

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 6th July, 1999

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Otita's Question?

*Question No.222*

### REVIEW OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES IN NYANZA

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** He is not there. We will come back to it. Let us go to Mr. Muchiri's Question.

**Mr. Muchiri:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I ask the Question, I would like to inform the Chair that I have not been supplied with the written reply.

*Question No.256*

### CONFISCATION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS' LAND

**Mr. Muchiri** asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) whether he is aware that between 1954 and 1959, several parcels of land belonging to freedom fighters were confiscated by the then Governor of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya for being members of, or associating with members of "Mau Mau" Society;
- (b) whether he is further aware that their land was taken over by the Local Authorities of their respective areas on the date of Independence and that to-date the Government has not compensated these freedom fighters for the loss of their land; and,
- (c) whether he could consider revoking the confiscation orders issued in the said years and revert the land to the original owners.

**Mr. Anyona:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir. Last week, we had this same problem of written answers not being supplied to hon. Members. You made a ruling that you would not allow a Minister to answer a Question if he has not supplied a written reply to the hon. Questioner. Hon. Muchiri has now said that he has not received a written answer. Now, what do we do?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Anyona, has the Minister even made an attempt to answer the Question?

*(Loud consultations)*

Order! Order, hon. Members! I think there is a problem in that the Ministry of Lands and Settlement received this Question from the Office of the President only this morning. Therefore, the Ministry is not ready to respond to it today. So, really, the problem here is not that the Minister for Lands and settlement has no reply. The fault is with the Office of the President, which should, really, have referred the Question to the Ministry of Lands and Settlement and advised Parliament accordingly. This should have been done ten days ago. So, I would ask for the indulgence of the House, so that the Minister for Lands and Settlement is given an opportunity to provide an answer. I ask the Ministry to do so by Thursday this week.

*(Question deferred)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Let us go to Dr. Ochuodho's Question.

*Question No.246*

FRUSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT  
MODERNISATION EFFORTS BY BANKS

Dr. Ochuodho is not here? Let us go to Mr. Kombe's Question!

*Question No.185*

BOOSTING OF KENYA'S INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES

Mr. David Kombe, too, is not here? Let us go to Mr. Kathangu's Question!

*Question No.209*

BENEFICIARIES OF UNIVERSITY BURSARY SCHEME

**Mr. Kathangu** asked the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development:-

- (a) how many university students have benefitted from the students bursary scheme in the last two years; and,  
(b) whether he could table the list of beneficiaries of the bursary scheme and amounts extended to each student during the same period.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development here? He is not here, so, we will come back to that Question. Next Question, Mr. Osundwa!

*Question No.153*

DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR MUMIAS TOWN

**Mr. Osundwa** asked the Minister for Health what urgent plans the Ministry has to establish a fully-fledged district hospital in Mumias Town.

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Dr. Wako): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

My Ministry has no plans to establish a fully-fledged district hospital at Mumias Town. However, my Ministry plans to upgrade Butere Health Centre to district hospital status, so as to serve Butere-Mumias District, once funds are available.

**Mr. Osundwa:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mumias has a population of 206,000 people, and its total area is 581 square kilometres. Butere has a population of 89,000 people, and has an area of 208 square kilometres. Now, if the Assistant Minister is serious with planning, where would he put up the hospital? Butere has two hospitals, one of which is called Manyala and which is not yet opened. On the other hand, Mumias has only one hospital with a bed capacity of 110.

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Mumias, we have the St. Mary's Mission Hospital, which is sponsored by the Catholic Church; Mumias Dispensary, and Mumias Sugar Company Dispensary, which also serves members of the public. At the same time, we intend to upgrade Mumias Dispensary to health centre status, so as to serve the residents of Mumias.

**Mr. Osundwa:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has not answered my question adequately. I have given him statistics showing that Mumias has a population of 206,000 people and that it has only one hospital, whereas Butere has only 89,000 people and two hospitals. The Assistant Minister is talking of putting up a third hospital in Butere! Now, could he consider putting up the extra hospital in Mumias Town, which has a higher population?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have already considered upgrading Butere Health Centre to district hospital status. Once this is done, the hospital will serve people from Mumias because the hospital will be easily accessible from all sides. At the same time, if land is available, we will upgrade Mumias Dispensary to health centre status.

**Mr. Gitonga:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arising from one of the Assistant Minister's replies, when will funds for the upgrading of the health centre be available?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to tell because Mumias-Butere District was established recently, and we are in the process of looking for funds to establish its district hospital.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Assistant Minister, the hon. Member has asked you when the funds will be available. You have, at least, a three-year plan. Is it possible for that to happen within three years?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said that it is difficult to say exactly when funds for that exercise will be available because the district was established very recently.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Assistant Minister, the hon. Members want to know where you are looking for the funds from?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the upgrading of Butere Health Centre to district hospital status is already in our plan.

**Mr. Anyona:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This old cliché of "when funds are available" is really an abuse to this Parliament and the people of Kenya. As you said, funds become available as a process of planning. So, before the Assistant Minister comes here, he should have made up his mind on how long it would take, and tell us in the year so-and-so, we expect so much funds; we will ask for it to put up the project. But to be bombarded with this answer every day, about funds being available, it is not being fair to the House!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I agree with you that Ministers ought to do a little better than that. So, Mr. Assistant Minister, let the House know when it is you are planning to make the funds available because funds will not drop to you like manna from heaven.

Next Question, hon. Katuku!

*Question No.262*

REPAIR OF MBIUNI-NDUNDUNI-NGONDA-  
KANGUNDO ROAD

**Mr. Katuku** asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing:-

(a) whether he is aware that Road E 487 (Mbiuni-Ndunduni-Ngonda-Kangundo) is in bad shape;

and,

(b) what immediate plans has to repair the road.

**The Assistant Minister for Public works and Housing** (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to request that we defer this Question until tomorrow morning. There is a problem with the answer here. I do not know whether it is a typing error or something else; I want to check it.

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a written answer with me and I do not see anything defective; maybe, he can talk about the contents of the answer. If it is a question of the contents of the answer, then it can be answered tomorrow.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You are also satisfied that the contents of the answer are wrong?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the contents of the answer are very wrong.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Okay, the Question is deferred for the second time. We go back to Mr. Otita's Question?

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.222*

REVIEW OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES IN NYANZA

**Mr. Kajwang**, on behalf of **Mr. Otita**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President, if he could, as a matter of urgency, clarify the issue of district boundaries in Nyanza Province and thereby quell the rising discontent among the residents of Kadibo and Miwani against the Provincial Administration.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You first apologise for coming late!

**Mr. Kajwang:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for having not asked the Question the first time it was called out.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Office of the President?

**Mr. Kajwang:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very sensitive Question because---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Kajwang, you have asked the Question and I have asked the Office of the President to respond; I am waiting for them. If they are not there, the Question is deferred! So, the Question is deferred. Dr. Ochuodho's Question for the second time!

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.246*

FRUSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT  
MODERNISATION EFFORTS BY BANKS

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Question by Dr. Shem Ochuodho is also deferred. He is out of the country on parliamentary business.

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.185*

BOOSTING OF KENYA'S INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES

**Mr. Shidie**, on behalf of **Mr. Kombe**, asked the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development what steps he has taken in building up stock of investment capability in order to reduce reliance on foreign Consulting Engineering and Design Services (CEDS).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** But hon. Shidie, you were here when I called that Question the first time?

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but I was just consulting you!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When did you do that? You have not left the Chamber.

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was consulting you on other matters.

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The first and the second Questions are important Questions directed to the Office of the President. Is there no collective responsibility in this Government, because the Deputy Leader of Government Business is here. Is there no collective responsibility in this Government, or has this Government fallen asleep? If the Somalis can come and take equipment from the Kenya Army, does this Government---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Gatabaki, I have told you that if you speak with less anger, we will hear you better. We all agree that it is deplorable that Questions should go unanswered due to the absence of Ministers in this House. I was waiting for a Minister from the Office of the President, so that I can bring this message home. So, you are preaching to the converted!

**The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to beg for more time to prepare for that answer. Two weeks will be sufficient.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! There are two Questions directed to the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development. Are you suggesting that both of them should be deferred for two weeks?

**The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was referring to Question No.185 by hon. Kombe.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** But there is another Question, No.209 which is also directed to the Minister for Education and Human Resource and Development. Are you ready to answer that?

**The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am ready to answer that.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Assistant Minister, I am sorry, I cannot give you two weeks. This Question has been lying with you for at least ten days. So, you have to answer this Question by Thursday this week! Hon. Shidie, on behalf of Mr. Kombe, do you agree that this Question should be answered on Thursday?

**Mr. Shidie:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am most obliged. Thank you.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Okay, the Question is deferred for now. For the second time, Mr. Kathangu's Question?

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.209*

#### BENEFICIARIES OF UNIVERSITY BURSARY SCHEME

**Mr. Kathangu** asked the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development:-

- (a) how many university students have benefitted from the students bursary scheme in the last two years; and,  
 (b) if he could table the list of beneficiaries of the bursary scheme and the amounts extended to each student during the same period.

**The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development** (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to apologise for coming late to the extent that we have had to repeat this Question. However, I wish to reply.

(a) During the academic years 1997/98 and 1998/99, a total of 17,257 university students benefitted from the students bursary scheme. They numbered 8,701 and 8,556 in 1997/98 and 1998/99, respectively.

(b) I have the pleasure to table the list of the beneficiaries which also shows the amount extended to each student.

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

**Mr. Kathangu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the list has not been extended to me along with the answer, I would like the Assistant Minister to tell this House why, since the bursary scheme was started in this country, only Rift Valley Province enjoys full bursary for students while the rest of the nation has students considered for not more than Kshs6,000?

**Mr. Ruto:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not correct that Rift Valley Province enjoys the monopoly in any way of the bursary scheme. I have laid the list on the Table, and there is a clear indication that the whole country enjoys the bursary scheme.

**Mr. Wamae:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I can see it is a very big volume of the list. Would I be in order to ask that the Questioner be given time to look at this list, so that he can ask substantive and proper supplementary questions?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! That is a fair request. The Question is deferred to Tuesday next week.

**Mr. Kathangu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Member for Mathira.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Kathangu! We go to Questions by Private Notice.

*(Question deferred)*

#### QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

##### RESETTLEMENT OF TODONYANG RESIDENTS

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

(a) What immediate steps is the Minister taking to resettle the residents of Todonyang in Lokitaung Sub-District, who have been displaced from their homes by the Merrile of Ethiopia?

(b) What measures will be put in place to ensure full security so that these residents engage in economic activities on resettling without threats from outside forces?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Office of the President! The Question is deferred! Next Question, Mr. Shakombo.

*(Question deferred)*

##### PRIVATISATION OF KENYA PORTS AUTHORITY

**Mr. Shakombo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Transport and Communications the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister explain why the Government finds it necessary to privatise the Kenya Ports Authority services against the wishes of Kenyans and the Coast people in particular?

