one by hon. Masakhalia and the last one by hon. Okemo. All of them told us the causes of poverty and lack of development. So, I believe the message has sunk in our heads. Unless we took those messages, there is nothing that we can do. If the message did not sink into our heads, then this country must be a class of very dull pupils!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when a doctor diagnoses your disease, the next step is to treat you, and hope that you will recover. The Speech by the President contain all that we have been told in the past. What we want now is

implementation of what we know. We do not have to go to conferences to speak about the diagnosis which the doctor has already discovered. We have to implement what we already know. We know everything! Why should we go to conferences? Why do we have to meet the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) 25 times? I think it is wrong!

We all know that the Kenyan economy is based on agriculture. We must start by helping agriculture to grow. The farmer requires money and loan facilities to buy farm inputs, and to prepare his land. Today, the farmer cannot get any money whatsoever! The 30 per cent interest rate by banks is too high for the farmer! In any case, most of the major banks have now told the small farmers, small men and peasants that, they are not wanted by them! So, what does the farmer do? He becomes poorer and poverty grows.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have "killed" all the institutions that used to help the farmers. For example, the Cereals and Sugar Finance Corporation which used to exist in the Treasury is no longer there! We do not hear about it! So, the farmers cannot get anything from it. AFC has been looted and it is almost dead! It is not collecting debts. We hear the debts will be written off, instead of being collected to help the small-scale farmers! So, the AFC is dead! The KFA used to help the farmers. Where is it today? We read about the KFA being under receivership, and its assets being disposed off by the banks! All those institutions have been "killed!" Now, who has done it? Is it the KFA which "killed" itself? Is it the farmers who "killed" the AFC, KFA and the others? No! It is those who manage the economy. It is those who are in-charge of the economy; that is the Government of Kenya; which is the Government of KANU. We used to have sisal. But we do not plant sisal today. This is because the East African Bag and Cordage was "killed", so that someone could benefit from some place. Now, the farmer cannot grow sisal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmer requires transport to transport his goods to the market. When Kenyans started to manage the economy, it was decided that, to develop the economy, we must develop the infrastructure. We talked about roads and agreed that, all the district headquarters, divisional headquarters and every important centre must be connected to Nairobi, so that farmers could bring their goods from all parts of the country to Nairobi and other markets. Today, instead of developing those roads, we have started new ones, spent the allocated money, and many of them have been abandoned! In Kirinyaga, we have the Baricho-Kagio Road, where the Government spent about Kshs50 million, and then abandoned it. It is now only bridges and nothing else! Are we doing the farmer and the economy any good? No! A good road system is very important for any development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you can recall, one of the reasons why Germany was very strong before the war, was because they had connected every state to the centre with tarmacked roads. They could reach their neighbours without any problems. So, when they started the war, they would have swept their adversaries, if the United States of America (USA) had not intervened to help the Europeans. General Eisenhower from the USA went to fight the war and when he went back, he discovered America was not one country economically. What did he do? He started the development of inter-state roads. Today, the USA is one market. Now, in Kenya, all we need is to connect Mwingi, Lodwar, Wundanyi and other parts of the country to Nairobi. That way, we can develop the economy. Today, we are not doing that but, instead, we are crying that we have no money. We are going to the World Bank. The World Bank and the European Union (EU) gave us some money to develop some roads. That money is not being spent to develop the road network. Instead, some officials are arguing that, that money should be spent to benefit them individually. In the process of argument, the roads are not made and then we have the *El Nino* phenomenon to blame. Everything is blamed on the *El Nino* phenomenon. We had bad roads before the *El Nino* phenomenon came. The *El Nino* phenomenon just aggravated what we had already destroyed. So, we know what we should do. Why do we not do it? We say we have no money. How can we say we have no money when the whole economy has been looted by a few people? That money would have been used to develop the economy and reduce poverty. We may never be able to eradicate poverty, but we must reduce it by using the resources we have and by utilising our taxpayers' money in the proper manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government has destroyed all the institutions that were built to develop this economy in order to reduce poverty. They have all been destroyed. I have mentioned the AFC, KFA and so on. Come to the industries and you will recollect that we had institutions like ICDC which started off this country very well in the development of the economy. We had the IDB which started very well. We had the KTDC in tourism and others. Those institutions today are mere shadows of themselves. Now, have they destroyed themselves or have they been destroyed? They have been destroyed by those who manage the economy. We must revive them and get things done in the proper way. We had the DFCK which I managed. It is no longer there. It had helped to build so many industries in this country. Today, it has collapsed. All we know is that they have created the smallest bank in this country which is a "baby" of DFCK which was a very big "baby". After its destruction, the investors from Europe and IFC pulled out because the managers of this economy on that side of the House did not do what they were supposed to do with these institutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we must go back and do what we should do instead of going to conferences.

It is not conferences which will reduce poverty. We would like the Ministers to tell us what they have agreed on as far as the Lome Convention IV is concerned vis-a-vis the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this important debate. Firstly, we expected in the Presidential Speech, to have concrete policies and time programmes. This country is experiencing so many problems now that we cannot go by generalisations and general statements talking about poverty and so forth. Secondly, we should not be talking about "poverty eradication;" we should be talking about "economic growth and distribution." You cannot eradicate poverty. No country has been able to eradicate poverty. Even America and Britain have poor people. What you are able to do is to have economic growth and then distribute that wealth. So, we should not go on with this negative concept of eradication of poverty. We should be talking about economic growth and ask ourselves: "How do we bring about economic growth?" My view is that the only way we can bring about economic growth is, first of all, to consider where 80 per cent of our people live. Eighty per cent of our people live on agriculture. They live on the land. So, if you want to eradicate poverty, start with the land. How can we make the peasant farmer more productive? How are you going to provide him with credit? How are you going to provide him with better seeds? How are you going to provide him with the market for his produce? This is what we ought to be talking about. If we talk about those things then we shall have achieved something. How are we going to deal with the people in the arid and semi-arid areas? How are we going to get market for their livestock? These are the things we should be talking about and not the question of the negative concept of eradication of poverty. I do not know who coined this concept. Even if it is the World Bank or the IMF, I think it is not really in keeping with our requirements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody has talked about corruption. Corruption is so expensive in this country that nobody has ever costed it. It kills the initiatives and the ability of our people to work honestly and it penalises those who are honest and doing a genuine job. Unless we eradicate or reduce corruption, we are going to be in a very serious problem. We have a body called Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) which, for one-and-a-half years, has been spending money. It has been incurring high expenses. They have the full compliment of all employees they need, but so far, we have not heard very much of what they have achieved.

An hon. Member: Only one fish!

Mr. Wamae: I hear KACA has taken only one person to court. At that rate, in 20 years time, we will still be talking about eradication of corruption and that is a very expensive body. We would like it to wake up and show that it has teeth and is able to show that it can discourage corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of young people who are unemployed and these are our own national assets which are being wasted. These young unemployed people who comprise of school leavers and university graduates who are without hope are the ones creating insecurity in our towns and villages. We must find a way of keeping them occupied. We must find a way of making these people productive to the society instead of becoming a liability. The only way we can do this is to be able to know how we can open more areas in agriculture; how we can give them small loans to start trading and opening up small-scale industries and so-forth. We should also find ways of reviving ICDC, IDB and other institutions as hon. Keriri said in order to give them loans. We should also look into the possibility of re-starting AFC to give small loans for people to start piggeries and other agricultural activities like zero-grazing in cattle, even where they do not own much land. We should do all these things so that we can have these young people occupied.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, however, there is a very big talk about foreign investment. Foreign investment is not going to be a panacea to this country's growth. Foreign investment will assist but the actual investment will have to come from Kenyans themselves. Unless Kenyans themselves are secure and feel happy to invest, borrow money and put it into productive assets, we are not going anywhere. So, let us make it opportune for our people to invest anywhere in Kenya. We do not want to end up like a person who went to Mombasa and he had one of the biggest poultry farms and several cows there which were providing chicken meat and milk respectively to all the hotels in the Coast. Now, we hear that, that land has been occupied by local people who have grabbed it and as a result there are court cases and so-forth. That should be avoided. Every Kenyan must be protected wherever he works and wherever he lives. He must also feel secure in whatever he or she is doing, but foreign direct investment is not going to be the panacea to our economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as hon. Kajwang' said, we have a big stone around our neck and this is Kshs160 billion of Treasury Bills borrowed by the Government of Kenya. Even at 20 per cent interest, and that is Kshs32 billion interest, is what you are going to pay per year. That runs to nearly 20 per cent of the Kshs150 billion of taxes that we collect in this country. That is too much to bear. It is a very big burden and this originated from the Goldenberg issue in 1992 and 1993. As we said the other day, the Goldenberg issue is now seven years old in court and we have not resolved it. We are still saying that it is still in court. The court case has not even been finished and we now have

Kshs160 billion arising from the Goldenberg issue. This is the money which was pumped into the economy in 1992 and 1993 and it is now the grinding stone on which Kenya is going to sink.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless something is done very urgently, how are we going to raise Kshs160 billion, direct Treasury Bills borrowing by the Government of Kenya? This is a major problem and there is no easy solution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody here has talked about security; unless we have security nothing can be done. Let us allocate enough resources to our Police Force to ensure that there is security for everybody in this country. It should not only be in Nairobi, but in the whole country. Let people go about their duties freely. We do not want to hear about car-jacking and all these things every evening. People are now sleeping at 7.00 p.m. in the evening. This town is dead at 7.30 p.m. because people are scared of being out of their houses. You cannot develop a country like this with fear. Let us give the resources necessary to our Police Force to ensure that we sleep in peace and have proper security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to education, let us know that education is a very major investment and it is very important to this country. We should have one single policy of education in this country. There are certain areas where, previously, KCPE candidates were not allowed to sit for the national examinations, unless they could prove that they had 480 marks and above in their mock examinations. If they could not reach such marks, they were not allowed to sit for the national examinations. So, some of those districts which were told that they were doing very well in their KCPE district ranking, had prevented so many children from sitting for national examinations. Every child who gets to Standard Eight must be allowed to sit for examinations. Whether they fail or they pass, let them get out of the system. But they should not be prevented from sitting for the national examinations, just to show that a school or a district is getting a good grade. That is part of the "doctoring" of the KCPE results.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have also got this issue of street children. These street children are children of some of hon. Members of Parliament here. Therefore, we should not just ignore them; we should find a way of taking them to schools and making them become productive members of society.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for hon. Matu Wamae to mislead this nation and the House, that the streets children are sons and daughters of Members of Parliament?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, if some of them are fathered by Members, he can say so.

(Laughter)

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Murungi does not know what he does wherever he passes and what happens to those children. Therefore, let us look for a 10,000 to 20,000 or 30,000 acre-farm, where we can put them and give them education and some training and make them productive members of society, rather than for them to be sniffing glue here and dying at an early age and being kicked around by everybody who wants to kick them around. Let us be merciful and mindful of those people who are in an unfortunate situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, coffee and tea are very important cash crops to this country because they create employment and bring foreign exchange, which is of very big importance to the development of this country. Let the Government keep its hands off and ensure that there is peace in these sectors. We want to make sure that there is proper security in these two sectors. There are now people who are millers and are making farmers collide by trying to campaign for business from the farmers. They must be asked to do so without disruption of the farmers' activities. But so far, they have done a lot of damage in certain areas. Fortunately, even in Nyeri, where we thought they had done damage, the coffee production has gone up by 78 per cent this year in relation to the previous year. With better coffee husbandry, they can even do better.

Ms. Karua: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion.

An hon. Member: Are you supporting the Motion?