(b) Could the Minister assure the House that those container terminals/depots already advertised will not be privatised?

(c) What urgent steps will the Minister take to ensure that the KPA services are not interfered with by the privatisation process?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Ministry of Transport and Communications not here?

**Mr. Wambua:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have observed the practice of Ministers and Assistant Ministers not coming to the House to answer Questions. Could we have a ruling from the Chair that will order them to come to the House on time to answer the Questions?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The Chair has already given a ruling on that matter.

**Mr. Shakombo:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to request for your guidance. I have received a reply to my Question from the Minister for Transport and Communications, but he is talking of something totally different. The Minister is talking of restructuring of the port---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The Minister for Transport and Communications has not answered any Question as yet.

**Mr. Kajembe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If Ministers and Assistant Ministers fail to appear in the House to answer Questions, is it not one way of them running away from their responsibilities?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** That is good! I wish you could tell them that; they are Members of your party.

**Mr. Kajembe:** But we still need your guidance!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! I cannot really say more than what I have already said on the issue of the absence of Ministers and Assistant Ministers from the House. I would like to find out why this Question was deferred at the request of the Minister. The Minister knew that the Question was to come up in the House. So, I would want to know why he has not turned up to answer it today. Maybe, I will hold my comment until I have spoken to the Minister concerned.

Next Question!

**Mr. Kamolleh:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Since, the Deputy Leader of Government Business is in the House, and he is in charge of all the Ministers and Assistant Ministers in that case, we should, perhaps, have a ruling to this extent, because this Question is really very important for all of us, but it is not being answered! This is going too far!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mr. Kamolleh, this is Question Time. If you want to debate, move a Motion on that. The Deputy Leader of Government Business was in the House when I called out the Minister for Transport and Communications to answer the Question. So, if he had any information to give to this House, he would have volunteered. I will make a ruling after I have spoken to the Minister as to why he absented himself from answering the Question, which he knew was coming up. So, really, there is no point of flogging anybody else. Let the Ministers and Assistant Ministers carry their own crosses.

*(The Assistant Minister for Transport  
and Communications*

*(Mr. Mahmoud) walked into the Chamber)*

**Hon. Members:** The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications has come!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications has arrived and, maybe, he is now ready to answer the Question.

Yes, Mr. Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications!

**The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications** (Mr. Mahmoud): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do apologise for coming late. I beg to answer the Question.

**An hon. Member:** Where were you?

**Mr. Kihoro:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. That apology, as given by the Assistant Minister, does not appear genuine at all. The Assistant Minister has actually taken 30

**[Mr. Kihoro]**

seconds, according to my watch, to walk from that end, near the entrance, to the Despatch Box. He should be more

apologetic and show deference to this House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The only person who can take offence to what the Assistant Minister did is the Chair.

Proceed, Mr. Assistant Minister.

**The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications** (Mr. Mahmoud): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Since 1992, the Government resolved to restructure involvement in the operation and management of public corporations and companies. The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is one of the six declared strategic State corporations set for restructuring. Anticipated benefits from the restructuring would include improved efficiency in the revenue collection, easing of congestion at the port, attraction of more cargo and, finally, removal of the financial burden to the Government.

This restructuring would, therefore, enable the KPA to contribute more effectively to the economy, and further ensure that it remains in business through sound economic principles.

In view of the above, it is not, therefore, correct to say that the KPA is to be privatised against the wishes of Kenyans and the Coastal people. The restructuring measures, approved by the Cabinet, aim at enhancing and strengthening the operational results of the KPA. That is, therefore, in line with the Public Enterprise Reform Programme.

(b) The Government does not intend to sell out any of the inland container depots or terminals, but instead, it intends to concession them out, starting with the Eldoret International Airport, which is not yet operational.

(c) The Government is keen to ensure that the KPA transition is programmed to proceed smoothly. Full implementation will only be advanced once the Government is fully satisfied with the success of the initial steps, which will provide the necessary practical experience on which future actions will be founded.

**Mr. Shakombo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg for your guidance on the following issue. The Minister for Finance, during his Budget Speech, clearly said on page 29, that with the privatisation of transit sheds and container depots, it is now necessary to require private operators to put up bond securities. The Minister talked of privatisation of the KPA. Now, the Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications talks of restructuring of the port. Does the Assistant Minister want to tell us that "restructuring" and "privatisation" mean one and the same thing? Which school did he go to?

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are not privatising the port at the moment, but we are commercialising part of the services of the port.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is surprising. Could the Government supply the terms and conditions of the privatisation of that port to us? This is because the Government is actually privatising and not commercialising the port. I am aware of that because I was with the Managing Director of the KPA last night.

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that the hon. Member was with the Managing Director. But as far as the policy of the Government towards the KPA is concerned, it is based on the privatisation of the port and not commercialisation.

**Mr. Kajembe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that privatisation of the KPA is going on and no Bill has been tabled in this House for that exercise? Even for the commercialisation aspect he is talking about, no Bill has been tabled in the House. Why are the port services being dished out by the Ministry, through the backdoor, to other users?

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that the port services have been dished out. In fact, we have not yet commercialised the port services, but we are intending to commercialise part of the port services. Regarding the Bill, I am not aware. Perhaps the Attorney-General could advise about it. **Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right from the very beginning, there has been confusion, on the part of the Government, as to what to do with what they call "Strategic Parastatals," including the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (KPTC). The Government did not know what it wanted to be privatised or restructured, because there is no policy framework which can form the basis. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the difference, in terms of policy and legal framework, between "restructuring" and "privatisation?" What is the dividing line of those two terminologies?

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I know is that this programme consists of commercialising. When we talk of commercialising, it means we are only leasing out some of the services and equipment at the port. It does not mean that we are selling anything. So, the question of privatisation is out.

**Mr. Murathe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Assistant Minister does not seem to understand the question put to him by hon. Anyona. We are asking him to give the specific aspects that are

going to be commercialised at the Port of Mombasa. What are you going to commercialise?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Murathe! That is not a point of order, but a question. Mr. Mahmoud, just answer hon. Anyona's question.

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the second part of the question by hon. Anyona, I would like to say this: The restructuring includes commercialisation of some of the services, like cargo handling. There are people who load and off-load cargo and we want to give them that job. We also want to lease out the container terminals and the storage facilities to the private sector.

**Mr. Raila:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure the Assistant Minister does not understand the difference between the words "commercialisation" and "privatisation." He ought to really know that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Port of Mombasa is the gateway not only to Kenya, but to the whole of the Eastern Africa region. It is, therefore, a very important institution in this country. If the Government wants to privatise or commercialise sections of operations at the port, a policy document ought to be prepared and tabled before this House first.

*(Applause)*

Can the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that some civil servants, and their political godfathers, who have registered companies in the United Kingdom and other countries want to take over the operations of the port and then sack the workers who are working there?

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I deny that.

**Mr. Ndilinge:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Arising from the Assistant Minister's reply, can he assure the House that he is going to find out and bring a correct answer here? Also, arising from what the Assistant Minister has just stated---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Ndilinge! You stood on a point of order, and you are now asking all sorts of questions.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Arising from the reply given by the Assistant Minister, it is clear that the answer is unsatisfactory. When replying, he talked of restructuring. Can he be ordered to go back and redraft the answer because he is talking of commercialisation, which is not mentioned here in the answer?

**Mr. Kajembe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. In fact, the Assistant Minister has gone further to talk about "leasing". Does he know what leasing is?

**An Hon. Member:** No, he does not know!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Mahmoud:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he can tell us what it means if he knows.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! No matter how angry or how provoked you are, you must, at all times, address the Chair. You should not address any hon. Member across the Floor!

**Mr. Wamae:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to continue confusing this House with the use of the words "privatisation", "commercialisation", "conceptualisation" and "leasing"? Could he go back and come back with a clear answer to this Question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Well, let me hear from hon. Shakombo who is the originator of this Question.

**Mr. Shakombo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I concur with what hon. Wamae has said. We are demanding for that clarification. Secondly, is the Assistant Minister aware that in November last year---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Shakombo! If you are requesting that the Question be deferred and the Assistant Minister goes back and brings a clear answer, then you should not ask any further questions now!

**Mr. Shakombo:** The Question should be deferred. Since we are not satisfied with the answer given by the Ministry, we need more information and possibly a Ministerial Statement on the same.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! There seems to be some confusion here. So many words have been used interchangeably when, in fact, they cannot be used interchangeably. So, Mr. Mahmoud, we want you to come back to the House with a clear answer on whether you want to privatise, commercialise or lease out some of the facilities at the Port of Mombasa. Possibly, you should also go further and tell them what the difference is between those three terms, so that the House understands clearly what the Government's intentions are. So, you should leave no room for doubts, or suspicions. In fact, your answer tends to create suspicion in the minds of hon. Members. So, please, go back and come with an answer that clears these doubts so that these hon. Members can become your ambassadors out there.



**Mr. Anyona:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are dealing with a corporation that was created by an Act of Parliament. Now, we are being told that things are being done outside that Act. Should the Assistant Minister not be required to come here and tell us, strictly within the provisions of the Act, what they want to do and whether they can do it without bringing the matter to this House? He might bring another loose answer like this one!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members!

The Assistant Minister was answering a Question as put to him by hon. Shakombo. I have asked him to go back and bring a clear answer. If the Assistant Minister feels that it is necessary for him to go beyond this Question and to be totally transparent--- If I were him, I would go beyond this Question and even into the Act. So, the Question is deferred.

Next Question, Mr. Murathe!

*(Question deferred)*

#### CRISIS IN MUGAMA CO-OPERATIVE UNION

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Co-operative Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware of the serious legal, financial and management crisis between Mugama Co-operative Union and Murata Sacco Limited?

(b) Is he further aware that this crisis has almost brought to a halt all the services provided by the Mugama Union?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what urgent remedial measures is the Minister taking to resolve the crisis?

**The Minister for Co-operative Development** (Mr. Obure): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to apologise for the mix-up which occurred last Thursday when this Question ought to have been answered. However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that there is a dispute between Mugama Co-operative Union and Murata Sacco Limited. I do not believe that the nature of the dispute is as serious to be described as a crisis.

(b) I am not aware at all that as a result of this dispute, the two organizations have failed to provide services to their members. The two organizations are still operating, and they are providing services to their members and affiliates.

(c) One of the parties to the dispute referred the matter to the High Court. On 14th June, 1999, the High Court made an order asking my Ministry to appoint an arbitrator to look into the dispute and make recommendations. I have already done that, and there is an arbitrator handling this matter.

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very disappointed by the Minister. This is because he should have briefed me in good faith, so that I do not ambush him here. I have not received a written answer yet. The Minister told me that the answer was supplied last week. This was only a lie! Up to this afternoon, I had not received a written answer!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! The Minister is not lying!

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was not true!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** He was a bit frugal with the truth!

**Mr. Murathe:** I do not expect a Minister to stand up and tell me that a written answer was supplied on Thursday last week, when he knows very well that it was not there! Up to this afternoon, I had not received the written answer!

However, 65 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of this country comes from the co-operative sector. The Ministry is totally responsible for attempting to kill this sector!

**An hon. Member:** Yes!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Ask your question, hon. Murathe!

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has just said that he has come up with some recommendations to resolve the crisis. Could he tell this House what those recommendations are?

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not see the need for hon. Murathe to be disappointed. We supplied 15 copies of our written answer to this House, through the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly. That is a fact!

**Mr. Murathe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have just come from that desk and there

is no written answer!

**Mr. Obure:** We brought the written answers!

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, then you must have some coordination in your office!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Proceed with your reply, hon. Obure!

**Mr. Keynan:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the gracious former Social Democratic Party (SDP) Presidential Candidate, hon. Charity Kaluki Ngilu, to bring into the House her bulky handbag, considering the state of insecurity in this country?

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Members, it is not a laughing matter!

**An hon. Member:** On a point---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** One more word and you will be looking at something else, but not your seat! Articles of attire like handbags and briefcases must not be brought beyond the Bar. This is because they can be converted into offensive weapons. So, any Member who has such an article, be it a handbag, briefcase or a portfolio, should kindly take it beyond the Bar. That is the rule, and until it is altered, it shall be enforced!

**Mrs. Ngilu:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I agree with you and I have heard what you have said, but you may have forgotten that there is an inscription by the door, that says that our handbags should be checked before we enter.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! There is no argument about my ruling! I am not making any new rules! I am stating the rules that exist now. Until and unless the rules are amended, I will enforce them. So, hon. Members, who have got articles of attire like handbags, briefcases and portfolios, which could be converted into offensive weapons, for purposes of hurting other hon. Members, should be tendered beyond the Bar.

**Mrs. Ngilu:** But there is an inscription---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You will comply with my ruling first!

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Yes, I will. But there is a written---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** You are now out of order! Comply with my ruling first and then come back to raise your point of order!

**Mrs. Ngilu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, look at the writing on the wall! First of all, look at the writing on the wall!

*(Mrs. Ngilu stood up in her place)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mrs. Ngilu, I am on my feet! I will now require you to leave the Chamber! Please, retire from the Chamber for the rest of this Afternoon Sitting! Please, proceed out of the Chamber! You are now a stranger!

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! There will be no speaking until the stranger has left the Chamber!

*(Mrs. Ngilu withdrew from the Chamber)*

*(Applause)*

**An hon. Member:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order, all of you! We are in Question Time! I am not entertaining any more points of order which are not relevant to Question No.3 by Private Notice! Proceed with your answer, hon. Obure!

**Mr. Kathangu:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have said that unless the rules are amended, you are going to make sure that they are followed and enforced. Are we going to follow the rules until men and women in this House are stripped naked, because I know handbags are part and parcel of women's dress? Are we going to strip them?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order, hon. Kathangu! You know that, that kind of empty heroism will not take you anywhere! If you do not want that rule, write to the Standing Orders Committee and ask them to amend the rule the way you want. But no amount of argument, no matter how persuasive and logical it is, will make me change the rule here and now. For as long as I am here, and the rules are the same, I will enforce them.

I will now not entertain any more irrelevant and frivolous points of order. If you stand on a point of order, and I judge it to be frivolous, you know the consequences!

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just about to say that hon. Murathe did not understand my response correctly. I was saying that we have not made any recommendations as to how the present dispute between Mugama and Murata Co-operative Societies would be resolved. What I said is that I have appointed an arbitrator who will go into all aspects of this Question by Private Notice, and we will make recommendations.

**Mr. Murathe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You realise that I still do not have the benefit of a written answer, despite the fact that he has said he has supplied 15 copies here!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Murathe, I agree with you entirely. I will defer the Question until you have been furnished with a written answer. It will be arranged by the Clerk---

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if he has an answer here now---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** No! That answer also enables us to follow the supplementary questions! So, I will defer the Question until tomorrow afternoon or Thursday afternoon! You will be informed accordingly.

**Mr. Murathe:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, much obliged for tomorrow afternoon!

*(Question deferred)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Let us move on to the next Question by Mr. Ali!

SEXUAL ASSAULT OF FEMALE INMATES  
BY PRISON WARDER

**Mr. Ali:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that on 6th June, 1999, a prison warder stationed at Manderu Prison Headquarters sexually assaulted Inmates Nos. MRA/79/99/LS and MRA/76/99/GR in the women's prison cells?

(b) What action has the Minister taken against this prison warder?

**The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Marrimoi):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware and the matter is pending prosecution.

(b) Disciplinary action has been taken against the warder, Mr. Joseph Onyanje, Personal No.820162. He has been interdicted, pending prosecution.

**Mr. Shaaban:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Assistant Minister for the action taken against the warder. However, is he aware that those women prisoners who have been raped by this warder are continuously being beaten by other prison warders for disclosing what happened to them? Is he aware? If he is not aware, can he assure this House that those women will no longer be harassed, and action will be taken against those warders who are harassing them?

**Mr. Marrimoi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is pending before the court and, therefore, it is subject to the rule of *sub judice*.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mr. Marrimoi, please, tell hon. Members the case number.

**Mr. Marrimoi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this case is before the Chief Resident Magistrate at Manderu Court.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** What is the number of that case? Mr. Marrimoi, that case can only be before the Magistrate at Manderu Court. Tell us the case number so that we know what you are talking about.

**Mr. Marrimoi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the case number here with me.

**Mr. Shill:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The question was that the same lady who disclosed the matter is being tortured right now in that prison. The Assistant Minister did not answer that question. Why should a male warder look after women prisoners? Could he tell us why?

**Mr. Marrimoi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is against the prisons regulations. Male warders cannot enter into women cells. It has never happened before.

**Mr. Keynan:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards the relevant answer given by the Assistant Minister, and I forgive him because this has been the trend, is he aware that the officer in charge of Manderu Prison is a

homosexual? That is not only happening in Mandera Prison, but all over the country. What those officers do at Mandera is what goes on everywhere.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! Mr. Keynan, if you are asked to provide proof on that allegation you have just made, will you do it?

*(Laughter)*

Order, hon. Members! Now be serious, after that light moment. Mr. Keynan, you cannot make that kind of allegation here---

**An hon. Member:** We shall lay him on the Table of this House!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Take this House seriously. You can make jokes, but not on a matter like this, where you are besmirching somebody's character. There is one officer in charge of that prison and he has no opportunity to come here and accept or deny that allegation. You cannot do that, and I will not allow you to do it. So, you must withdraw that remark, or I am going to ask you to do an impossible task, which is to prove that, that man is what you say he is.

**Mr. Keynan:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, that is a norm these days. It is not unheard of, for somebody to be a gay. It is accepted all over. But what I want to stress is---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Mr. Keynan, if it is known these days that it is okay to be whatever he is, then there is no point of saying it here. In fact, you are saying that, if anybody can stand up and make the same allegation about you, you will have no problem at all because it is okay. That, I cannot, and will not, accept because the next person you are going to accuse will be another hon. Member of this House. So, if you have no positive proof to it, then withdraw that remark. I am giving you one final chance to do that.

**Mr. Keynan:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the issue of gay or homosexuality. But my question is this: Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to persistently mislead this House while we know Mandera is a border town? What those officers have been doing is to go round the town at night in the name of maintaining security, and collect women from both Ethiopia and Somalia. They put them into prison and then assault them. Is it in order for that officer to continue assaulting innocent women when we know that he is in charge of that prison?

**Mr. Marrirmoi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, warders do not carry out any arrests. This is done by the police. I would like to assure this House that we are very much concerned about the issue of assaults in our prisons. I further assure this House that action will be taken against those officers who harass prisoners.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! We have run out of time. We must now proceed to the next Order. We have hon. Members who have certain pressing issues they want to raise before we begin the debate on the next Order at 3.30 p.m, and I promised that I will give them chance to do so. Mr. Nyagah, has a matter of great importance to raise.

## POINTS OF ORDER

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT:

#### OUTBREAK OF HIGHLAND MALARIA IN KISII

**Mr. N. Nyagah:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Health with regard to the outbreak of highland malaria, where 63,000 cases have so far been reported. Out of this, 200 deaths have already been reported. What action will the Government take to ensure that supplies of uncontaminated blood are delivered to Kisii District Hospital? My concern has come about in the wake of the passionate appeal made by the District Medical Officer. Lastly, I would like to request the Minister for Health to kindly approach the Department of Defence to see whether they can supply tents to the patients who are sleeping outside that hospital.

## PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS

**Mr. Munyao:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point of order is addressed to the Minister of State in charge of internal security in this country. It is a pity that the Minister is not in this House and yet this issue is very urgent. Kenyans are ready, and it has been publicised that they will express their sentiments tomorrow by conducting very peaceful demonstrations throughout the country. We have been assured that these demonstrations will be very peaceful. I would like the Minister in charge of internal security to assure the country and demonstrators that tomorrow there will be no police harassment against wananchi.

#### ARREST OF MAYOR OF RUIRU

**Mr. Murathe:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Arising from a Ministerial Statement that I requested from the Minister of State, Office of the President, last week about the arrest of the Mayor of Ruiru, I would like to seek guidance from the Chair as to whether it is in order for the hon. Member for Juja to carry the debate outside this House. In that request for a Ministerial Statement, which you personally authorised, I had at no time sought the release of the Mayor and the other suspects. However, I just expressed concern at the political timing of the arrest, and this House needs to know that one of those suspects has since died in police custody. I would like to inform this House that hon. Ndicho has even gone ballistic and claimed that there is a plot that has been hatched by me and some other people to murder him. I would like to inform this House that, that man is not worth being murdered!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! With one's arrest, the cost of doing so can be very painful, but I will study this statement and refer to it tomorrow.

#### SECURITY SITUATION IN TURKANA SOUTH

**Mr. Achuka:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, in charge of Internal security, over the killing of the communities which are living in Turkana South Constituency by the Pokot.

*(Applause)*

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

**An hon. Member:** Let him finish!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! He has already made his point. He wants a Ministerial Statement on the security situation in his constituency, which has been caused by whoever.

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

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

*(Mr. Shill stood up in his place)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Let us move to the next Order. Look at the clock! Hon. Members, you behave as if you have not read your Standing Orders, or even the Order Paper. The Order Paper says that the debate in the Committee of Supply will begin not later than 3.30 p.m. Read your Standing Orders and they will tell you the same! Let us move to the next Order.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

#### MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

## Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair. Before I get into specifics of the Ministry's Vote, it is only fair that I update this House on the current food situation in the country.