Ms. Karua: Yes, I am. I have noticed that the Presidential Address gives priority to the socio-economic developments of this nation. However, unless His Excellency the President's Address is matched with concrete actions, it will end up as a mere rhetoric.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty alleviation has to go hand-in-hand with the provision of services, such as education, health, water and infrastructure. A people who are ignorant cannot be able to complement the Government efforts of eradicating poverty. A people who are afflicted by diseases and have no health care cannot participate in economic and social growth. Therefore, there is urgent need for the Government to focus on these issues. We all know that our health services and infrastructure have deteriorated to a point where members of the public have lost confidence in our health services. For the Government to show its seriousness in addressing poverty alleviation, it must immediately turn its attention to health care programmes and must restore basic health care services for all in this country. It is not enough for the Government to tell us that, the conditionalities of the World Bank and IMF are forcing them into cost-sharing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was privileged to visit a fellow African country only a day ago; that is Botswana, where we found that health care is almost free for all. They pay Kshs30, which is an equivalent of two Pulas their local currency. One gets all the facilities for medicine; if it is for hospitalization, there is no further charges. What was amazing is that, if one's ailment cannot be treated within the national borders and if the condition is life-threatening, one is taken abroad at government expense. That is an African country that also does have relations with the Bretton Wood Institutions. Why can this country not restore health services to an extent where everybody will be assured of good health care?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Botswana, secondary and primary education is compulsory and free. Why can Kenya not educate her children, at least, up to basic primary education? Unless the Government turns its attention to these issues, then the poverty alleviation programme is nothing but mere rhetoric.

That is not the end of the good things happening to the people of Botswana. Clean drinking water is available to all citizens. The situation is very different in that country. Time and again we have people afflicted by water-borne diseases and we know that in the North-Eastern Province of this country, people are hungry year, after year, because of lack of water. Those areas could turn into farming and arable areas, if only water was provided. Unless the Government is ready to spell out a programme to get water for all in this country, starting from the hardest hit by the water problem; the poverty alleviation is nothing but mere rhetoric. We should now come out from rhetoric and go to concrete actions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot alleviate poverty or have social economic growth, if we do not uphold the rule of law. In a country where anarchy is rife, we cannot expect social development. What about security of the people? Unless the Government addresses urgently the question of security for all, then it is mere rhetoric to talk about socio-economic development. Where there is no rule of law, there can be no security because some people will break the law with impunity knowing that they will be protected by their godfathers; and knowing that they are "untouchable."

Where there is no rule of law, tax collection cannot even come to 60 per cent because there would be "sacred cows" who will not be liable to pay tax or will not be penalised for avoiding taxes; while others will be chased sometimes unfairly. We are a rich country because we have survived for eight years without donor funds. We can survive without donor funds, if we collect all the revenue that is due to the Government; and if we can stop wanton spending; misallocation of resources and outright theft.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should also think about the constitutional review. It is obvious that we have not nurtured our institutions and, therefore, the institutions have broken down and can no longer serve the nation. We need a major surgery in the form of structural changes, which can only be brought about by constitutional review. How do we expect to have socio-economic growth and reforms, if we are reluctant to review our Constitution? The Speech does talk about partisan politics. It is for Kenyans to judge and know who practises partisan politics. In my view, it is being practised by elements within the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have an Act of Parliament passed by this House, and assented to by His Excellency the President. If we believe in the rule of law, let us utilise that Act and get on with the constitutional review process. Let us not pretend that a Parliamentary Select Committee can be superior to a law passed by this House. Let us get on with the constitutional review and let us not hoodwink Kenyans that there is any legality in a committee that is seeking to undo what majority of Kenyans and this House passed. Unless we address those very urgent questions, then even this Speech which does appear to be good, will amount to nothing other than empty rhetoric and even this Motion will not have done anything for this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other issues which we must focus on, for example, agriculture. To alleviate poverty, we must have a programme on how to assist our farmers, to reap maximum returns from their sweat. Liberalisation is good for our farmers but it must be coupled with programmes of awareness on how to go about it. Is the Government playing its role in informing the farmers so that they can be able to safeguard their hard earned wealth? The answer is no! Is the Ministry of Agriculture doing its best to be a facilitator than to act as an agent for fanning disputes between the farmers? It is not enough to blame politicians!

If we had a system that is working, this situation could not abound in this country; where we have wars between the farmers and the end result is poverty because middle men are reaping benefits of the farmers' sweat. Unless the Government urgently addresses this issue this Speech will amount to nothing, but mere rhetoric. The farmers will not get maximum returns if we do not address the issue of infrastructure. Are we doing our best to ensure that the funds collected from the Fuel Levy are utilised to build the infrastructure of this country? The Government is talking of new procurement procedures, but as a person who is on the ground, these new procedures are not working yet. The District Commissioners still control the Tender Boards in the districts as of now and the other senior officers are busy seeing how to make a kick-back out of the money that is badly needed for our infrastructure. Unless the Government implements immediately the Roads Act that was passed by this House last year, this Speech will amount

to nothing, but wishful thinking. Let us see action being taken because we have been talking for too long. Let us get down to business so that we can do something useful for our country.

We also need to see those who have abused their offices being prosecuted. It is not enough to just refer to abuse of office. I am talking about abuse of office by public and private officers. There are those who have embezzled farmers' money in the co-operative movement and in other bodies like the Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) and the Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK). Is it enough to spend more of our hard earned revenue making reports that are not implemented? When are we going to see those who embezzled money at the CBK, KTDA and City Hall in court? Or is the culture of impunity going to abound where those officers are shamelessly answering through the public and daring the Government to take them to court? Unless the Government is guilty of complicity, then these people should face the courts. Let there be the rule of law. If they are innocent, let them be exonerated by the courts, but if they are guilty, let them go to jail like all the other offenders.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for the Speech which he made in this House. I will also make suggestions as he would have liked us to do in areas where the Government should take corrective measures so as to strengthen the economy and help the Kenyan people to be much better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty eradication has been talked about, but some people do not like the usage of this word, but poverty is a reality in this country. When we talk of poverty - you never know - maybe you are the one who is poor! But the international community has yard-sticks for measuring poverty in terms of income per capita and so on. But for a country like Kenya whose economy depends - to a very large extent - on agriculture to tackle poverty, we cannot neglect it. My plea to the Government is this: Let us do something about our agricultural policy and the nation's food policy. When one has a full stomach, one can have a very good sleep, but with an empty stomach, the sleep may not even come! We want a food policy that can help Kenya to produce as much as our natural resources can afford. Let the Government come out boldly to empower the coffee, tea, pyrethrum, horticultural, sugar cane producers and the fishermen. Let these people be empowered by providing and facilitating inputs at the right time and also giving them security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, less than 10 days ago, we had a serious situation in my constituency where politicians were politicking about food. They have started to campaign for the year 2002, in the year 2000! Can you imagine that? They persuaded youthwingers to set cane on fire and the Chemelil Sugar Factory too! The Government should put its feet down and tell these people to stop it. Privatization at Chemelil Sugar Factory will not give out shares free of charge! There is a saying in my mother tongue which goes as follows: "*Min nono no thoo*" which means, "the mother of free things died long time ago."

(Laughter)

How can an aspiring Member of Parliament incite farmers to expect Chemelil Sugar Company shares to be given free to the Luo community? We strongly object to that. Let us remember that when we empower the farmer, the Government will not go wrong. I would like to suggest that in this area of production, Kenya should think about irrigation technology. How many times are we going to lecture to the Government to adopt more aggressively irrigation technology for improving the production, both quantity and quality of our crops and livestock? For how long? North Eastern and Eastern provinces are ripe for it and also, Athi River is there. Nyanza Province is ready, as well as Western and Rift Valley Provinces. When you go to the lakeshore area, more than once, I have said and persuaded the Government, particularly as the Financial Year is coming to an end and the Budget is being worked out; let them not forget the hillocks. Use the hillocks to pump the water from the lake to these little hills and let the water gravitate and let the crops benefit. Livestock will also benefit, as well human beings. Why are we silent about introduction of a more aggressive programme for using irrigation to boost food production?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about tribalism. Believe me, I have benefited from tribalism, myself. I was born a Luo and I feel very proud to have been born a Luo. I can sing sweetly in that language but I do not link it with nepotism. It is when you link tribalism with nepotism that the things come to stink. It comes to stink.

Believe me, I want to predict now at the beginning of this new millennium that, Kenyan tribes are here to stay. They are here to stay; make use of them. But do not inject nepotism because when you inject nepotism in the way you serve them, then tribalism becomes an anathema. But believe me, it is a good thing. You are all able to see AFC Leopards in action against Gor Mahia FC or against Shabana FC and esukuti international being played to encourage the boys to keep on to the ball; get the ball, whip the ball, dribble the ball, right into the goal! What is wrong? Nothing.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as for unity, which is important for our country; let us remember that, we only need unity of purpose. When we were students away in India, America, Russia and all over, we had a unity of purpose. We were Kenyans; we were African students and we acted in unity. We need that unity of purpose here in Kenya, here in our Parliament. I would like to suggest that, because of that unity of purpose, for example, if Members of the Opposition parties are willing to listen to me; that is the only way we are going to oust KANU from power. We shall oust them from power when we have unity of purpose. The Unity of purpose will be to oust KANU from power. We shall all be united and field only one presidential candidate and KANU will not be in power again.

(Applause)

The other point I want to mention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, which His Excellency the President wanted us to think about seriously, is the Constitution. The time has come when we must move a bit faster to review the Constitution, because when the Constitution is reviewed; there will be the unity and peace. It is not true that there is only unity and peace in Kenya with only one single party system. But without that unity and peace, it would not be good. We want a new Constitution that will help the multiparty era to participate in a participatory democracy, and that can only be provided in a reviewed Constitution. We must move forward and I would like to suggest that the time is now. I hate to see a great community like the Kikuyu out of Government; the great Luo community, not a single elected Member is in Government. But with a reviewed Constitution, there will be a way of working it out, so that there is participatory democracy! Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Motion.

The Presidential Speech did not give Kenyans hope. Kenyans have been living in a hopelessness state and we believed that with the Presidential Speech, Kenyans would have hope. But apparently, we are still in the same state where we do not have hope. If you look around this Chamber, you would see that we lack even the Front-Benchers in numbers. They are very few. This is a clear demonstration that they do not view this Presidential Speech as anything important. We would have expected them to come here and listen to what we want to say.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are quite a lot of things which were raised in that particular Speech, but no major tangible solutions were given. When we talk about creating an environment for economic growth, the problem that really affects this country and which we must address, first and foremost, is stamping out corruption in all our sectors, to enable the national resources to reach the common mwananchi. The national resources do not reach mwananchi. We know that the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) has started some work, but surprisingly, what is happening is that, KACA is going for the small boys, who are stealing a few thousand shillings. The big fish who are well known by the Government, still go about their businesses peacefully without any problem. If we want to resuscitate our economy, we need to address the agricultural sector. In this particular sector, we have got three or four main cash crops, which the Government must do something about, to make sure that the farmer gets the proper return for his sweat. We are talking about the tea, coffee, sugar cane and rice sectors. The farmer must be protected from manipulation and corruption in these particular sectors. For example, in the tea sector, we had audit report produced at the farmers' expense. When you read the audit report on tea, it is startling. It makes a mockery of the whole thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while the tea farmer works very hard to contribute substantially to the Exchequer, he remains poor in this country. That report shows very clearly that people have stolen tea farmers' money without feeling ashamed. That theft has caused negative effects in the tea industry. It has caused farmers to lose hope. Therefore, we would like the relevant Ministry to ensure that the people who have stolen from the tea farmers are brought to book.

We have been talking about poverty eradication in this country since the Mbagathi forum that was held sometime last year. However, so far, very little has been done towards that end; we have achieved almost nothing in this direction. The argument that has rightly been advanced by the Government for having achieved nothing towards this end is that we have not been getting support from our development partners. We are not getting this support from our development partners because we have failed to live up to their expectations, in accordance with what we had agreed with them. In the past, we very often retracted on promises that we had reached at with our development partners; that retraction has caused Kenyans to suffer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of Kenyans, me included, are appealing to the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to, at this particular point in time, save Kenyans from this suffering. We want the funds released to the country. We hope that when the funds start flowing into the country again, the Government will ensure that they are used for the purposes they are intended. We can request the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure that they monitor the way the funds will be used.