As hon. Members will recall, the *El Nino* rains of 1997/98, coupled with growing importation, substantially improved the food situation in the country. This year, the *La Nina* phenomena seems to have set in and from May, the rains in this country have thinned off. This abrupt stop in rainfall has been highly marked in Eastern Province, North Eastern Province, the lower parts of Central Province and some parts of the Rift Valley Province, particularly Nakuru, Koibatek, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu Districts. Therefore, it is expected that instead of realising the normal 28 to 30 million bags of maize, the country might realise about 25 million bags of maize, of which 20 million bags will be from the long rains, while five million bags will be expected from the forthcoming short rains.

On the wheat situation, instead of the normal three million bags, we expect a production of approximately 1.5 million bags. However, these levels of food production will depend on how the rainfall will perform between now and September this year. Therefore, I would like to bring to the attention of this House the fact that there is likely to be a shortage in the local production of our basic foodstuffs. This shortfall is likely to exert pressure on food prices, and the same shortfall might be made through imports. It is also important to inform this House that this year, we had wide outbreaks and spread of armyworms which affected virtually all the provinces. Based on this experience, the Ministry is liaising with the Treasury with a view to strengthening its capacity to tackle this type of disaster when it arises in future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to turn to the specifics of the Ministry's Vote now. The continued decline of our economy, from 4.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1996, to 2.3 per cent in 1997 and to 1.8 per cent in 1998, is definitely a cause of concern to all of us. The modest growth of the agricultural sector from 1 per cent in 1997, to 1.5 per cent in 1998 was as a result of the continued liberalisation of our economy, which enabled the private sector to step up its competitive investment initiatives in various sectors of agriculture.

Once again, the importance of the agricultural sector in our economic growth was underscored by the impetus it gave to the overall growth of 1.5 or the 1.8 per cent we witnessed in the last financial year. The agricultural sector will continue to play a dominant role in the national economy into the foreseeable future, in aiming at achieving development objectives or providing adequate food security to our people.

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Ndwiga:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I really do not wish to interrupt the Minister, but could the Chair ask hon. Members, who are consulting loudly, to consult quietly because some of us want to listen very keenly to what the Minister is saying? Thank you.

**The Minister for Agriculture** (Mr. Mudavadi): Thank you, hon. Ndwiga, for pointing that issue out, because agriculture is the backbone of the economy of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just pointing out that agriculture will continue to play a very major role in the alleviation of poverty through income and employment generation. It will also continue to be a major foreign exchange earner and a provider of raw materials to the industrial sector. Apart from its contribution to the GDP and provision of direct employment to approximately 70 per cent of our workforce, particularly in the rural areas where nearly 80 per cent of our people reside, agriculture also generates about 60 per cent of the total foreign exchange earnings. Further, the sector contributes between 70 and 75 per cent of raw materials needed by the industrial sector. The strategy adopted in the Eighth National Development Plan for 1997 to the year 2001 relies on agriculture as the springboard for faster economic growth and transformation of the economy into a newly industrialised nation by the year 2020. To achieve this objective, the challenge is to attain a long-term sustainable growth of over 7 per cent in the sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to implement relevant policies in line with our national goals and aspirations as stipulated in the Sessional Paper No.1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth; Sessional Paper No.2 of 1994 on National Food Policy; the Eighth National Development Plan for 1997 to the year 2001, and the Policy Framework Paper for 1999, to the year 2001.

In this regard, the policy thrust in the Ministry is to achieve self-sufficiency in food production, maintain adequate strategic food reserves and generate crop and livestock production output for our local industries and for

export. As a result, the Ministry hopes to contribute to employment and income-generating activities. The Ministry plays a very major role in the alleviation of poverty through income and employment generation. It will also continue to be a major foreign exchange earner and also, a major provider of raw materials for our industrial sector.

Apart from this sector providing most of the country's food requirements, it accounts for nearly one-third of the Gross Domestic Product. It also provides direct employment to approximately 70 per cent of our workforce, particularly in the rural areas where nearly 80 per cent of the population live. It is, therefore, fundamental to the important goal for rural poverty alleviation. To achieve this important national goal, financial and critical resources will be required, and this is the basis of the request for this Ministry's Budget. I would first like to highlight and comment on a number of important issues before I make a detailed examination of the Budget request for Recurrent and Development Expenditures. First, I will touch on the various measures undertaken by the Ministry in support of the agricultural sector since the last Budget, and secondly, the key constraints hindering the achievements of rapid growth in the sector. Thirdly, I will mention the main measures and reforms being undertaken by my Ministry to accelerate the growth of the sector, and, fourthly, the various measures announced in this year's national Budget, that are likely to affect the agricultural sector.

Firstly, since the last Budget, the Ministry has continued to undertake a number of activities geared towards the development of the agricultural sector. On food crops, hon. Members are aware that the cereals sub-sector was liberalised in 1993. The National Cereals and Produce Board had been undergoing restructuring with a view to enabling it to operate commercially in a liberalised economy. An agency-operating agreement that spells out the scope of services and the decision to be undertaken in regard to maintenance of strategic reserves and the implementation of famine relief policy, has been signed between the Government and the National Cereals and Produce Board. In harmony with this, the Ministry will continue pursuing action that enhances the participation of the private sector in the production, storage, distribution and processing of cereals. The legal framework is also being addressed through the revision of the relevant Act.

On industrial crops, and I start with tea, the liberalisation and restructuring of the small-holder tea sub-sector and the Kenya Tea Development Authority will be finalised by January, 2000. Consequently, the Tea Board of Kenya will be restructured and strengthened to make it the sole regulatory body of the tea industry. The Tea Act will also be amended to reflect the enhanced role of the Tea Board of Kenya and the privatised sub-sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on coffee, the Government, in consultation with all stakeholders is also going to review the Coffee Act, with a view to separating research and regulatory functions from marketing functions of the Coffee Board of Kenya. The amended Act will explicitly define the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the industry, in order to ensure efficiency and greater participation of farmers in decision-making at various levels. The main focus will be on restructuring of the institutional set-up, increasing small holder yields, and expanding the processing capacity.

On horticulture, this is fast taking over as a leading foreign exchange earner from the traditional cash crops. To remove marketing controls in the sub-sector, the Horticultural Crops Development Authority Order of 1967 has been replaced with the Horticultural Crops Development Authority, Order of 1998. This has strengthened the Horticultural Crops Development Authority and it is now performing only a regulatory role in the industry, leaving the other stakeholders to perform the production and marketing roles. The Government shall put in place measures aimed at protecting the industry from unscrupulous businessmen. In this regard, I am pleased to inform the House that with the assistance of Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), cold storage facilities will soon be put up at airports and high concentration areas to facilitate the process of export.

On sugar, the Government has put in place policy measures aimed at ensuring adequate sugar supplies for local consumption, while at the same time, protecting local production from cheap imports and dumping. The privatisation plans of Mumias and Chemelil sugar companies are at an advanced stage, while Muhoroni and Nzoia sugar companies are being restructured to make them commercially viable before being privatised. During the privatisation of the sugar industry, the Government will ensure that farmers are given first priority in the purchase of the shares.

On cotton, the privatisation of the cotton sub-sector is expected to be completed by the year 2001. The Cotton Act is being revised to enable farmers, co-operative unions and societies to play a greater role in the marketing and distribution of lint. Privatisation of six Cotton Board ginneries is already complete. Restructuring of the co-operatives and the establishment of appropriate quality seed production and controls are also being undertaken in this sub-sector.

In the area of livestock; in the dairy sub-sector, the Government will amend the Dairy Industry Act, Cap.336, in order to reflect the

liberalised environment for all stakeholders. The Kenya Dairy Board will be restructured and strengthened to enable it oversee the overall development of the dairy industry in the country. The Government will also put in place measures aimed at curbing dumping of surpluses from producer nations, controlling introduction of livestock diseases, promoting local up-coming milk processing plants, and controlling of infiltration of unsafe products into the country. The Government is also in the process of--

*(Loud consultations)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! If the officers seated here want to consult on the basis of those documents, they can go and do it at the back there. Here, they are strictly strangers. So, if they want to consult, there is room for them to go and do that back there, but not inside the Chamber.

Proceed, hon. Minister.

**The Minister for Finance** (Mr. Mudavadi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. My colleague, hon. Dr. Wamukoya will convey the message.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that in the case of the Kenya Meat Commission, the Government is in the process of reviving it. Currently, there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of my Permanent Secretary, who is working with other key players in this area, to work out the modalities towards achieving this objective.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to highlight some of the key constraints hindering growth of the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector today faces, amongst others, the following key problems:

- (i) Population pressure on arable land which has led to environmental degradation.
- (ii) Poor and inadequate rural infrastructure, such as feeder roads, water, electricity and storage facilities.
- (iii) Narrow agricultural export base, which is basically confined to coffee, tea and horticultural crops. These are prone to international price fluctuations.
- (iv) Inadequate research extension services and information flow.
- (v) Unavailable and inappropriate technology to provide quality seeds and efficient production systems, particularly for small-scale farmers.
- (vi) Inappropriate institutional and legal framework.
- (vii) Lack of credit facilities for small-scale farmers and marketing agents.
- (viii) Lack of effective co-ordination of investment activities among key stakeholders in agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to briefly highlight the measures being taken by the Ministry to accelerate the growth of the agricultural sector. To enhance the performance of the agricultural sector on a sustainable basis, the Ministry is undertaking various measures aimed at eliminating the key problems I have highlighted. These include redefining the functional role of the Ministry under the market-led economy, with the aim of enhancing effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery to our farming communities. In support of the farmers, the Ministry will also implement more stringent regulations on quality of both imported and locally produced inputs, breeding stock and planting materials. Private sector participation in the production and processing of these essential agricultural inputs, and provision of other essential extension and marketing services, will also be encouraged. The Ministry will also accelerate and facilitate increased credit borrowing by farmers.

The Ministry will strengthen extension services and research linkages in agriculture and livestock through redeployment and retraining of field staff in conformity with the restructured Ministry. The extension performance indicators shall hence be put in place. The Ministry will also, in conjunction with other relevant institutions, review the various legal Acts relevant to the agricultural sector, with a view to streamlining them with the already agreed policy and institutional reforms. This is expected to facilitate and free dynamic private sector participation in agricultural production and marketing. It may be useful for the House to note that there are close to over 60 Acts, which, in one way or the other, touch on agriculture. So, it is quite a mammoth task to review this legal framework. On the budgetary allocations, the funds required for the Fiscal Year 1999/2000 to run my Ministry cover the various specialised services and staff emoluments. The staffing level of the Ministry currently stands at 23,165 against an establishment of 28,461.

The funds requested for, and the net expenditure under the Recurrent Budget amount to K£172,613,270, and will finance the following activities:

1. General administration and planning - K£13.4 million.
2. Regulatory management of inputs and outputs in agriculture and livestock - K£17.3 million.
3. Promotion of agriculture and livestock development - K£5.3 million.
4. Facilitation and supply of agriculture and livestock development extension services and research - K£74.7 million.



5. Information management for agriculture and livestock sub-sector - K£13.2 million.
6. Monitoring and management of food security - K£363,000.
7. Crop and livestock pest control services - K£33 million.
8. Protection of natural resource bases for agriculture and livestock - K£15 million.

Altogether, this comes to K£172,613,270.

As regards the Development Budget, the net expenditure under the Development Budget amounts to K£62,226,920, and this will finance the following activities:

1. General administration and planning - K£3 million.
2. Regulatory management of inputs and outputs in agriculture and livestock - K£1.5 million.
3. Promotion of agriculture and livestock sector development - K£10.6 million.
4. Facilitation and supply of agriculture and livestock extension services and research - K£15.7 million.
5. Information management for agriculture and livestock sub-sector - K£767,000.
6. Monitoring and management of food security - K£21.3 million.
7. Crop and livestock protection - K£562,000.
8. Protection of natural resource bases for agriculture and livestock development - K£8.4 million.

This gives a total of K£62,226,920.

I will now turn briefly to measures which were announced in this year's Budget statement, which are likely to affect the agricultural sector. The 1999/2000 Budget proposals contained some of the following measures, which could have either direct or indirect impact on agriculture. First, the sector will derive benefits from the following:

1. The imposition of 25 per cent suspended duty on barley and malt imports. This will encourage farmers to grow and sell barley at competitive prices with the rest of the world, while at the same time, discouraging dumping.

2. The increment on import duty on a wide range of agricultural, livestock and horticultural products, including all fruits and vegetables as well as certain prepared foods, from 15 per cent to 25 per cent. This will encourage consumption of locally-produced foods, thus increasing family income and improved standards of living.

In addition to the above measures, a provision has been made for the zero-rating of coffee supplies in the coffee auctions. This is another boost to the agricultural sector.

Finally, the reduction of duty on cooling equipment targeted for horticultural purposes will promote investment in this fast-growing sub-sector for the benefit of our farmers. All these measures are specifically targeted to the agricultural sector. The sector will also benefit from other economic measures that are in the Finance Bill, which will lead to economic growth and a rise in income levels and, ultimately, result in improved welfare of the rural people. It is also important to highlight that there are some aspects which will adversely affect the farmers, and they will need to be critically re-looked at, especially at the stage when the Finance Bill is being discussed. One is the question of the Presumptive tax which was reinstated. It will be important that this House looks at this particular problem critically, so that we can deal with it once and for all.

Secondly, when looking at the Finance Bill, there were also some measures which were designed to start separating or distinguishing between hard wheat and soft wheat. I think it will be important that, again, we look at that particular clause or proposed measure very critically, because it could also be the subject of abuse when it comes to the collection of duties against any wheat imports.

In conclusion, I would now like to request the House to approve an amount of K£234,840,190 to meet both the Recurrent and Development expenditure of my Ministry for the year ending 30th June, 2000.

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

**The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah):** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I beg to second the Motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair." The Ministry of Agriculture should be granted the funds we have requested in order to run that Ministry for the ensuing year. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for the manner in which he has moved this particular Motion, and for explaining the details with regard to the agricultural sector. In supporting the Motion, I do recognise that this year's funds, particularly, in the development expenditure, appear to be far much lower than the funds voted for in 1988/89. Perhaps, that aspect can be looked into, but if, indeed, agriculture is going to be sustainable to make sure that it contributes towards poverty alleviation, employment, the raw materials needed for our industries and in addition does earn this country the foreign exchange that we require, then my call is, indeed, that the funds we are voting here be utilised as efficiently and effectively as possible.

In this regard, I want to make certain observations; that in the general administration and planning, we

are talking generally about the management of the Ministry and, indeed, the staffing of the Ministry. I have said it here before, and I will say it again, that it is important in the restructuring process within the Government, that every care is taken to ensure that we have specific job descriptions, responsibilities assigned to staff and, indeed, that those staff are given authority in order to carry out those responsibilities. We want accountability, which can only come if specific job descriptions, authorities and responsibilities are delegated to the staff, so that we can question them. In this regard, I will even go further and say that we should know, as the leaders within our district, what the staff responsibilities really are. We should know the staff's strength within the district, so that we, as leaders, can also interact and make suggestions where the need arises.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to proceed and talk about crops in general. My observation over the years is that, there is some element of bias in the management of crop production to an extent that maize is preferred to other crops. At this juncture, I would like to touch on oil crops. Being a Member of Parliament from the Coast Province, for years and years, I have been waiting to see some management order in the management of coconuts, cashewnuts, bixa and other crops that are grown at the Coast. I have been reading through this Budget and there seems to be very little, if anything at all, that goes towards the coconut and cashewnut industry and other related crops. This is why I am saying that there is some measure of bias. Perhaps, the management within the Ministry could look for ways of eradicating this bias, so that we can have an equitable distribution of scientific knowledge in this country, in order to develop these crops and earn our people revenue. Indeed, the coconut industry will help us conserve our foreign exchange, which is used to pay for the importation of oil into this country.

**Mr. Raila:** On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is making a very valid point about the oil industry, which is actually very relevant in his constituency. I want to inform him that the Kilifi Cashewnut Factory has been taken over by some "big fish" and has been cannibalised. As we speak now, the machinery is being shipped to Tanzania and the Assistant Minister is in the Government. So, he knows how to help his constituents.

**The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it was not because of hon. Raila, I would not have allowed that point of information. I am already fully aware of that information. Nevertheless, thank you very much, hon. Raila. So, that bias must be removed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have no business importing cotton yarn, cotton wool or cotton into this country for our factories. We have adequate land which can be tilled to produce cotton, not only as a raw material for our factories, but also for export. I would like to see cotton farming developed in this country because some years back, the Coast Province and other parts of Kenya used to be major producers of cotton. Indeed, we even had a ginnery in the Coast Province but it is now a thing of the past. I am calling upon the management of the Ministry of Agriculture to revive some of these crops.

Let me go further and talk about livestock. We would like to see small dairy plants established. While I cry over the demise of the Mariakani Milk Scheme, we would like to see the management within the Ministry of Agriculture trying to enhance some small dairy plants in the rural areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as concerns the environment, the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources should provide some element of environmental protection in each of their spheres of activity. I do not see why Kenya should import instant coffee, yet we have Kahawa No.1, which is manufactured here. Do we really have to import instant coffee, particularly when we are striving to be industrialised by the year 2020?

The Minister did mention several constraints and I agree with him. For example, lack of water is a big constraint, but I have yet to see dams in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) in particular. I am talking about dams because we used to have about 50 to 60 dams in my constituency, but now they are in disuse as they are all silted. In my view, if we could have the agricultural mechanization services to scoop out silt from those dams, we would have water that can be used for irrigation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, there is Mariakani Mechanised Service. However, I want to complain that even my own little farm, which is four or two kilometres from the station--- Whenever I go looking for a tractor from Mariakani Mechanised Service, I cannot get it. The management of that unit needs to be looked into and that is why I am just bringing it to the Ministry's attention. I know we have liberalised most of our activities and, therefore, the tractor service is private. But Mariakani Mechanised Service

and its management ought to be looked into so that the services can be utilized better.

I totally agree with what the Minister said about rural roads. Rural roads are a major constraint. It is now the mango season, and we have mangos rotting all over at the Coast Province simply because there is no single road that can be used to transport them to the market. When the Ministry of Agriculture formulates its plans, those plans are incomplete without roads and water. There needs to be an element of co-ordination between all Ministries in terms of delivery of services for sustainable development in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as concerns training in our colleges, I would like to suggest that the policy made should ensure that, at least, a good percentage of applicants from the locality are offered places in those institutions. I have some complaints on this particular aspect because very few students at the Kilifi Institute of Agriculture are taken from Kilifi District. This is very unfair.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Ndwiga:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Having listened to the Minister, I am also advantaged because I am a Member of the Agricultural Departmental Committee. I wish to report to the House that the Committee and the Ministry have been working together very well, and some of the issues that have been explained by the Minister here have passed through the Agricultural Committee.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree that there are certain factors which will influence food supplies this year, especially the *La Nina* factor. When we had the *El Nino*, we were told by the experts that, there would be *La Nina* after *El Nino*. I am sure that the Ministry knew that this phenomenon would arrive. Why was it not possible for the Ministry to arrange for enough storage from the bumper harvest that we had, in preparation for the *La Nina* phenomenon? If Kenyans go hungry, *La Nina* will not be an excuse. Lack of planning will be the reason.

If Kenyans went hungry, lack of money would not be the reason, but planning would be the reason.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are other factors which affect agriculture and production, as the Minister says, such as, infrastructure. It is true that roads in the rural areas are impassable. While that situation remains so, in the tea and coffee growing areas, there is coffee and tea cess. There is still a lot of confusion, because, whereas the communities and the farmers there want to be in charge of the tea and coffee cess, the President announced that it should revert to the county councils. Now, this is unacceptable in very many areas. We will not agree that tea and coffee cess goes to the county councils. We would like our co-operative societies to manage the tea cess. Where that is happening; where tea and coffee cess has been used appropriately, we have seen a lot of improvement on the feeder roads. When the tea cess was being handled by the county councils we never had these roads. When the tea cess was with the District Commissioners, they all got "fat". They misappropriated the cess money and we never got roads. So, now, I would like to urge the Ministry of Agriculture to support the farmers in handling their own tea and coffee cess. This confusion of policy is hurting infrastructure on the ground. The Ministry should come out very strongly in support of the farmer, so that we have a very clear policy on the direction we want to take.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in terms of production, I do not know how we are going to increase our food production when farms which produce quality seeds, like the ADC farms have been grabbed all over the country. Every week, we hear in this House complaints of KARI land being grabbed by individuals. These are farms which produce seeds. Commercial producers of seed cannot be relied upon to produce quality seeds. I know the Ministry of Agriculture has very qualified staff alongside policy makers, like the Minister and the Assistant Ministers. But, until and unless the overall Government policy is right; that whatever they try to put in place will be effected by a policy that is responsive to the needs of the citizens of this country, agricultural policies are bound to fail. If we keep allocating KARI and ADC farms to individuals, that is irresponsible. We are calling upon the Government to stop that habit forthwith. If we have to improve on agriculture, this habit must stop. It first started as a small headache, but now it is a cancer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other factor affecting farmers, and especially small scale farmers in this country, is lack of credit facilities. This is an area which must really be addressed objectively by the Ministry of Agriculture. As long as farmers do not get credit, they are not expected to produce.