As we talk now, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works has not distributed K£40 million meant for gravelling and grading of this country's rural roads. One wonders why the Ministry is holding this money. If the Ministry releases that money when the rainy season is on, it may not be of any use to most parts of this country. Is the Ministry keeping that money for another use? Are some officials in that Ministry KANU functionaries, who want to use that money for the campaign of the party? It is important to tell the Ministry in no uncertain terms that the funds must be released immediately for our roads to be improved.

One of the issues contained in the Presidential Address is the problem of the Human Immuno-Virus (HIV), which causes the Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The Anti-AIDS Programme was started under the Ministry of Health. We understand that the programme has now been transferred to the Office of the President (OP). What does the OP have to do with AIDS? Has the programme been moved there because every time this country gets funding for any programme, those funds have to be relayed to the OP? There must be somebody in the Ministry of Health, whom this Government fears that may misuse the funds. Could the Government remove that particular individual from that Ministry and ensure that the funds are retracted back to that Ministry for proper implementation of the project. I do not see how the OP is going to put into proper use, money that is meant for the AIDS awareness campaigns.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his Address, the President also talked of commitment by his Government to increase investments in the education and health sectors. Most of this country's primary schools do not have adequate teachers. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has stopped training teachers. Also, the Government has been talking of retrenching teachers. How are we going to have a society with children who cannot have access to people who can teach them? The Government should let the World Bank and the IMF know that this country needs teachers even as of now. The issue of the Government saying that it is being told to retrench teachers by the two Bretton Woods institutions should not arise because we are the shoe wearers, and we know where it pinches most. The Government must tell the two Bretton Woods institutions that this country does not have adequate teachers; that we cannot afford to retrench any of the teachers we have, and that we need to train more teachers, so as to meet the demand in our schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it appears that, of late, there is a rush in the privatisation of certain parastatals. On this particular issue, I would like to zero on Mumias and Chemilil Sugar Companies. There is a rush to privatise these two companies at a time when sugar-cane farmers are not prepared, economically, to take the factories over. Who are behind this rush to privatise these factories, and what do they want to achieve? It is a fact that certain people elsewhere are prepared to take over these factories at the expense of the poor sugar-cane farmers. As of now, I do not think that our farmers are, economically, prepared to take over Mumias and Chemilil Sugar Companies. Chemilil Sugar Company, which was doing very well a few years ago, is being run down. Farmers have complained, but nothing has been done about it. There is need for our farmers to be prepared, economically, so that they can take over those parastatals.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Poghiso: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to join my friends in supporting the Motion touching on the Presidential Address. I would also like to commend the Speaker for his very wonderful Communication from the Chair, as well as my colleagues who have contributed to the Motion, for their credible contributions. The hon. Members have raised important matters pertaining to their respective constituencies and the nation as a whole.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am able to focus on only a few areas, which I think have direct bearing on the people I represent in this House. When it comes to exposition of Government policy, the burden of proof lies with the Government, because it is Government policy that is being addressed. Also, this is time for us to look at what would be our wish-list of the things we would like done. I have nothing specific to say, as criticism, about the Presidential Address. However, I would like to say that every community has its own easy targets. Those are the targets that are discriminated against, or marginalised.

The people called the "Pokots", especially those whom I represent, feel that they are sometimes easy targets for marginalisation. I say that because of the very fact that these are people who are very easy to manage if we only planned for their time. Their needs are very obvious and very basic. Unlike many of my colleagues here who would like their constituencies to have tarmacked roads, electricity and universities, I will be very happy with a few boreholes and water dams, and murrum roads. For my constituents, my colleagues' desires are a long way from where we are

right now. In Government policies, there are predictables. The Kacheliba Constituency needs are very predictable. The Government plans year in, year out, but we do not see those kind of predictable needs being met.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I touch on poverty eradication or reduction, I do wish that we are doing this for the sake of generations to come, because as for now, poverty is here. We are handling famine right now in my constituency. I would like to say that those who are responsible for dealing or addressing famine in areas designated dry areas - and my constituency is one of them - should know that if you went there and threw a bag of maize and a few grains fell of, you would see several people coming to pick them up from the ground. Why would human beings do that, if they were not hungry? Why should we pretend that there is no hunger? Why would I claim that my people are hungry if they are not hungry? I come to question the validity of some of our famine relief programmes. Here is a population of about 70,000 people plus, who are hungry and my dear Government sends 3,000 bags of relief maize. You are not even giving a kilogramme of maize to each family per month, and surprisingly, I see District Commissioners (DCs) having pictures taken of people distributing relief food. You are giving a kilogramme of relief maize to a family per month! I would like to propose that Government policies, which deal with things that are very predictable, should really be meaningful to save lives.

I am not impressed by the way my friends in Turkana District got relief food from donor communities by simply displaying pictures of naked children in the main Press, and so, the media uses that to raise funds. I would like to inform this House that the other day in Wajir District, they tried to do that, and maybe, it was a wrong picture, but they did not get much as a result of that picture. But that was a naked boy who was being used to raise funds. The Pokot people have refused to use pictures of naked people to raise funds, and so, we do not get any support from anybody. I would like to say that we will not submit pictures of naked people to be used to raise funds to feed the Pokot people, but we will continue to press that the Government increases the amount of relief food given to West Pokot District to, at least, 10,000 bags per month.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to touch a little bit on the investment on education. If you went to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, you would find that they are having a problem. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has a problem in sending teachers not only to West Pokot District, but more so to Kacheliba Constituency. This is a hardship area and so nobody would like to send his or her teachers there. I would like to propose that in Government policy, when it comes to sending teachers out to some of the schools that nobody, otherwise, wants to go, that we declare those posts vacate. There is a place called "Kasai" and another one called "Alale"--- The TSC should say that there are so many vacancies in Alale and Kasai and if you want to be employed as a teacher, you should apply for those posts there. You do not have to go to West Pokot District to teach, but if you like the job and there is a vacancy in West Pokot District, you will go and you will not run away from there the way teachers are running from that district right now. I think we should get things done that way. If you want to get out of that district, you simply resign and somebody is employed, but to send teachers to West Pokot District and then allow others to remain within the district headquarters because they would not like to go to the rural parts of this district---

On poverty eradication, the people whom I represent in Parliament are mostly pastoralists. I would like to see a Government policy that is geared towards improving the lives of those pastoralists. To improve the lives of pastoralists would mean to enable them to understand the science of the health of their livestock and their own welfare, or economy based on livestock. That means providing markets and health services for them and their livestock. There is a very great potential in livestock economy in this country that is not being exploited. I know that in the Speech of the President, something was mentioned about the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), but we have heard that before. We would like to see more of those abattoirs being established in areas within proximity of the people themselves.

I would also like to say that this fraternity of pastoralists should be encouraged to live in harmony and peace. Let them also understand the value of stopping or reducing conflicts among each other and the Government can come there with others who are interested in their welfare. To be branded cattle rustlers or as people who do not love peace is not correct. There are many people who live within cattle rustling societies who are not cattle rustlers. I would like the Government and other people to understand that and bring these people to a place where they will be willing to make peace. I have seen from the Press that there is so much insecurity in many places in this country, but let us target our co-existence and encourage unity among Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, once again, I thank you and support the Motion.

Mr. Wamalwa: I do thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to say a word or two on the President's Speech.

I will start by commending the President's Speech for its brevity, and it seems that of late these Speeches have been getting shorter and a bit more focused, maybe, a sign of a better speech writer at the moment. I would also like to say that the quality of delivery has also tended to improve a little, but what remains is the sincerity on the part of the Government to actually implement some of the issues that are raised in these Speeches. The previous speakers have analysed the President's Speech as falling into five major categories; the first one being poverty, water, health, security

and Constitution.

When you take the first four categories they all touch upon some vital areas of development and in some cases the very existence of this nation. I am afraid that if that was the state of the union's message from the President, I think the conclusion was that nothing really seems to have worked as expected and the country now finds itself in a pretty pass indeed. The President mentioned eradication of poverty. I think this is a major programme by the Government, and a programme, in my opinion, has been neglected for too long. When you look at the major economic institutions in this country, being an agricultural country, you find that all of them have collapsed. For example, the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) has collapsed and, therefore, daily farmers cannot deliver their milk efficiently and expect to be paid as promptly as they used to. The KMC, which the previous speaker mentioned collapsed, leave alone the Government declaration that it was going to open up a second abattoir called "Alale", which never even saw daylight.

Today the cattle farmers in this country, in fact, are left entirely on their own. They have no place where they can sell their cattle and so they sell them to the local butchers at throw-away prices. The category of cattle farmers in this country today cannot readily believe any promise made that the KMC is going to be opened. That promise has been made many times before and I do not think they will gladly welcome it. What remains now is for the Government to do something about it; re-open the KMC; revive the livestock marketing department; and see to it that the cattle farmers delivering their cattle to KMC are being paid for it.

In this country the level of rural poverty hangs around the 50 percent line. Various studies have shown that people who do not earn the minimum of Kshs978 per month for buying food and non-food items live below the absolute poverty line. About two-thirds of people in this country today live below the absolute poverty line covering mainly Eastern Province, North-Eastern Province, parts of Western Province and parts of Rift Valley Province. I think this is a grievous problem which the Government must address seriously with well worked out programmes and not just give fine speeches about poverty eradication with no concrete plan to tackle the problem.

According to various studies, urban poverty affects those who do not earn more than Kshs1,490 per month and you can see it everywhere in this city. Most people are unemployed and even those who are employed are hardly making any amount of money enough to pay for their lodging and food. All you have to do is to move around Nairobi during lunch time in order to prove this. Those who cannot afford to buy themselves lunch have been forced now to take refuge at the various revivalist preachers sermons in City Hall and the various city parks, on the streets and so forth. They will look for food for their souls rather than food for their bodies because they cannot afford it.

On other results of poverty, studies have also shown that most children in Kenya today in the poverty stricken areas are becoming stunted. Twenty percent of all the children born are getting stunted; they are not growing in accordance with the formula for height for age. Their height is generally lower than it ought to be and we are going to end up with a lot of dwarfs in this country unless we improve our feeding programmes. It is not easy to just say you are going to get rid of poverty. To get rid of poverty, you will have to do a number of things. You will have to put in place proper economic programmes that have an effective trickle-down effect. For example, if a farmer cannot access fertilizers easily or at lower prices and fails to plant or farm, those who work for that farmer are not going to earn their usual wages. Therefore, they will not be able to buy food and clothes for their children, and to pay medical bills.

If farmers' institutions like the KFA were still supplying cheaper fertilizers to the farmers and marketing was easier, then the farmers would continue farming and those who depend on farming would continue getting their livelihood. I do not know what kind of magic the Government is going to use to revive all these collapsed farmers' institutions in order to bring some relief to the rural poor most of whom depend on farming. In fact, 70 percent of our population depends on farming. A farmer today is a hostage between profit seekers and ineffective Government programmes.