The issue of forming a farmers' bank has been mentioned time and again, and we expected the Ministry of Agriculture to have supported the move, because the Ministry is aware of the limitations of farmers in this country today. The present commercial lending rates of between 25 per cent and 30 per cent, make it impossible for farmers to borrow from commercial institutions, then plough that money into farming and make any profits. This is not possible. We claim to be an agricultural country; so the first thing that we ought to address is credit to

the farmer. We should not give lip service to the agricultural sector, which is so crucial to this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Minister has mentioned the Presumptive Tax. I notice, at the moment, that there is nobody from the Ministry of Finance here to listen to me. I would like to warn them that farmers are going to resist this Presumptive Tax. We are going to support the Ministry of Agriculture to fight this Presumptive Tax. Up to what level do you want to tax the farmer? Presumptive Tax has been introduced, and at the same time, in the current Budget, you are saying that tea factories are going to pay Corporate Tax. This Government is too greedy. Here is a farm owner who has a fruit tree and instead of picking the fruits, some people want to cut down the whole tree. If you tax farmers this way, you are killing agriculture. In other countries, the Government gives incentives to farmers to produce more, because they are foreign exchange earners for the country. Instead of taxing the hen which lays the golden egg, you need to feed it even more.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of taxation on factories when the Minister re-introduces the Tea Bill, we will revisit the issue of taxation on tea factory companies. These factories are owned by small-scale farmers whose levels of income are not worth taxing. Tea factories are merely custodians for the peasants' money. So, when you tax them, you are actually taxing the peasants. This is not right. I hope that the Government is listening carefully.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, prices of coffee are so low. This is a big scare in the coffee sector. In fact, those of us who are leaders do not know what to tell the farmers. What they are getting today is hardly enough to support next year's crop. In 1992, there was the issue of Coffee STABEX Fund. Today, we have never been told what happened to it. We need it this time when the country is bleeding. We need that stabilization fund. Next year, there will be no coffee, because what farmers are getting now is not even enough to purchase inputs. Therefore, if the Government does not act urgently, I am foreseeing a situation where---

It is true factors affecting prices are not of our own making, but this is where the farmer needs his Government. This is why we want the Ministry to tell us what happened to the STABEX Fund. If this money was not utilized then, could we have it now, so that next year, we have our crop?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on coffee, there are certain areas in this country, especially in Western Province, which are able to produce quality coffee. Those of us who have taken time to visit the Coffee Research Foundation at Ruiru, do know that they have developed a coffee variety which will do very well in Western Province, but they are handicapped because they have no money. I do hope that some of the funds which will be passed for the Ministry under this Vote will go to the Coffee Research Centre. In future, because we are going to pass the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture, I do hope that the Ministry will support services like coffee research. If we introduce coffee in Western Province in quantities that are being produced in Central and Eastern Provinces, we will have assisted to alleviate poverty across the country. The Ministry should put its house in order and ask for more funds to fund research. Coffee Research Foundation is currently funded by coffee farmers, but we want to see the Government's input. The Government is the one that takes the biggest share of the revenue generated from coffee. Even the Bible says: "It is immoral to harvest where you have not sown". But it has been the habit of our Government to harvest where they have not sown. That habit must stop because the Bible tells us that it is sinful to do that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of cotton, the Seconder of the Motion has said that we should not import cotton because we can produce it locally. We used to produce a lot of cotton in Nyanza and Western Provinces, and also in Meru South in Mitunguu area. What went wrong? That is the question we need to ask ourselves now and revisit cotton production urgently. Right now, where the Government generates some funds from tea and coffee, it is spending the same amount of money importing cotton from elsewhere. That is not good planning. We need a Government that plans. We know that, if the Government supported fully the Ministry of Agriculture, it would save colossal sums of money being used to import cotton. But most worrying is the importation of sugar. We read everyday that there is sugar in the high seas; that there are several metric tonnes of sugar awaiting to be off-loaded at the Port of Mombasa. I am informed that some of the sugarcane farmers have not been paid for the last two years. Their children are not going to school and we are importing these commodities. I propose that 25 per cent duty is not detrimental enough. If we want to save farmers in this country, duties on foodstuffs should be raised to 60 per cent to protect our farmers.

Hon. Keah said that mangoes are rotting in Mombasa, and yet, we are eating mangoes from South Africa. The Ministry should tell Kenyans why oranges imported from Durban would be cheaper in Nairobi than the ones from Kilimambogo here. Unless we explain that, we cannot claim to be planners. Other countries take agriculture very seriously and they support their farmers. Why is it that wine produced at Ruiru costs twice in the supermarkets as a similar bottle of red wine from Cape Town which has been taxed? Some of these things border on criminality, and this Ministry and the Government must address this issue rather urgently and seriously. If we are going to alleviate poverty, the Sessional Paper on Poverty Alleviation which was brought here, cannot be

serious if it cannot address this issue of agriculture specifically.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, rice is also being imported. I do not wish to disclose what the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources together with the Ministry have been doing, but I would want to say that we want to see more work being done in the area of rice production. In this country, the National Irrigation Board (NIB) only concentrates on Mwea Irrigation Scheme. That is where they make their profits. That is why we have been having fights there because they do not want to move out of Mwea Irrigation Scheme; the only cow to be milked. We are now telling them to go and milk other cows elsewhere. I am sure this is also what the Ministry is saying; that they should move to other areas and improve rice farming in Ahero and so forth.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of support to the farmers, the Government must address itself to the issue of agricultural inputs. Fertilizer is so expensive in this country, that the Government cannot run away from its responsibility. The Government must subsidize inputs like fertilizers, pesticides and so on. If the Government does not do that, then we will not be promoting farming at all. Why we are getting cheaper products from other countries? It is precisely because the Government does not support the export of those crops. It should subsidize agricultural inputs used by the farmers. So, the Government cannot run away from this responsibility.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture for improving extension services, but they should put more emphasis. Where I come from, in Embu, I have no quarrel at all with extension services. I am happy to report that coffee production is going to be more than double this season because of the quality extension services we are getting. But this is not so in other areas. Other hon. Members have complained bitterly about lack of these extension services. I would want to urge the Ministry to put more emphasis on extension services. On the question of tea, in the Sessional Paper, it is being proposed that extension services should be left to factory companies. I do not think that is wise. I believe that the Ministry cannot abrogate its responsibility. It must supervise what is happening there. Although these are factory companies, the crop itself is so important for this country that the Ministry cannot decide to leave extension services to the Tea Board, the Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) and factory companies. The Government must continue to provide extension services. That is the only way in which we will know, in our own budgeting for other purposes, what to expect and when in terms of tea production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on livestock, there has been the contentious issue of the holding grounds. We have been told that holding grounds are still there and when we ask "Where are they?"; we are asked in turn "Which holding grounds?; The original ones or the other ones?" When the Minister comes to reply, we want him to assure Kenyans that the livestock holding grounds are all intact and if they are not, this House wishes to urge the Minister to consult immediately with the Minister for Lands and Settlement and revoke allocations of those holding grounds. This is because if you seriously want to revive livestock production, this must be done. I am happy to note that the chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. So, I believe that we are talking to the right authority in this regard.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, I would wish to touch very briefly on the marketing of cereals. I did say that we ought to have focused ahead. When the *El Nino* phenomenon appeared, we ought to have known that the *La Nina* phenomenon would also be coming. However, in the maize-growing areas and in the bean-growing areas such as mine, you will find that last year, the Board was buying maize at Kshs400 per bag and then after two weeks or so, it was selling maize at Kshs1,000. Where is the policy? Could we have a proper policy from the Ministry, so that farmers can also be able to budget? If the farmer produces one bag of maize and it costs so much and the Ministry knows that to produce maize from one hectare costs so much, surely you cannot sell for less than what it costs to produce. It does not make any sense.

So, we are urging the Ministry of Agriculture to be more practical when it comes to marketing and storage of foods and strategic reserves.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Marrimoi):** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture.

I must thank the Minister for his speech. I listened keenly to his entire speech. The Ministry of Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of this nation. I personally come from an area which performs very well, as far as agriculture is concerned. The problem we have in my area is the poor road network, which makes it difficult for the Ministry unable to render its services well. The issue of poor roads is the major problem. For example, my constituency is in a very good district endowed with fertile soils and plenty of food, but the problem is how to market the food. Even the officers who are

here today from the Ministry of Agriculture, know that the extension officers find it difficult to reach the farmers. So, my request is that some funds should be set aside from this Vote to target areas which are really in need, because it is very difficult for the agricultural officers to serve the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have plenty of mangoes which are nearing harvest, and Kerio Valley alone can provide this nation with enough mangoes, or even export them but the problem that it faces is that of poor infrastructure. I must thank the extension officers because sometimes they, have to walk to reach farmers. At times, they even walk for 22 kilometres in order to reach the farmers! So, I think there is need to look into ways and means of improving our road network.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other problem, because we are going to vote these funds, is that at the district level, we have district accountants. I am telling you that they are a big problem. Sometimes when you ask the officers why they do not work, they tell you: "No, we are waiting for disbursement of monies." They then talk about the Treasury again. My suggestion is that, it should be decided how best this issue can be handled, so that the Permanent Secretary, who is the Accounting Officer, should always monitor them to ensure that the money voted is used properly. That is another area where people use the district treasury as a scapegoat for their failures by saying: "It is the District Treasury which has no money." I fail to understand! Even as far as the roads are concerned, the Government allocates funds from the Fuel Levy Fund but the problem is that the money cannot serve that purpose.

**Mr. Shitanda:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister on the Floor is talking about the embezzlement of funds in district treasuries. Is he suggesting that the Government has employed thieves?

*(Laughter)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): What is your point of order? Continue, Mr. Marrimoi.

**The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services** (Mr. Marrimoi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not saying that these officers are embezzling funds but it is the system that is wrong. This is because when the farmer is about to plant it takes a long time for the extension officers to obtain money from the district treasury. I am saying so because this is the problem that the officers face on the ground. I am not saying that this money is being misused. What I am trying to say is that it takes time and planting season always depends on rain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, touching on wool, I would like to say that we have plenty of wool which is now going to waste in our co-operative societies. I think the Ministry of Agriculture should look into ways of supporting the wool farmers in marketing this produce, especially in my own constituency where wool is produced in the highland areas. This is another area where the wool farmers should be considered and the officers who are concerned should actually look for a market for this farm produce.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another area is irrigation. The (EMS) used to assist very much when it came to serving the farmers but now, the system is dead. We shall look into ways of reviving it because it used to assist the farmers a lot and this is an area that we have to look into. I am saying so because my constituency is lucky. Geographically, we are well-placed, since we have plenty of rivers and irrigation is very important to our people. That is an area where this money should really be channelled to.

With these few remarks, I support this Motion.

**Dr. Omamo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister and hon. Ndwiga have spoken very well. We are both in the Departmental Committee which deals with agriculture, where the Minister appears to be grilled. The Minister has taken quite a bit of the limelight, and this is really why I have only a few points which I would like to mention. I have noticed that when the Minister spoke, he invited the Assistant Minister for Finance to support the Motion. I would like to suggest to the Minister, in all sincerity, that he should appeal for Treasury's support not during debate, but before debate. I feel that we are giving the Ministry lip- service. We are not taking agriculture as seriously as we talk about it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it is true that such a high percentage of employed people in Kenya are in the agricultural sector, and that we expect it to generate 70 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and that agriculture plays such an important role, it is important that the Minister for Agriculture discusses these problems with the Minister for Finance because, finally, the funds will have to be authorised by the Treasury. For example, when one tours the coastal districts of Taita Taveta, Tana River and looks at the livestock, one will notice that, the area is quite suited for ranching. However, the limiting factor to effective ranching in those areas is

tse-tse fly infestation. The menace has also affected South Nyanza District and parts of Busia District. For how long are we going to live with this menace? Are we going to allow ticks to kill our grade cattle, yet we have drugs with which to deal with them?

We have in place a policy which withdraws or recoils Government support in such activities. This policy is called "liberalisation". Before we touch the small-scale livestock farmers, because they fully appreciate the value of grade cows-- They are now supposed to pay quite a sum of money, because of the policy of liberalisation. I would like to appeal to the Minister to give guidance on this policy. In some parts of the country, farmers are not yet ready for liberalisation, as far as killing of ticks is concerned, just like in the area of artificial insemination. We have got to educate farmers on the value of grade cows, including the high milk production realised from them. However, if we do not breed the cows properly, we shall not be taking the whole activity seriously. I personally think that time has come for us to do everything, as a country, to give agriculture the prominence it requires.

I would now like to say something about food security. Before, you can secure food, you must have the food. What I mean is, for example, before you get married, you must have a girlfriend.

**Mrs. Mugo:** Or a boyfriend!

**Dr. Omamo:** Yes! Thank you very much, Mrs. Mugo. Likewise, there is no way you can secure food without having food, and that food must be produced. That is why it is important that we explore every avenue to produce indigenous food with a view to boosting the production of foodstuffs such as bananas cheaply. As I have said on many occasions, if food is not to be imported, we should use research to produce crop varieties which can do well in Kenya, so that we can produce enough food for ourselves. What business do we have in eating bananas, apples and plums from South Africa? I like hon. Mandela, but I do not like apples from South Africa. I honestly want Kenyan apples, because we can produce our own apples.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our textile industry is tottering. Why do we not revive cotton production through a deliberate policy to grow more cotton? Nyanza Province, Embu, and Meru are high-potential cotton growing areas. Let us motivate more farmers from those areas to grow more cotton. It has been proved that cotton can grow very well in those areas. It is only effort to increase the quantities of cotton production in those areas that is required. For example, why do we not carry out more research with a view to producing cotton varieties which will increase yield?

I do not want to repeat myself, but for the sake of the Minister, who is a good friend of mine; why do we not encourage small-scale irrigation systems, which are river-driven, lake-driven, or hillock-driven? The hillocks along the lake shores are doing nothing. We are doing nothing to exploit the waters of the Tana, Athi and Kuja Rivers to irrigate food and fibre crops. Definitely, before you secure food security, you must produce food.

I fully support the Ministry in promoting horticulture. Moi International Airport at Mombasa is helping to promote horticulture. Also, the Eldoret International Airport is there to serve Western and Nyanza Provinces. Now, why does the Ministry not do something about those provinces, so that we can utilise Eldoret International Airport to export horticultural products? Why do we not do that now? I would like to urge the Minister to spend more money on research, if research is the limiting factor to horticultural production in those areas. Let us have flowers grown in those areas, so that we can transport them to proper destinations overseas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not have liked to talk about sugar-cane because I am very familiar with the crop. However, although sugar-cane is sweet, it has bitter problems. It leaves a bitter taste in the mouth, just because of unfavourable policies. So, I would like to appeal to the Minister to liberalise the sector in a proper manner. He should let farmers own a larger percentage of the industry, and not just 20 per cent. This percentage will not empower the sugar-cane farmers. The sugar-cane, tea, coffee and pyrethrum farmer should be empowered. Only when we empower the primary producers, can we be of service to wananchi. At the moment, the potential for increasing sugar production in this country is enormous. We have high potential sugar production areas such as Yala Swamp and other areas. So, I think we should do a lot more to bring those areas under productive activities.

With those few remarks, I fully support both the Ministry's Recurrent and Development Votes.

**Mr. Kamolleh:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. However, I support the Motion conditionally. The Minister for Agriculture has tried his level best to give us an estimate which shows some consideration towards improvement in livestock, crop production and things like horticulture. I do not know of any country in history, which has had any viable industry without an improvement in her agricultural production. Interesting enough, however, is the fact that this country seems to be moving in only one direction in which we cannot have any imports, and that is in horticulture. As far as horticulture is concerned, we are trying our level best because nobody can bring flowers into this country from another country. If we look at the other side,

whether it is french beans, tomatoes or apples; I can give you a long list of a thousand crops which we can grow in this country, but they are not given enough priority. This is because we are thinking that by exporting tea, coffee and horticultural products, then we are satisfied and it is adequate for us.

I would urge, and in fact, encourage the Minister for Agriculture to look into not only the crop production, but also the marketing because here, we have a problem. The more we make our people aware that we can also have our own pineapples, apples, french beans and the rest, then we actually make those things more interesting for our people and I do not think they will want anything from South Africa, Zimbabwe or any other place where we get those things from. The important thing is that the more we let these additional agricultural products extinct, we are actually committing suicide economically.

We hear that this Government has collective responsibility. I have not seen that collective responsibility as far as our Government is concerned. If the Ministers for Trade, Industrial Development and Agriculture do not sit together and see that we are committing suicide in letting people bring their goods here cheaply; in fact, we can include the Minister for Finance by not levying as much duty as possible for any goods that come in here; that means we are letting people enter into and out of Kenya as they like. I want to be more specific here. We have research and I see that development expenditure for research is huge; its allocation has increased from K£5 million to K£7 million. That research is on which crops? We cannot go on researching only on tea, coffee and horticultural crops and leaving out cashewnuts at the Coast. To-date, Tanzania, Mozambique and even Malawi are producing much more cashewnuts than us, because we have neglected that crop. I could mention another crop; that is bixa. This is a very important crop for this country, because it mostly grows only along the Coast. The need for bixa will never dwindle because ladies will always be born. So, in fact, this is the time for the Minister for Agriculture to improve upon, not only research, but also production of bixa and marketing outlets for this product. We have neglected that crop because we have coffee, tea and horticulture. I would encourage the Minister to look into this direction.

The Minister should look into the issue of food security. I am not talking about food security in terms of maize alone. Why should Kenyans only eat ugali or potatoes only? We can do it in another way; we can diversify, such that the diversification of agriculture can also come in with the culture of the people. That is why it is called "agri-culture". We can "culturalise" the people by giving them a diversity of food products, so that they do not have to depend on maize and when there is no maize, then we are in trouble. We have to ask for yellow maize from America. This is the time we should realise some of the mistakes we made in the early years of Independence and diversify towards food production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, food security has been mentioned and talked about for a long time; but this country is still far from achieving the goal of food security. Food security is an aspect that other countries prioritise. For us here, whenever we have a little more maize, the Minister for Agriculture is a great friend of mine and I would not like to embarrass him; but when we have extra maize and the Tanzanians do not have any food stocks, we take our maize from our food security reserves and sell it out there because we get more money. When we do not have any food and we have money, we cannot chew a Kshs20 note or a Kshs100 note, but we can only chew maize and other crops. Apparently, food security in this country is only on maize and perhaps on beans. I have never heard of any silos for potatoes, and if there are any, I would like to be told. I have never heard of any silos for various other crops like tomatoes, for example. We only have silos in terms of maize and when we are hungry, then we are in trouble. Perhaps, we should diversify our food security, not on one crop, but various other crops which we might need.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a problem here and I would want to mention it. Much as we would want to produce; and you have heard hon. Omamo saying, we are neglecting irrigation. There are so many water catchment areas, but we are not using them. We do not need to have big irrigation schemes, but minor ones like the one in Kibwezi done by Israeli where we can grow a lot of pawpaws, oranges and the like. Perhaps, this is the most appropriate ways; start, small, but beautiful projects rather than think of the mega projects, which are never implemented due to corruption.

Perhaps, we should start by encouraging the Minister for Agriculture to start minor projects along various rivers where we can avail as much water as possible, so that if the farmers did not have anything to do, they would practice the traditional method of farming.

We hear there is a Vote for Agricultural Information Services. What is this information? Farmers seem not even to know which seeds to use or about rotation in agriculture. They do not even seem to have seen one extension officer from the Agricultural Department, for the last three or four years. So, what is this Vote for Agricultural Information Services? It is high time that we did not only vote money to be used, but also voted money to be used, particularly for services which will be



rendered rather than for monies which will be extended without any service.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also not particularly happy with the fact that, there is a reduction in the number of agricultural officers in the Coastal area and specifically in Kwale District. First of all, our peasant farmers do not have much information. When they are not visited by these officers, we are actually saying that these people are supposed to "dream" of what to do in order to improve their agricultural methods. Perhaps, it is high time that the Minister for Agriculture stopped waiting until June or July to give us the figures for us to approve for them to spend. He should tell us what it is that they have done, before coming to this House for the approval. We would like now to have Estimates which will state, "We have done this and that and now, we need so much in order to do this", rather than just lines, like this line for information and the rest. We are tired of this!

If twenty years down the line, we still have theories, when are we ever going to enter the laboratory of development? There are times, when, in fact, speaking in this House, is even a shame; to repeat the same things to the same people who have been to school and who have also known about them.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I support the Motion.

**Mr. Khamasi:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion. First of all, when the Minister for Finance delivered his Budget Speech in this House, he basically wanted to address issues of economic recovery, eradication of poverty and also unemployment in this country. However, if we consider the allocation of money to the Ministry of Agriculture, which is basically less than 10 per cent of the total Budget, you cannot relate it against the said objectives.

Agriculture is very central in achieving exactly what the Minister for Finance addressed in his Budget Speech. Unfortunately, this Vote does not seem to reflect that. We require proper planning and more funds for the various sectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, to enable it to run smoothly.

One thing I have noticed about the Ministry of Agriculture is that it seems to be too overloaded with many parastatals. I am not sure whether we should not be thinking about restructuring the Ministry so that it just remains with a few parastatals which it can easily manage. I have got a lot of sympathies for the Minister for Agriculture and his team in the Ministry, with the sort of problems that they have day in, day out, in managing the many parastatals that fall under the Ministry. It happens, unfortunately, that most of the sectors in the Ministry of Agriculture are now full of problems. Farmers are crying; they are getting a raw deal from the very many sectors of agriculture.