The next problem that faces this country is that one of water. More than 50 percent of the people have no access to piped water. In 1980 I was at the United Nations General Assembly when the late Minister Moses Mudavadi addressed us - he was then the Minister for Water - and said that Kenya would have supplied piped water to every household by the year 2000. Of course the year 2000 has come and gone and still more than 50 percent of the households in this country, particularly in the rural areas have no access to piped water. About 20 percent of the families have no access even to safe well water in this country. This is a problem that must be tackled wholeheartedly and with serious programmes.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

The third problem that I would like to address is that one of security. A country that has been independent for as long as Kenya has been and still faces problems of internal security must ask itself what has gone wrong. The security problem in this country is not caused by any foreign aggressor. It is simply caused by Kenyans themselves. We have told the Government many times that the A-K 47 route from the Great Lakes Region across Northern Kenya is the biggest threat to security in this country because every robber is armed with an A-K 47 rifle or a weapon which is more powerful than that one which the Kenyan policeman carries. Due to lack of security, cattle rustling has become a major menace to all cattle farmers particularly, in the North Rift Province. Probably what President Moi said that when cattle rustlers are apprehended they should be shot on sight may not really work that well. What needs to be done is to put in place some legislative action to deal with cattle rustlers. An apprehended cattle rustler ought to be punished by hanging because he is committing an economic crime.

Cattle are a very important item in our economy at the moment. They are similar to the position occupied by the horse in America, in the 18th century. Before the building of the railways and the airports horses were the most important means of transport. At that time in America all horse thieves were punished by hanging because a horse was an important economic animal upon which a lot depended in terms of development. I would like to stress that cattle rustlers ought to be punished by death as a final solution to that menace.

On the question of the Constitution, I believe that the people of Kenya are entitled to have a say in what kind of Constitution they get and for that reason I would support a process that involves as many people as possible giving their views.

With those few words, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Thank you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to make my sentiments on the speech presented by His Excellency the President on Government policy. I would like to commend the President for touching on the very crucial issues that affect this country as we are talking today. However, I would like to mention just two areas which I believe are very critical in as far as the issues raised by his Excellency the President are concerned. The President did mention something about the farming community. I think the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development now has no excuse whatsoever other than to move with speed and expedite the contents of the President's speech.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, farming communities are beginning to really doubt what the Ministry of Agriculture is doing for them in this country. I am yet to see the intervention made on behalf of the farmers by the Ministry. I cannot identify one single intervention, other than the Ministry paying lip-service most of the time, to what is supposed to do. Today, farming communities in this country have no access to credit facilities because the structures that supported farmers in this country have all collapsed. I am yet to hear a word from the Ministry of Agriculture on what they are planning to do, what they are doing and what they will ever do, to either revive those structures that help farming in this country, or provide facilities that will help farmers to feed this nation. Some three years ago, I remember very well, the Government wrote off debts amounting to Kshs6 billion in order to sell Kenya Airways. It is a pity that Kenya Airways now belongs to some local and foreign individuals. It is tragic that we, as a Government, subsidised for a few individuals to make profits. I wish these individuals were all Kenyans. Unfortunately, some of them are foreigners and they are making profits at Kenya Airways, from a company that was subsidised using tax payers' money. I am wondering what is wrong. If the Government wrote off all the loans owed to farmers to the infamous Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC)--- A quite reasonable majority of farmers have been hanged by the noose by AFC, on loans dating back to 30 or 40 years ago. We are talking of money that was borrowed, in the region of Kshs5,000 to Kshs10,000, but it has now accumulated into thousands and millions of shillings. The scenario today is that farmers have become hostages of AFC. Yet, some time in 1994, Government decided to write off all loans owed to farmers by AFC. But to-date, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which is supposed to be the mouth-piece of the Kenyan farmers in this country, has not done anything to make sure that those loans, as agreed by the Government, are written off. I think, compared to the so much money put into the sale of Kenya Airways, the Government will do a great service to this country, if the same facility was extended to farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) owes Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) money to the tune of Kshs800 million. If we compare Kshs800 million to Kshs6 billion is peanuts. That is the money we are requesting the Government to write off, so that KCC can once again, be on its feet. I think, it is time we became serious in this country about what we want to do. It is impossible to discuss about poverty eradication in this country, without addressing issues affecting farmers because most industries are agro-based. Most of us know that our economy is agro-based. We are told that about 40 per cent of the GDP comes from agriculture. Therefore, I do not know how else it is possible to discuss poverty alleviation without discussing agriculture. These are issues that are known. Today, Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) is languishing in debts, because we have failed to write off Kshs900 million owed to KFA by the Government. It is the right time, if we are serious about addressing poverty situation in this country, we addressed agriculture. Even the looming and the actual situation we are in today of

famine, cannot be explained in any other way other than the fact that Kenyan farmers have been put into a corner that they can no longer produce food. And for some strange reasons, somehow, we manage to get donors to help us buy food. I hope, we can change such a policy, so that we ask donors to give us money to give it to farmers, so that they can produce enough food for our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second area that I want to talk about is the Constitution. We have a serious leadership situation in this issue of the Constitution. This is because those of us, in this august House, who have been given the mandate by the people of this Republic--- It is tragic that leaders who have been given mandate by the people of the Republic of Kenya, instead of leading from the front, they have gone to the rear, sat there and allocated the mandate to other people who have no mandate from anybody. I think, it is better we call a spade a spade.

We need in this country, a people-driven Constitution, but this House must provide the leadership in the exercise. It is the only way we can move forward in the Constitutional Review Process. I think, our colleagues, who have been entrusted with the leadership of church, a very sacred and noble duty by God and for some strange reasons, they have stopped to believe in power of prayer. Instead, they have chosen to assist God in trying to fix the Constitution of this country. Since we want every Kenyan to be involved in the making of the Constitution, I think, the right thing for them to do and whatever views they will collect--- I believe the Constitutional Review Process will be led from this House. Through the Parliamentary Select Committee that has already been put in place, it is the only right machinery for us to move forward in the making of the Constitution. We, the leaders of this country, given the mandate by Kenyans to lead this country, should not, whatever the cost, give that mandate to anybody. This is because that mandate is not transferable.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the proceedings of this House at the dawn of this millennium. I would like to oppose this Motion. I do not think we should be thanking the President for his speech. If I were in his position, I would have made a much better speech than this one.

Hon. Members: That is why you are not in his position!

Mr. Angwenyi: That is why you are not there!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Speech was full of hypocrisy, mere platitudes and half-truths. There is nothing in it which a first year university student cannot write. I notice in the Presidential Speech that the President said we should not politicise poverty.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. I.K. Ruto): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope you will not allow this sycophant to speak.

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. I.K. Ruto): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the hon. Member to refer to the Presidential Speech, as if it is an essay? The Presidential Speech is a statement of policy, which is very clear and it is different---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! There is no point of order there. Proceed, Mr. Murungi.

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member does not know what an essay is. We have to politicise poverty, because as we are talking today, the flag of this country should be flying at half-mast, because all Kenyans, all the way from Mandera to Kajiado or from Mombasa to Kisumu are in a state of mourning.

There is so much suffering in this country and our people are dying every day and you can see the tragedy in the two buses yesterday in Kericho, which was caused by a pothole. Over one hundred people died. It is not enough to merely send condolences. The state of that road should have been looked at and if we are serious, an engineer should be working there today.

Last Sunday, we were highly privileged with--- I can see hon. Suleiman Kamolleh over there, with whom we paid a visit to the former Head of State of Botswana, Mr. Kentumile Masire, in his farm. He took us around to see his cabbages and ostrich farm and after that, we had tea with him in his house.

Mr. J.N. Nyagah: Including Mr. Kamolleh!

Mr. Murungi: Yes, Mr. Kamolleh was there.

(Laughter)

We asked the former President: "Why did you decide to leave this great job?" He told us: "You know every human being has internal limits and even soccer players, great stars like Kitele, Maradona and boxers like Mohammed Ali reach a limit when they have to hung up and go home." He told us that he left that job, because he had reached that limit. Now, the man was very happy and relaxed and, in fact, I envied him. We are lacking in this country people with that sense; that every human being has a limit. I think the mess we are seeing in this country is because President Moi has reached that internal limit.

Mr. Obwocha: And he is not seeing it!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, however, much we clap for him and however much we do, he cannot perform better than he is doing.

(Laughter)

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member, however, nice and clear he has put his case, to say that President Moi has reached his limit? Is he a doctor to know that limit, or how will he know the limit?

Mr. Obwocha: You are far above that!

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. One does not need to do a brain surgery, or whatever. You have the eyes to see what is happening. You have ears to hear what the man is saying. He has reached his limit. All this talk about how he is going to eradicate poverty and what-have-you---

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to continue inferring the state of infirmity on the Head of State? Could he [**The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications**] confine himself to the contributions that he wants to make and divorce the aspect of the President from that?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Yes, indeed, I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Government Business. Could you confine yourself to the Presidential Address?

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was teaching at the University, we used to refer to something called "academic menopause".

(Laughter)

Even in politics, there must be some "political menopause". However, much we try to deny it, it is there. So, if you just look at how our Government is run right now, you will find that we have two Governments in one. We have one progressive Government headed by Dr. Richard Leakey and his team and another backward Government led by Mr. Joseph Kamotho in the same Government and presided by President Moi. So long as we have these two contradictory forces operating in this country, we can never move forward and eradicate poverty. That is why in the constitutional reform, we are running like toads---

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know whether it is in order for hon. Murungi to make a false statement about the presence of two Governments in this country, while the people of the Republic of Kenya know its existence and they did vote for that only one Government. So, I think unless the hon. Member has facts to prove the small allegation that he made, he should be asked to withdraw.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to substantiate that. Only recently, a Permanent Secretary in Mr. Samoei's Ministry, Mr. Zackayo Cheruiyot, announced that we are going to phase away the post of assistant chiefs. Then, the other Government met at night and the following day they announced that the assistant chiefs would stay. What evidence do you need more than this?

(Laughter)

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. I.K. Ruto): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member continues to mislead the House. He has actually said, or wants to allude, that there are two Governments, and he is unable to substantiate. He is bringing in another issue that has completely no relevance to the earlier statement he has made. He has been challenged to prove whether it is in order for him to allege that there are two Governments. He talked of a Government led by Mr. Kamotho and another one led by Dr. Richard Leakey. Could he prove that?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. I.K. Ruto, what is your point of order? I did not get it.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. I.K. Ruto): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the hon. Member---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Sit down, Mr. I.K. Ruto.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Assistant Minister knows what I am talking about, because they are serving the same Government--- Is this Government facing insecurity? Then, another Assistant Minister in the same Government goes to obstruct the real Minister in that--- These are the two Governments that we are talking about.

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been talking too much about corruption in the country. We have been to a country where there is an official policy of zero-tolerance on corruption. The system is working. We drove around in Botswana and there was no single pothole in all those roads. Mr. Kamolleh is going to confirm that. In Botswana, you do not pay school fees in the first 12 years of primary school. There are no Harambees there for hon. Members to pay school fees and all that. It is paid by the Government, because resources are well managed. There are no Harambees for medical bills, because the hospitals in Botswana are free. Mr. Kamolleh will confirm that. We are saying that once we get out of this political menopause---

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

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Kamolleh, do you want to deny that?

Mr. Kamolleh: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I look at it---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Kamolleh!

Mr. Murungi: You are my witness. We want a Government which works. We are saying that the people of Kenya are living under an illusion that President Moi and his old team, which has been there for many years, is going to change things. They are not going to do that.

We are going to form a Government of national unity, with progressive people in KANU and the Opposition, and in the year 2003, we will change Kenya into a beautiful country.

Mr. Kamolleh: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa nafasi hii, ili nitoe maoni yangu kuhusu Mswada huu wa Hotuba ya Mtukufu Rais.

Nimeisoma hii Hotuba ya Rais leo na nikagundua kwamba, alizungumzia mambo muhimu, isipokuwa, ni lazima tufuatilie haya mambo yaliyozungumziwa katika Hotuba hii kwa vitendo. Ikiwa tutazungumza tu bila vitendo, hatutafaulu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, Hotuba hii imetaja umaskini, ukosefu wa maji, afya, usalama na Katiba. Kwanza, ikiwa tunataka kuondoa umaskini ni lazima tufuate muongozo fulani. Tutauondoa umaskini namna gani ikiwa hali ya kilimo imedidimia kabisa? Serikali ya KANU imejaribu kuuondoa umaskini huu, ingawa kumekuwa na *El Nino* na Wabunge wa Upinzani kuchochea nchi zenye pesa zisitupatie pesa. Tutawezaje kusambaza maji masafi ikiwa hatutapata misaada kutoka nchi nyingine ili tuweze kukuza kilimo na kuondoa umaskini? Maji ni muhimu sana, na hatuwezi kukuza na kuuza korosho, kahawa na kadhalika katika nchi za ng'ambo ikiwa hatuna maji. Ili kuweza kukuza na kuuza chakula katika nchi zingine, ni lazima ardhi iwe na rutuba na maji ya kutosha. Katika kilimo tunapata chakula, nguo na hata madawa. Kwa hivyo, ni lazima tuwape wakulima maji ya kutosha.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, vile mhe. Murungi alivyosema, tulikuwa safarini kule Botswana, na ingawa kuna jangwa la Kalahari kule, pesa zimetengwa ili kuhakikisha kwamba, maji ya kutosha yanapatikana. Lakini, hapa nchini Kenya, hatuwapi nafasi wakulima kuendeleza ukulima pasipo na vikwazo. Kwa mfano, tulikuwa tukiua majani chai, kahawa na korosho katika masoko ya nje, lakini hivi sasa, utaratibu huu umeharibiwa na mabaradhuli, hivi kwamba, hatuwezi kuendelea na mpango huo tena. Hivi sasa, hatuwezi kupata pesa za kigeni ambazo tulikuwa tukipata. Ningependa kusema kwamba, tunaweza kupunguza umaskini, lakini ni lazima tuwe na muongozo muafaka kuhusu maji, ili yaweze kupatikana katika Mkoa wa Mashariki Kaskazini, kule kwa Waturkana na kwengineko, ili wale wanaoishi kule, waweze kukuza mimea. Lakini, ikiwa hawana maji, watakuza mimea hiyo kwa njia gani?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ardhi na wananchi, ndiyo Jamhuri. Ni lazima tuwe na watu wenye nguvu ili waweze kukuza uchumi wa nchi. Kwa mfano, kule Kwale, kuna hospitali tatu ambazo zinatajikana kuwahudumia watu. Ukienda katika hospitali ya Wilaya ya Msambweni, huwezi kupata hata dawa ya Aspirin. Ni lazima uinunue dukani. Ikiwa mtu ni mgonjwa na hawezi kutibiwa na Serikali, ataweza kuondoa umaskini namna gani? Katika hospitali ya Kinango, hakuna vitanda. Watu wanalazimika kulala kwenye sakafu. Je, tutaletewa pesa kutoka mbinguni ili tuondoe umaskini? Ni lazima tufanye bidii ili kuendelea mbele. Afya nzuri huwawezesha watu kuzungumza na wengine nchini humu na kwengineko. Lakini, wakiwa wagonjwa, hawataweza kuenda hata mashambani. Ningependa

kusisitiza kwamba, ni lazima tuwe na muongozo maalum kufuatana na Hotuba hii, ili tuondoe umaskini. Kama nilivyosema, watu wakiwa wagonjwa, hawawezi kuenda mashambani.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, jambo la tatu ni usalama. Ninafurahi Waziri Msaidizi katika Ofisi ya Rais anayeshughulika na mambo ya usalama yuko hapa, ili asikie yale nitakayoyasema. Mwaka wa 1997, kulikuwa na vurugu kule Kwale ambayo ilitokana na mambo ambayo yalikuwa na muongozo usioeleweka. Hii ni kwa sababu, wenyeji wa kule Pwani, hawakuwa na mahali pa kufanyia kazi. Mashamba yao yalikuwa yamenyakuliwa, na hawangepata leseni ya kufanya biashara. Walijaribu kuzungumza na Serikali, lakini hawakusikilizwa. Na badala ya kutulia, walianza kuleta vurugu. Vurugu ile ilianza mwezi wa nane mwaka wa 1997, lakini ilipofika Machi 1998, kulikuwa na usalama, kwa sababu watu walikaa pamoja na kusikizana, na pia Serikali ikaongeza juhudi za kuleta usalama. Ni kwa nini Serikali yetu isipeleke walinda usalama wa kutosha kule Pokot Magharibi na kwengineko?

Ikiwa ni kweli Serikali inataka kuleta usalama, inafaa askari kutoka kila pembe ya Kenya waletwe hapa Nairobi ili wawanyang'anye wananchi bunduki. Hatutakuwa na usalama ikiwa tutazungumza tu, bila vitendo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nitamaliza kwa kusema kwamba, Katiba ya nchi hii, ni lazima iwe na muongozo wa kuzingatia haki ya kila mtu. Nikisema hivyo, sijui ni kwa nini watu wengine bado wanang'ang'ana ilhali sisi kama Wabunge tuliamua kwamba, kwa sababu tulikuwa tumefika mahali ambapo hatungeweza kukubaliana, ilitubidi tuchague kamati ambayo itaongoza. Ikiwa ile kamati italetaka hapa Mswada ambao hautaeleweka na watu wote, tutajadiliana. Ikiwa kuna yule hatafurahia matokeo ya kamati hiyo, atapewa nafasi ya kuzungumza hapa, wala siyo kule nje. Lakini, ikiwa kamati hiyo haitaletaka muongozo ambao hautakikani na wananchi, tutasikiza pia mawazo ya watu wengine---

Dr. Kituyi: Pole!

Mr. Kamolleh: Mimi ninazungumza hivyo kwa sababu hiyo ndio demokrasia na nina haki ya kutoa maoni yangu. Ikiwa nyinyi mna maoni yenu, mkae nayo!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Kamolleh, you should address the Chair!

Mr. Kamolleh: Pole sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ninaudhiwa na vinyangarika wawili au watatu hapa ndani ambao hawajanielewa bado. Mimi si mwanasiasa wa kuzungumziwa na vinyangarika kando kando. Kwa kuwa Katiba yetu sasa imefika mahali ambapo tunataka kuchukua mawazo kutoka kwa kila mtu---

Dr. Kituyi: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Wengine wetu ambao tumebahatika kuwa hapa kwa muda mrefu kidogo, tunajua heshima ya Bunge. Mwenzetu kama ameotea kidogo, tutasitahili jukumu letu la kumwelezea mwelekeo. Unakubali kwamba, mwenzetu ambaye anajaribu kujihuzisha na mambo ya Bunge na Standing Orders, ana haki kusema kwamba kuna vinyangarika katika Bunge hili?

Mr. Kamolleh: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninafikiria kuwa Mhe. Dr. Kituyi hajanielewa. Unajua hawa ni watu wa kutoka bara na hawajui Kiswahili---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Kuwa na nidhamu, Mhe. Kamolleh! Ni kweli ya kwamba umetumia neno "vinyangarika".

Mr. Kamolleh: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nilisema, "kama vinyangarika" lakini si kusema "vinyangarika".

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Kamolleh! Mr. Kamolleh, this is the National Assembly. You should listen to what the Chair is saying, that you used the word "vinyangarika" referring to those people who had spoken. Therefore, you should withdraw that remark and apologise to the House.

Mr. Kamolleh: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw and apologise, but I also want the hon. Members to understand that I said "kama vinyangarika".

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! You do not withdraw, apologise and put conditions. Your time is up!

Mr. Murathe: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to put a few things straight.

It appears that we are spending too much time dwelling on the past, rather than dealing with the challenges that face us here as hon. Members of Parliament. It is important for us all to understand what our role is, collectively here as hon. Members of Parliament, in the management of public resources and public affairs. It will be fair to say that it is the responsibility of the Government to manage the resources of the taxpayers, but it is also incumbent upon us to play our rightful role in ensuring that where the Government goes off the mark, we are here to put it back on track. The processes that have been continuing in this House, we should take a more active part in ensuring that this Government does not misuse public resources, and that it uses those resources for the purposes for which they were intended.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently in Ruaraka, we heard the Government say that it cannot use money specifically intended for certain projects, if some calamities arise, for example, insecurity. The future should be project specific. If you are given money for a specific project, you must use that money for that purpose. If then

another issue arises, you must look for ways and means of raising money to take care of that issue. I am talking about how we should be involved, as hon. Members of Parliament, in the budgetary process. His Excellency the President, talked about this in his Address when he said: "Let us have less politics and deal with the economic recovery programme".

For the last ten years, we have been having money in the books, but we have never seen in what use it has been put into. Even during the last two years that we have been here, we have voted money in the Development Vote and we are even running short of the Recurrent Expenditure. I am proposing that every Constituency should be allocated a certain amount of money, for example, Kshs100 million per year. We have 210 constituencies and this will work out to about Kshs20 billion. That will be slightly around ten per cent of our total estimates. At the Constituency level, you will be able to come up with your own priorities with your own people, and for five years, this will be about Kshs500 million. If after five years, you and your people will have nothing to show for this money, then clearly, you do not know what you are doing here. We want to see a new budgetary process put in place because the Government is crying that it is not able to manage this economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would want you to be given money for Mwingi South Constituency and we want to see what you can do with it. You and your people should sit down and agree on what is your priority. Is it the water programme or the roads in your area? You will have your own Constituency Development Committee, and then we will see how you can spend that money. Otherwise, we will talk about poverty forever and we will not be doing anything about alleviating it. Alleviating poverty is about creating jobs so that you can generate some incomes. Both local and foreign investments demand that you must attract those investments. You must be predictable, but the nature of the uncertainty in this country cannot allow anybody to take an investment decision. Everybody is shy at the moment because nobody is sure of what is likely to happen in this country. You cannot predict what will happen to this country, two to five years down the road. This is all because we are spending too much time focusing on the wrong things instead of dealing with the challenges of the future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these things about creating an enabling environment to do business and creating employment, I wish to support the Leader of the Opposition that this is about agriculture.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Nooru has come into the Chambers with his cap on. Is he in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Nooru, I think you will need to check on that. I am informed that it is alright. There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is a Muslim and he is allowed to enter the Chamber with his cap on.

I was talking about creating an enabling environment for the informal sector to do business. It is up to this Parliament to come up with institutional framework that will make it easy for people to access credit and for farmers to access farm inputs. That is how we will get our people in the rural areas to get involved in agriculture, improve and increase productivity. But they cannot do that unless our marketing structures of their produce will encourage them to engage in the agricultural production.

A lot has been said about foreign aid to this country. It is true that a lot of our locally- generated resources have been misused. We are in a quagmire and in a spiral of poverty because of our domestic debt. We are encouraged by the efforts of the dream team, or the parallel structure that hon. Kiraitu Murungi has talked about. We will not move forward without some form of budgetary relief. We can support that the Government be given budgetary support in order for us to retire some of our domestic debts and for interest rates to come down so that we will have access to cheap credit facilities. This will only be possible if we will have a commitment from this Government that it will not try and squander that money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the biggest issues that has been raised by the donor community is that we cannot even manage our own revenue, yet, we are some of the most highly taxed people in the world. Also, the issue of externalising the domestic debt has a lot to do with credibility. Until this Government can prove or demonstrate that it is now credible and that it will use that money that it will be given for the purposes for which it will be intended, it will be extremely difficult for people to put their money where their mouths are not.

Finally, I want to echo what the President said. We should forget about this constitutional review business. We should focus on the economic recovery programme because you can have the best Constitution in the land, but as long as that Constitution is not implemented to the letter, as long as that Constitution is not followed, then we shall just be wasting our time. We are convinced that there is no meaningful constitutional review that can be undertaken as long as this Government is in power.

In the meantime, we wish to encourage the religious sector, civic bodies and the other people to undertake civic education programmes over the next two to three years. Let the people of Kenya know what areas in the Constitution need to be addressed. With a new transition arrangement, when the next Government comes in, whether

it will be a coalition Government or whatever, it can put in place a Constitution which will serve all Kenyans. But we cannot trust that the intentions of this Government in the review process are noble. We are suspicious, just like the President said. The review process could be intended solely to extend the life of this system. We must be careful and tell our people that the priority at this time is to conduct civic education, and wait for the time frame within which the Government will be thrown out by the people of Kenya.

When we come here and talk about poverty, and accuse the Government for failing to eradicate it, we are also failing! We have a job to put things right with the Government. Where we see them going wrong, we must tell them: "Look, we cannot take this! This is where you are going wrong! This is the way to make it right!"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what we can say we have achieved in the two years that we have been here. I do not know what we can show for it. I do not know whether we are giving hope or despair to Kenyans. Kenyans are not despairing about that other side of the House! They are despairing because they sent all of us here to do something, to change their human economic conditions. I cannot say that we have done much in the time that we have been here.

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

QUORUM

Mr. Ndilinge: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is there a quorum in the House?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): No, we do not have a quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, hon. Members! Could you take your seats, please? We now have a quorum! Mr. Murathe had finished. It is now the turn of Mr. arap Leting to contribute to the Presidential Speech.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. arap Leting): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to add my voice to what has been said by the other Members.

First of all, I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for such a well-presented, well-thought out Speech, which was candid, to the point and a broad summary of what we intend to do in the next few years. It is not difficult to work out solutions for eradication of poverty because we begin by analysing which factors contribute to poverty. When we say somebody is so poor, then we should ask ourselves the question: "What makes him poor?" All of us know that one of the factors that contribute to poverty is inability to get food, water, good housing, education, good health services, *et cetera*. So, if I may spend a few minutes looking at that part of the Speech that talks about eradication of poverty, there are many factors that we have to look at if we are serious in eradicating this vice. One of them is insecurity. We have realised that insecurity contributes a lot to poverty. If we take the examples of the Turkana, Marakwet and Pokots, we will find that due to insecurity in these areas, people are not able to farm, look after their animals and go about their daily duties. Therefore, they are forced into refugee camps because of insecurity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another contributory factor to poverty is the issue of accessibility to every part of the country; that is, roads. Without roads, you cannot even manage to bring security to all the areas as required, especially in the less developed districts of Kenya. Other previous speakers have talked of water. Water is one of the factors that contribute to good life, and it is important that every one of us has access to it. Now, having access to water has got many approaches. One is through construction of dams in the fertile areas of the country, or digging boreholes in the semi-arid and arid areas. This is because once you have water, you can then grow food. Now, that the seasonal rains are becoming less and less every year, we should think of relying on irrigation so that we can grow food throughout the year. Therefore, this is why provision of water is one of the important factors if we have to eliminate poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another factor is access to land. Efforts should be made now on preparations to have areas which were hitherto unsettled, be settled, by providing water, roads and other forms of infrastructures. This is so that we can settle some poor people in some unsettled areas. The question is that some of these factors that we need to tackle before we eradicate poverty are already with us, and my main worry is, where are we going to get money? We are not getting enough money to do the few roads, provide water and security. It looks to me that the exercise of accessing to conditions or issues that bring about eradication of poverty will require a lot of money.

I know that in the Presidential Speech, the President talks about discussions that are going on between us and the World Bank. From my experience in the Civil Service, the World Bank is capable of giving out soft loans. However, we may spend about seven years discussing policies; another five years preparing to implement them, and another three years to start implementing them. So, we are talking of about ten years. So, it looks like unless we take some unusual steps to access financial resources, we may not achieve poverty eradication, but we might minimally reduce it. This is because if we are to provide water, roads and health services, then we need a lot of money. Now, we have a lot of incomplete projects because of lack of money. So, we have to be careful and really plan properly. This is because we are carrying forward into the eradication of poverty crusade deficits of facilities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that we will use the time we may have before we implement the eradication process by talking to all the financiers that we can have access to, including having our own savings. Obviously, we have to make sure that we contribute a lot by getting loans, savings, taxes and all that pertains to finances from ourselves. We have to get in touch with other organisations, like African Development Bank (ADB), the European Union (EU), the Arab Development Bank (ADB) and all other banks of our friendly nations. So, this exercise requires a lot of money and I am not sure whether it has been shown how the Government will intend to go about it. This is because, as the previous speakers have mentioned already, poverty is here with us and it has taken us 30 years to reach where we are in poverty and helplessness. It might take us another 30 years to come back to where we were. So, it is not an easy exercise, the way I see it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we already know that there are people who go without food. There are also many children who are out of schools because of lack of fees, and I had said that one of the signs of poverty is inaccessibility to education. There are also very many people who do not have access to medical care. I know we have introduced cost-sharing, which is actually not working satisfactorily, especially among the poor people. You cannot share costs with somebody who does not earn anything. You share costs with somebody who earns something. So, it looks as if access to health care will continue haunting us for a long time. Therefore, what we need is a strategy of how to get the resources. We can have very good written documents on poverty eradication but without access to financial resources, we will not go very far.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have another thing which has to be done, to help eradicate poverty. It has to do with what many hon. Members have mentioned in their contribution to this Motion. We have to concentrate on agricultural activities because our country is mainly an agricultural economy. What do we do to procure cheap farm inputs, and how do we help the farmers get cheap fuel? How do we help them get access to electricity so that Jua Kali activities can spread more widely in the whole country? All this requires planning; farm inputs, fuel, electricity and, hopefully, in the near future, we can introduce the idea of labour-intensive jobs; where, instead of using machines, we use manpower because we have many people who are unemployed. In the urban areas, of course, we need to strengthen the Jua Kali sector. All this requires a lot of money. So, the question is, what steps are we taking in order to secure financial resources to implement measures that will help us reduce poverty? To me, it is a mirage which cannot be achieved easily unless we do something.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to corruption, we can go nearer to saving a lot of resources if we can stop corruption completely. But the way things are going, it looks as if we are not moving fast enough to eradicate corruption. **The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Your time is up, hon. Leting! Mr. Kibicho!

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. arap Leting): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Kibicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have all agreed that for this country to eradicate poverty, agriculture, industry and tourism must grow. When we talk of agriculture, we do realise that the co-operative movement plays a very big role in agricultural production. About 40 per cent of our economy is in the hands of the co-operatives. But if this Government is serious, it should address itself to the co-operative movement in the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you remember that we passed the Co-operative Societies Act in this House. In it, we gave the co-operators more freedom than they had before. You will realise that, that freedom is likely to generate a lot of rivalry in the industry and in the management of those resources. The law of this country says: "If there is a dispute between two co-operative societies or members of a co-operative, you cannot take those matters to the High Court or any other court". That Act which I am referring to provides that there must be a tribunal. This tribunal has never been set up and as result, the co-operative movement in this country is in disarray. There is a lot of instability in the co-operative movement and it is this Government which has caused this! If the Government is serious in eradicating poverty, it must be serious about the policies it puts into place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we speak now, if you go to the Commissioner of Co-operatives, you will see that he has got over 500 disputes which cannot be sorted out. Why is it impossible for this Government to tell the Chief Justice, or whoever is concerned, to set up this tribunal? You will realise that because of bad leadership in co-

operatives, production has been hampered. It is only in areas where people have said, "we are not going to be cowed; we are going to be tough" like in Mwea or in Nyeri where we are seeing production going up. When people in Nyeri said, "we are not going to accept to be cowed", they took the bull by the horns and the production of coffee there has gone up by 28 per cent. When people in Mwea said, "we are not going to be taken for a ride," production of rice went up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if the production in agriculture was to go up, we are not going to increase the acreage under coffee by 1,000 per cent. We are not going to increase the acreage of tea, rice or sugar-cane, for that matter, by 100 per cent. It means, therefore, that, if this Government wants the standards of living of our people to change, then every district in this country must be accessible. The road between Isiolo and Moyale, at the border of Ethiopia must be tarmacked so that we may trade with the people in Southern Ethiopia in order for the camels and goats which are in North Eastern Province (NEP) to reach the market. But what are we seeing in this country?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go to NEP, there is a problem of water. Underground water can be reached by digging boreholes. We have all learnt that during the Second World War, when the British Government Army went to Asia, they were able to get water from underground within five hours. Why is this Government unable to get water from underground and make North Eastern and Eastern Provinces habitable in terms of availability of enough water; or Mwingi, Kitui and the rest of the dry areas of the country?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can talk of having a lot of good papers written by good professors, but those papers are not going to change the lives of our people. What is going to change the lives of our people is an increase in income. That increase in income cannot come unless production increases. Production cannot increase when you call people for a conference and you talk of tea, coffee, cotton *et cetera*. There is nothing new that we are being told! We know all these things! Why has the production of these crops declined? We read in His Excellency's Presidential Address, which we are now discussing, that the economic growth of this country has declined in the last few years. Why has it declined? It has declined because of mismanagement. Unless the issues of mismanagement are addressed, we are doing our people a lot of disservice. We will be debating here, and we will be debating in other fora without any tangible results.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot ignore our industrial sector. We opened up our markets without putting adequate machineries in place so that our industry could also grow. As a result of not putting adequate machineries in place, Kenya has been used as a dumping ground by other countries, and our industries are closing down. So, how are we going to eradicate poverty if our industries are closing down and if they are not able to increase their employment capacity, and if they are not able to increase employment opportunities? We cannot eradicate poverty if our industries cannot contribute to our national resources, and if they are not able to generate any income to the Treasury.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for some of the things we are reading in His Excellency's Presidential Address, if it were in other countries, the Government would not have been in power! It would have resigned because the economic situation in which we are in this country has come about because of corruption. Corruption and mismanagement of resources have been brought about by this Government! If it were in other countries, they would not be telling us what to do; they could have resigned! One hopes that this country will one day have men and women who are brave enough to say: "Now I have been unable to run this institution, let somebody else take this chance and run it."

Is it not pathetic that in 1963, when we got Independence, Nairobi was a secure place to live in than it is today? We are in Nairobi and we feel so insecure. Why has this come about? It has come about because of unemployment and bad governance. Unless these issues are addressed, we are doing our people no service at all.

So, having identified all these problems, where is the cure? The cure is in the constitutional order, where Kenyans can be involved in discussing what they want in this country. The problems we are facing have come about because of weaknesses in our institutions of governance. These institutions can only be strengthened in a new constitutional order. That constitutional order cannot come from this House. It must come from Kenyans because the House has been seeking, since 1963, the leadership which it is supposed to provide. The people at the grassroots must be given a chance to say what has gone wrong and suggest remedies. We agree that whatever will be agreed upon outside there must come back to the House. But the initial stages of the new Constitution must be discussed by Kenyans. It does not augur well for us to come here, pass an Act of Parliament which agrees on the mode of changing the Constitution, but later on, we change our minds and set up a Select Committee which is inferior to what we passed in that Act. This Committee cannot come up with any solution whatsoever. We should be honest even to ourselves. Kenyans are wiser than that! They know that you are cheating them because they know what they want. For this country to move forward, kenyan must be given a chance to decide what type of Government they want, and they must be given a chance to criticise and say where we went wrong.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that in this country, the Minister for Education comes up

with a circular stating the amount of school fees which should be paid by parents in secondary schools and, at the same time, encourages principals of secondary schools to increase school fees.

Thank you.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Keah): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I want to thank His Excellency the President for the very excellent piece of expose of public policy in which he did give the direction and guidance of the state of the nation and, indeed, his thoughts on the way forward.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this statement by His Excellency the President is loaded with all the good things that affect this country. He made a very excellent summary of the economy, and the things that we need to do in order to bring about prosperity, which we are looking for in this country. I therefore look forward to all the Ministries that are charged with the responsibility of spearheading development to come up with an implementation plan, and an implementation programme so that we can achieve what the Head of State stated in his Speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to delve into issues related to poverty alleviation, employment, the Constitution, as well as other things, because all these are enveloped into the issue of poverty alleviation. Poverty is with us today and has been with us and will continue to be with us, but we must make every effort to ensure that we have done all the possible things to overcome this very big malaise of poverty. In tackling the issue of poverty, we need to look at the factors that contribute to poverty. For us to overcome poverty, we must do certain necessary basic things. At the moment, everyone talks about the economy and how to resuscitate it to enable us to move forward. We must go back to the basics and make all the necessary provisions in order to overcome the aspects of poverty which we are talking about. Simply put, we are talking about the availability of the basic necessities of life. We are talking about water, infrastructure, education and health. Those are among the issues that we have to address effectively. A colleague here talked about providing water to the nation by the year 2000; we are there and I am afraid that we will not achieve this objective, but Waswahili husema: "*Kuteleza au kuanguka, ni lazima usimame.*" So we have to look at that programme again. What can we do in order to make sure that we have made water available to all the homes? This is really the homework, and it is up to the Ministry of Water Development to come up with the programme. We need to get hold of all that water that is running into Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean, and make sure that it is effectively utilised. We have been talking about dams but we do not seem to be having a programme to construct all the dams that are necessary to capture the water so that during drought seasons, we have plenty of water, not only for human consumption and livestock but also for the production of foodstuffs. We can also do irrigation. I therefore call upon the Ministry of Water Development to ensure that they come up with a programme. This is the time for the Budget to be processed, and it is time to make sure that we have adequate programmes. In my constituency, there are schools and hospitals that do not have running water. I call upon the Ministry to look into that aspect.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got the Roads 2000 Programme and we need to have reports from time to time on how that Fuel Levy Fund is being utilised. I look forward to receiving, even on a quarterly basis, information relating to the collection and usage of the Fuel Levy Fund.

I know we have been looking into the issue of tarmacking roads, especially trunk roads; let us also look at the rural infrastructure. To me, that is where poverty hits most. Let us look into ways and means of connecting village markets with permanent roads, so that wananchi can take their agricultural produce to those village markets for sale. We have a lot of bananas, pineapples and mangoes rotting, particularly in Coast Province, because of lack of feeder roads to take these produce to the market. We would like to see much more accountability in these areas for the limited resources that are available.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on education, we really need to go out of our way. I have done Harambees over the last 12 years; I am still doing Harambees and the school buildings are still not complete. In my constituency, we are not endowed with coffee or tea, or with such other produce. We need the Government to come in and, indeed, make provision for the construction and making of some of those facilities available. Until we have all the children schooling in more or less the same type of school infrastructure, we are going to talk about poverty alleviation until doomsday, and we will not eradicate it. I would like to see a programme where school buildings are improved.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to also talk about some elements of the budgetary income redistribution on a much more equitable basis throughout the Republic. I would like to see more funds made available to the DDCs, so that the people at the grassroots can manage whatever little resources are available, like we have done with local authorities. I know they can do that better than when the administration of those resources is done from the headquarters. I am, therefore, encouraged to see a statement in His Excellency the President's Speech which reads: "The days of central Government domination of all sectors of national life are behind us." I truly look forward to the implementation of this particular statement because it is really most pertinent that the central Government does not dominate all the sectors of national life. They do not know what roads I require; what water I need, and what schools I need. We do not want them to dominate; we would like whatever resources are

available in Kaloleni to be managed by people of the area.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to see some of the revenue emanating from Coast Province or from Kaloleni Constituency remain behind there, so that we can also do some of the things that will never see the pen of that central Government planner.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the Constitution, I agree it must be people-driven, but the legal process must be done here. We cannot abrogate our responsibility as Members of Parliament. It is, therefore, a pity, in my view, to see some of us joining hands with people who do not have the mandate.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute on this Motion on His Excellency the President's Speech. To some of us, the Presidential Speech was quite boring and we ended up dozing. It has become a public relations exercise. Poverty alleviation has become a public relations exercise being played by the Government. They are running everywhere in the country, spending millions of shillings, just to go and preach about poverty alleviation. You would find that when His Excellency the President goes to a place like Mombasa, they are spending more than Kshs5 million or Kshs10 million with his sycophants there. Even the people of Mombasa need the Kshs10 million to alleviate their poverty, but they go there to play public relations and then come back. It is really absurd. When we are saying that we want to alleviate poverty, and yet we have created tribal districts by increasing the number of civil servants. What was the need of creating a district like Teso with one Member of Parliament, one District Commissioner and one District Officer? What was the use of creating Mt. Elgon District with one Member of Parliament and they are neighbouring? A constituency is a district with one District Commissioner, one District Officer and one magistrate. What are we doing? We are playing public relations; that, we want to alleviate poverty when we are increasing it. This is a public relations exercise. Why Kenyans have gone too much into tribalism is because of these tribal districts that are created. For example, in Busia District, we never knew that Tesos were not Luhya, but, now, Tesos are identifying themselves as Tesos. But when we were together, we used to live as brothers and sisters. We also used to inter-marry and we could even buy land in those places. But now, if you go there and you are identified as a Luhya, you can easily be chased away. Let the Government not play public relations; that, it is going to alleviate poverty when it is not doing what is required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, chiefs do not have work. They would only have had work if the assistants chiefs would have been sacked.

Right now, chiefs are only sitting in their offices because all the work is being done by the assistant chiefs. By doing away with the assistant chiefs, chiefs would have taken over their responsibilities and, at least, we would have reduced the number of civil servants. But when the chief advisers of the Government sit in the Cabinet, including Ministers, and work on a Cabinet Paper, the President must be aware. People are called to a seminar at Mbagathi, including all the Provincial Commissioners and District Commissioners, and millions are spent there to tell them how they are going to preach about poverty alleviation. They say that by July, assistant chiefs must go. But another fellow, the President, goes to Mombasa also to play public relations and he says that assistant chiefs must remain. Where are we heading to? Why do we have this conflict in the same Government?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Ms. Wamwachai): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Can I be told how many presidents we have in this country because he says another President goes to Mombasa?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): What is your point of order, Madam?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Ms. Wamwachai): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Is that a point of order or a point of information?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Ms. Wamwachai): Can he tell us how many presidents we have in this country because he says---?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! What is your point of order?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Ms. Wamwachai): Is it in order for him to say there are more than one President in this country?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Lady member of parliament was, maybe, dozing a bit; so, I do not have much time to waste!

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to alleviate poverty. On electricity, Kenyans are suffering and they want electricity.

An electricity pole may be only 50 meters away from your house, or shop, but if you request the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) to supply you with the same commodity, it becomes a business of waiting. Somebody applied for electricity to be installed into his business premises and he was asked to pay Kshs500,000. The Ministry of Energy is in business. Why can Kenyans not be supplied with electricity countrywide and be asked to pay for the electric power units they use instead of forcing them to pay for what they have not used? In this case, the KPC is telling the people to buy the transformers. We would like to be told of the shop where transformers are sold is located, so that we can also bargain for their purchase. People are not given a chance to bargain for that transformer; they are only told to cough certain amounts of money, so that a transformer can be installed. We should be shown the shops where transformers are sold, so that there can be competition, and so that the prices of the transformers can be reduced to enable Kenyans get electricity.

The people of Uganda started re-building that country recently after experiencing long protracted civil wars. However, that country is now able to educate its children right from the nursery to the university levels of education. The Government of Uganda also sponsors students when such students get scholarships. What is happening in this country? We claim that Kenya is a sovereign State, yet the country cannot provide education to its people. More Kenyans are illiterate today than in 1978. Things are worsening, and Kenyans are getting tired of talking about the same things over and over again. We have talked about these problems day in, day out, before, but nobody seems to have heard us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans, including myself, are complaining of insecurity countrywide when some *askaris* within Parliament Buildings take care of a corpse round the clock. I, recently lost my driver due to lack of security. I have requested the Government to provide me with security without success. We who are alive are the ones who are now contributing to the development of this country. We appreciate what the late Mzee Kenyatta did for this country. However, he should now be left alone in his grave, so that the *askaris* who guard his body can be assigned to hon. Members instead of sitting there, looking after a corpse, which no longer benefits Kenyans. Once one dies, he should be forgotten so that we can continue building this nation. All of us here, at one time or another, we lost our beloved ones, but we do provide watchmen to guard their graves.

Time is now ripe for hon. Members to be assigned security officers rather than misuse security officers. You find that a constituency has three administrative divisions. Each of these divisions is administered by a District Officer (DO), who has 20 *askaris*. Why should the only Member of Parliament in that constituency not be provided with one armed *askari*, with whom to move around? Kenyans are also suffering. Their properties are not being guarded. *Askaris* do not move at night to provide the much needed security for Kenyans. Therefore, the Government should go out to the field to provide security for Kenyans. We will vote for that money in this House, if money is the problem. We know that most of our money is just being "eaten" by some individuals. Kenyans must now be realistic; they should realise that any Government that cannot provide security, medical care, food and education to them is not worthy of being in power.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans are getting tired of these problems. We should not wait for Kenyans to opt to go the Ugandan way. Kenyans might believe that we should have war in order to have peace afterwards. We cannot have peace in an environment where people are suffering from hunger; a hungry man is an angry man.

With those remarks, I support.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Ahsante, Bw. Naibu wa Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii ili nitoe mchango wangu juu ya Hotuba ya Rais.

Bw. Naibu wa Spika wa Muda, Kenya ni nchi tajiri sana, lakini iko na hila zake, moja wapo ikiwa ukosefu wa usalama wa kutosha. Wafanyibiashara wa kigeni hawawezi kuja kufanya biashara kama nchi hii haitakuwa na usalama. Usalama katika nchi hii utapatikana kutakapokuweco na upendo miongoni mwa Wabunge katika Bunge hili. Ni lazima pia upendo huo uelekezwe nje ya Bunge hili. Iwapo tutahubiri upendo miongoni mwa waheshimiwa Wabunge ndani ya Bunge hili, lakini tuzungumze mambo mengine nje ya Bunge hili, basi haina haja ya kuhubiri upendo ndani ya Bunge hili. Ninaposema hivyo, ninazungumza juu ya muungano wa Wabunge wa Pwani. Tumeambiwa ya kwamba tusikubali siasa za vyama zituziue kutekeleza wajibu wetu kama Wabunge katika Bunge hili. Lakini kule nje, tunaambiwa: "Msipendane nyinyi Wabunge wa Pwani". Ningependa kusema ya kwamba Wabunge wa Pwani ni kitu kimoja, na kwamba tutapendana miaka nenda, miaka rudi; huo ndio ujumbe ambao ningependa uwafikie wale waliosema ya kwamba Wabunge wa Pwani tusipendane. Ni lazima Wabunge wawe na usalama katika nchi hii. Hivi nisemavyo, wenzetu wawili wako hospitalini; waliumizwa kwa sababu hawakuwa na usalama. Sisi tulio watunga sheria, hatuna usalama. Je, ni nani aliye muhimu zaidi kati ya maafisa wa utawala na Wabunge? Afisa wa utawala hulindwa na askari wawili nyumbani mwao, na kila anapowenda ziara. Sisi, kama watunga sheria za nchi hii,

tunahitaji usalama. Ili kupunguza umaskini katika nchi hii, inafaa kuwe na usalama wa kutosha; wafanyibiashara wa kigeni watakuja kufanya biashara katika nchi hii kukiwepo na usalama wa kutosha.

Bw. Naibu wa Spika wa Muda, nchi hii imelaaniwa. Viongozi wa leo hawawathamini wale waliopigania Uhuru wa nchi hii. Leo tunasherehekea kuwa huru, lakini maslahi ya jamii ya wale waliopigania Uhuru wa nchi hii hayaangaliwi kamwe. Wale wapiganiaji Uhuru ambao bado wangali hai maslahi yao hayaangaliwi kabisa. Kutowajali mashujaa hao kumeifanya nchi hii kuwa na laana. Wale mashujaa ambao hawako hai, wanaona tunavyoipeleka nchi hii. Kama alivyosema mwenzangu aliyenitangulia, mwili wa mtu aliyekufa zamani unapatiwa usalama. Je, anayefaa kupewa usalama ni yule aliye hai, ama ni yule aliyekufa?

Serikali ya nchi hii, kila ikiambiwa ukweli juu ya maswala muhimu ya kijamii na kadhalika, huunda tume za chunguzi. Miaka nenda, miaka rudi, tumezimeundwa, lakini hakuna hata moja ambayo taarifa yake imetolewa kwa umma, ili wananchi wapate kujua kilichokuwa kikiendelea. Tume inapoundwa kuchunguza maswala fulani, ni lazima tume hiyo itoe taarifa, kwa sababu pesa ambazo hutumiwa na tume hiyo katika shughuli zake ni za umma. Kwa hivyo, mwananchi yuko na haki ya kujua matokeo ya chunguzi wa tume hiyo. Taarifa ya ile tume iliyoundwa kuchunguza madai ya kwamba kulikuwa na watu ambao walikuwa wakiabudu shetani humu nchini ilitolewa kwa umma tu baada ya Swali kuihusu kuulizwa katika Bunge hili. Je, wale waliozua kutolewa kwa ripoti ile kwa umma, walifanya vile ili waweze kufanya yale yaliyotajwa katika ripoti ile? We believe that, that was the reason for withholding that report. The fact that the report was withheld from the public means that those who withheld it wanted to practice whatever was said therein; they wanted to worship the devil. Tumelaaniwa!

Ni jukumu la Serikali kuhakikisha ya kwamba mambo tunayosema hapa yametekelezwa. Akina mama kule mashambani huambiwa ya kwamba Wabunge wa Upinzani hawataki Serikali ipatiwe misaada. Inafaa Serikali iwaambie Wakenya ukweli. Nchi hii haipewi misaada; nchi hii hupewa mikopo.

Kusema kwamba tunapewa misaada si kweli. Ningependa kusema kwamba huu si msaada bali ni mkopo ambao tutalipa kutokana na ushuru utakaotozwa vitu ambavyo tunavinunua madukani; kwa mfano, tunaponunua magari tunalipa kodi ya VAT. Kwa hivyo, ni lazima Serikali ieleze wananchi ili wajue ni jambo gani linaloendelea, na ni jambo gani linalotarajiwa. Ningependa kusema kwamba kumekuwa na mchezo wa paka na panya katika mashirika haya. Wananchi wa Kenya ni wazuri kwa kuandika mambo ya kuweza kubadilisha mawazo ya wale ambao wanataka kutupatia mkopo. Utasikia Serikali ikisema kwamba yale mashirika ambayo yanataka kutupatia mikopo yametupa masharti ambayo hatuwezi kuyatimiza. Ningependa kusema kwamba mashirika hayo hayaandiki masharti ambayo tunatakiwa kuyatimiza. Ni wale wafanyakazi wa Serikali ambao wanaandika masharti hayo, na wanaulizwa na mashirika hayo kama wataweza kuyatimiza. Moja ya masharti hayo ni kupunguza idadi ya machifu. Sio World Bank au International Monetary Fund (IMF) ambayo zilitoa sharti hilo, bali ni wafanyakazi wa Serikali. Ni aibu kuwa Serikali imeshindwa kutekeleza sharti hilo. Kwa hivyo, ni lazima Serikali ijitokeze na iseme ukweli wa mambo kama yalivyo. Tunapozungumza juu ya mambo ya kupunguza umaskini, ni lazima kwa wale watu ambao wanasamehewa mikopo katika mabanki na mahali kwingine, kama shirika la Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), Serikali ifutilie mbali mikopo hiyo ili wakulima wetu wafanye upya ukulima wao. Haifai kufutilia mbali deni la mtu binafsi na kuwaacha wananchi waliopata mikopo katika ranches wakiumia huko Taita-Taveta au Mkoa wa Pwani, kwa jumla. Mikopo hii ni kiwango cha Kshs800 milioni, ambazo ni pesa kidogo sana kwa Serikali.

Sijui tunatoka wapi na tunaelekea wapi. Mimi nikishikwa na kupelekwa kortini, kesi yangu itaisha baada ya wiki moja, lakini utaona kwamba kesi ya Goldenberg imechukuwa miaka mingi kortini. Kesi hii ilianza kabla ya mtoto wangu ambaye yuko katika kidato cha kwanza kuzaliwa, na bado haijaisha. Kama ingekuwa ni kesi inayonihusu, ingekuwa imeisha. Tunaelekea wapi?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tunaambiwa tudumishe usalama katika mkoa wa Pwani. Sisi watu wa mkoa wa Pwani tumechoka kudumisha usalama, kwa sababu hakuna mtu yeyote wa Mkoa huo ambaye yuko na hoteli huko. Hata kama hakuna usalama katika Mkoa huo, hakuna kitu sisi watu wa Pwani tutapoteza. Hii ni kwa sababu tumenyanyaswa kwa sababu ya ukarimu wetu. Ninadhani tumeamka sasa. Ni heri wale watu ambao wanakaa huko waelewe kwamba tumeerevuka. Mzee Kenyatta alisema kwamba: "Nyinyi mnachukua ardhi ya watu, na siku ile wataamka, muwe tayari kuhama." Mimi ninasema hivyo kama Mbunge kutoka Mkoa wa Pwani, na ninawatetea watu wa Mkoa huo.

(Col. Kiluta laughed)

Achekaye mwisho hucheka sana! Tunacheka sasa!

Tunazungumzia juu ya ufisadi. Juzi, maofisa wa polisi wanne wa kuangalia mambo ya wizi barabarani katika Voi walikamatwa kwa sababu ya kuruhusu vitu vya magendo kupita barabara hiyo. Maofisa hao walipewa nidhamu na baada ya wiki mbili walipelekwa katika Mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki. Jambo hili linashangaza sana kwa sababu ikiwa waliruhusu vitu vya magendo kuingizwa katika Mkoa wa Pwani na kisha wakapelekwa mpakani, ambapo silaha

zinapitia, si ni kuwamaliza wananchi wetu? Kwa nini hawakufutwa kazi? Tunaelekea wapi? Mkoa wa Pwani umekuwa ni lango kubwa la kupitishia bidhaa za magendo. Sijui ni kwa nini mnataka kutumaliza sisi watu wa Mkoa huo. Shehena moja ambayo ilikuwa na silaha ilimaliza mwaka mmoja katika Bandari ya Mombasa. Hizi silaha zilikuwa ni za kumaliza watu wa Mkoa wa Pwani. Mambo yalipochipuka juzi, Kamishena wa Polisi alisema kwamba silaha hizo zilikuwa zake. Je, akili ya huyo Kamishena iko timamu, ikiwa silaha zinaletwa nchini na hajui kwa muda wa mwaka mmoja? Kwa nini tuwalenge watu wa Mkoa wa Pwani? Tunasema jambo hilo halitawezekana.

Tunazungumza juu ya uchumi wetu. Wakati Serikali yetu iliporuhusu soko huru, hatukuwa na vipengele katika sheria zetu vya kuzuia mambo mengine yasifanyike. Kwa mfano, Nandos Restaurant ni ya Afrika Kusini. Hao watu wanaleta bidhaa kutoka Afrika Kusini kama nyama, mayai na kuku, na hali wakulima wetu wako hapa. Hakuna kipengele cha kuzuia mkulima wetu kunyanyaswa, na hali huku tunazungumzia jinsi ya kumaliza umaskini katika nchi hii! Tunazungumzia nini? Je, akili zetu ziko sawa, kama wafanyakazi wa Serikali ya Kenya? Sisi tuko sawa? Ninazungumza hivyo kwa sababu tunataka tuone uchumi wa nchi hii uimarike ili katika karne hii, watoto wetu wawe na matumaini na wajue kwamba wazazi wao, na hasa Wabunge wa Bunge hili, walikuwa ni watu wa mwelekeo na kuona mbele.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono Hoja hii.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Chanzu): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion on the Presidential Address on Tuesday, 28th March, 2000. I would like to pay tribute to the Speech because the basic and underlying issues affecting our economy were all brought up in that Speech. What we need to do as hon. Members of this House and leaders in this country is to articulate what was contained in the Speech so that the general public can be in a position to collectively support and assist in implementation of what was outlined.

Many hon. Members here have contributed and talked about the constitutional review process. I feel that there is some kind of contradiction. What I believe, and what I know has been going on with the Select Committee that has been working on the constitutional issue, is that it has been correcting what was flawed in the Act to facilitate the review process to take place. I do not think that the hon. Members who have been in the Select Committee have been doing a constitutional review. In fact, they have just been trying to look into the flaws in the Act so that it can facilitate and pave the way for the review process to take place. I believe that what the Ufangamano Group is trying to do is jumping the queue. This is because time will come when everybody's view will be sought. I would, therefore, appeal that they be patient and give time so that Parliament can go through the correction in the Act, to pave way for the review process to take place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other item that came up, and which I think we also need to address, is that of resources in this country. I think it is very important that we look at items like equitable distribution of the Fuel Levy Fund so that these resources can get down to where they are required. The money that we derive from the Fuel Levy Fund is quite substantial. I think it is quite enough or more than enough to ensure that our infrastructure is in place.

As much as I commend this House for passing the Roads Bill, I would also like to urge that the implementation be done up to the district and constituency levels. For us to address the issue of poverty eradication, we must be able to address the issue of infrastructure. Even if we had farm produce and we do not have proper infrastructure, we cannot transport such products to the market. So, we have to address infrastructure.

There are many areas in this country which require water to develop. The only way we can feed the nation, service our institutions and so on, is by provision of services like water. The relevant Government departments must take heed of this, so that we can render services to the people. We are in an era where we are talking about industrialisation and if we have to achieve this, there are quite a number of items we have to address. These include issues like rural electrification. We must have adequate resources to be able to serve the entire country with electricity. This will then facilitate the Jua Kali sector and reactivate some of the sectors which have since become dormant. This must be done equitably and not in a scattered manner. With all these, we should be able to develop self-sufficiency and to sustain ourselves. This is so that we do not keep thinking all the time of relying on external assistance. In the past few years, this external assistance has not been forthcoming and we have been able to sustain ourselves.

We should work together and concertedly in a way which will ensure that we develop self-sufficiency and sustain ourselves as an economy. The other aspect that we require in order to forge ahead is a review of what is going on in the agricultural sector. We have had a number of Bills passed here, like the one for the tea sector, *et cetera*. Time and again, you will find that there are problems in the sugar sector. For example, there is importation of sugar when we have got a lot of capacity to produce sugar for export. These are some of the areas that should be addressed if we have to sustain ourselves. The coffee issue has been addressed many times and I do not want to repeat that. We had a lot of problems last year concerning the rice issue, but I think it has been addressed. The tea sector has also been addressed. The farmers have been paid peanuts because of corruption at the head office. I hope the relevant Ministry is addressing

this because it is a very serious disincentive for the production of tea.

For all this to be achieved, we must have proper education for our youth. There is no nation which can develop without education. There can be no engineers, or agriculturalists, without education. Today, I do not think there would be any politicians without education. That is the basic issue that we must address. There are a lot of problems in the education sector from down to up. The structures which exist do not allow for proper communication. When headmasters or senior teachers are moved around from school to school, you will find that a number of them are crowded at the head office. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) also needs to be decentralised so that we do not have the kind of problems that teachers go through when they have to come all the way to Nairobi and look for their promotion or their pay. Even those who have retired find it very difficult to access their retirement benefits. Those are the few items I would like to be addressed by this august House and the Kenyan community if we have to make steps forward in this era of the 21st Century and the new millennium.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): We still have three more minutes. Is there any hon. Member willing to contribute? I see none.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of today. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until Tuesday, 4th April, 2000, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.27 p.m.