Just to give an example, the tea sector is the biggest foreign exchanger earner in this country; it earns over Kshs20 billion. When you look at the small tea holding farmers, who produce 60 per cent of that crop, you cannot relate them with the money that they bring into the country. They wear tattered clothes and sometimes they go without food. Yet, that is the crop which produces the biggest amount of revenue to the Exchequer. In this particular sector, we need to address the question of the level of taxation. Maybe, we should also address the level of taxation in other agricultural sectors. The same farmers we are talking about produce more revenue to the Exchequer, but they are being taxed heavily. If you look at the Tea (Amendment) Bill, it contains the Presumptive Income Tax (PIT) and Corporate Tax, which are being paid by the factory tea companies owned by the farmers. Why should we tax these particular farmers so many times on the same crop? We will all support the Minister for Agriculture when he starts fighting the PIT. We have lost direction in this country, particularly, when it comes to the levying of the PIT. You would find that it is being levied this year, but tomorrow we will do away with it, and the following year it is levied again. We need to address it very seriously; we need to know where we are. Why do we introduce it today, only for it to be removed next year? It is very important that it is addressed.

The cess collection in this sector, we have always said, and we will repeat it time and again, should be looked into. The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Local Authorities need to sit down and sort out this matter. It should not be an academic exercise. We need to make sure that, that money goes back to the farmers so that it can be used to construct roads in the farming areas. We do not need to see a situation whereby the money is being paid to the councils, only for them to mismanage it. That matter has got to be addressed very seriously. We are asking the Minister for Agriculture to make sure that, that matter is resolved. Let us not make it an academic exercise day in, day out.

The cotton industry collapsed a long time ago. The ginneries are now being sold to Asians at throw-away prices. In fact, it will be a gigantic problem to revive it. We have complained about it, but nothing seems to happen. We are asking the Minister for Agriculture to address that issue very seriously, because the co-operators put in a lot of money, but those ginneries are just being sold to every Tom, Dick and Harry at a less beneficial value to the farmers.

The sugar industry, as we speak in this House, is in problems. We had a Question here which stated that

there is some consignment of sugar at the port of Mombasa and some influential people are going round to make sure that they do not pay duty for it. Yet, we say that we want to make sure that the sugar industry is revised. But the industry is in problems, and all we can say is that the Government is only giving lip-service. We want the Government to get very serious so that the sugar factories around the country can sell their sugar. Corruption in the sugar industry has to be addressed. It is a disease which the Ministry of Agriculture has got to address. The Government must come out clean on that matter, because we believe that most of the functionaries in those corrupt deals are actually civil servants and very senior members of the Government.

When talking about farming in the country, we cannot leave out the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). The KARI carries out research on various crops in this country, and it cannot perform that function in heaven. It can only do it on parcels of land. But the parcels of the research land have been invaded by this same Government. It is the Government which is dishing out the KARI farms. Where shall we carry out our research activities? Where shall we carry out our experiments? It is very important that those KARI farms which have been taken away are repossessed so that we can continue carrying out our research functions effectively and get high yields of seeds and other agricultural inputs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmer needs to be protected. We did say here sometime back that we need a farmer-friendly Budget. I am happy that the Minister has addressed most of the problems that are affecting farmers. We have seen the problems in the National Irrigation Board (NIB) where the farmer gets only Kshs14 for the highest grade of rice, when NIB sells the same for Kshs65. Where does the bulk of the amount go to?

Having said that, I must compliment the Minister for Agriculture because in the short while we had association with him, particularly in the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, he has seen reason and has even overlooked some of the stone-age laws affecting the irrigation industry and he is addressing the matters as they are on the ground. We are sure that with such an approach, we will make some headway in irrigation.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Muite:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a Government in this country which is not embarrassed or ashamed to tell all and sundry, that Kenya is an agricultural country. We claim to be an agricultural country and yet we are not able to feed ourselves. Maize being the staple diet for majority of people in this country, hardly two years ever go by without this country having to import maize to feed its people. The Government should be embarrassed and ashamed that it is in power in a country which is agricultural and yet it is not able to feed its people. What kind of agricultural country are we in?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we talk in this House but the people we represent want to see tangible and concrete results that are going to benefit them. The people who elected us into this Parliament did not elect us to come and participate in what could be described as a "talk-shop". They want us to be effective in bringing a difference to their conditions of living. Therefore, I wish to appeal to the Minister for Agriculture--- There are fewer Ministries which are as important as the Ministry of Agriculture. Time has come for this Government to turn this country round, in order for us to be truly proud and say that we are an agricultural country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, actions are required in this country in order for us to achieve our intended goals. Why for example, would the Minister be happy to propose the Vote of his Ministry, when he knows about the outcry in the country, regarding research lands? How can the Ministry of Agriculture be effective without the back-up of research? Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) land, everywhere in the country is being grabbed! The silence by the Minister for Agriculture is very conspicuous. We would like him to take a very firm and a very positive position in this matter. It is his responsibility to protect research land in this country. In Limuru, which is one of the few stations where research regarding English potatoes was being undertaken, there is no land left! In order for that sort of research to be carried out effectively, a lot of land is required because where they plant the seed-maize in a particular year, requires to be left fallow for a number of years. When these grabbers see land which is not being used and which has been deliberately left fallow, they think it is there for grabbing. As of now, in Tigoni where we used to carry out research on English potatoes, there is not enough land for research. I do wish to appeal to the Minister for Agriculture to demand in the Cabinet in which he is a Member and in this House, for the nullification of the grabbing of land that has taken place in Limuru, where land used for the research of English potatoes has been grabbed.

The quality of the production of potatoes in this country has been going down because research is not being carried out effectively. It is not just in

Limuru alone that this is happening. This also applies to the KARI land in Kitale and everywhere, where land has been grabbed. The Minister for Agriculture must assume responsibility on his shoulders to cancel the allotment now! Do not wait until we have a change of Government. When we have a change of Government in this country, people who have been facilitating this grabbing; and I say so as a lawyer, some of these crimes are so obvious and there will be no point in taking time putting them through courts of law. Those people should be lined up against a wall and be done away with, the same day there is a change of Government. What I am saying is that, the Minister for Agriculture should not keep mum when research land is being grabbed right, left, and centre. We will pass this Vote, subject to his cancelling the grabbing of this land.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even near the Kabete Approved School, opposite the Lower Kabete Campus, land that had been reserved for years for research on Artificial Insemination (AI), has been grabbed. A very small portion has been left. In fact, some houses are being put up on that land. Three acres of that piece of land have gone to one nominated Member who is on that side of the House. I appeal to the Minister for Agriculture once again, to revoke the grabbing of the land in Kabete for AI, so that it can revert back to AI purposes and research can go on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can talk about big dreams of being an industrialised country in the year 2020. But let us concentrate on agro-based industries because we are an agricultural country. Let us make agriculture a bit more efficient through research and extension officers. In the efficient countries, any country which employs more than 3 per cent of its population in agriculture is not doing efficient agriculture. Most countries have less than two per cent of its population engaged in agriculture and yet, they are able to feed their people and to export. Let us have meaningful policies that are going to be implemented and let us have the political will to implement agricultural policies, followed by agro-based industries. For example, why should we, as a country, really be exporting hides and skins and leave aside the Bata Shoe Factory in Limuru?

Why can the Government not develop policies where the hides and skins that we produce in this country, instead of being exported for final processing to Italy and England, are processed here. The first thing which we do when we go out of the country is to buy shoes, possibly made with leather exported out this country, and refined and processed into shoes in those countries. When our wives travel abroad, the first thing they do is to buy handbags and belts made from hides and skins exported from this country. It is a fact that if you ask most of the hon. Members where they bought their belts, which they wear around their waists, it is outside this country.

So, what I am saying is that, if we are going to talk about Kenya being an agricultural country and industrialising, we should think about agro-based industries. Let us think of how to have leather processing factories, but not the one at Zimmerman. The tanneries should be properly run and environmentally-friendly. Let us process the hides and skins to the final product. Let the Government encourage the importation of that technology and the empowerment of our people. For example, the Kamiti Tannery which is situated at Zimmerman should be upgraded to remove the stench and foul smell. This way, it will not be a health hazard to the neighbours. After that, it can create employment in Zimmerman, where there are very many unemployed young men and women. Why can the Government not encourage the start of cottage industries, so that the unemployed youths can learn how to make the belts, handbags and items that can be sold? Instead of us exporting raw materials, we can export finished products!

Today, if you go to any supermarket, you will find imported corn-flakes and yet, they are made from maize. Even England, Holland and those other places do not grow maize. They import maize from Kenya, make corn-flakes and re-export the same to this country. It is a shame! Even on coffee, why can the Government not come up with policies so that Nairobi and Mombasa can become the world market centres for blending and manufacturing of different types of coffees, like Nescafe?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): Your time is up!

**Mr. Muite:** Was it ten or 20 minutes?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): It is ten minutes. Proceed, hon. Koskei!

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Mr. Koskei): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution to this Motion, which relates to the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture.

First and foremost, coming from a constituency and a district that grows a lot of pyrethrum, I would like to focus my discussion on the role of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK), *vis-a-vis* the farmer who grows the crop.

As you all know, most of the pyrethrum is grown within Nakuru District. When I talk of Nakuru District, I am basically talking about Molo and Kuresoi Constituencies, where 70 per cent of the pyrethrum is grown. Unfortunately, for so many years, people from Kisii in Nyanza have dominated the PBK. There was a wrong assumption that, most of the pyrethrum grown in this country, was grown

in Kisii and some other parts of Nyanza Province. I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture to correct that wrong impression. Most of the Board members in the PBK come from Kisii and yet, we, the people of Nakuru District, grow most of the pyrethrum in this country.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to insinuate that it is the Kenya Government policy to employ people according to their production? If that was the case, why do we have a Kalenjin running the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA)?

**The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Koskei):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am simply saying is that, the PBK should actually reflect where the pyrethrum is grown. I happen to have had an opportunity to go to Gucha District some two weeks ago. We actually went to raise some funds. A society that had put up very impressive buildings, offices and godowns to store the pyrethrum does not do so. This is because the growing of pyrethrum has actually collapsed in the region. What I am simply trying to say is this: "You cannot eat your cake and still have it." So, if they no longer grow pyrethrum, why should they be running the PBK? They have no interest in growing the crop! It is a right for those who are growing the crop to be represented in the PBK. If they have the interest and want to maintain their share of the directors in the PBK, they should grow the crop. I do not see any reason why anybody should argue that the production should determine the members of the Board. This is because at the end of the day, if you do not have an interest in growing the crop, you should not have any business in managing the marketing of that particular crop?

Secondly, it is very unfortunate that there is a rule, and I think the Minister should help us here, that for you to be given a supply number in the PBK, you should have three acres of land. Unfortunately, many middlemen buy the pyrethrum from farmers and still manage to sell it to the PBK. The question that one would want to pose is: How do the middleman, who do not plant, actually manage to obtain the supply number and yet, he does not have any land to show the PBK? He cannot be registered to supply the pyrethrum because he does not have any land! It does not make any sense that the farmer who grows the pyrethrum is paid Kshs50 by the middleman, and by the time the middleman goes to sell his pyrethrum to the PBK, it buys the same at Kshs103. This man has not done anything! So, we are simply trying to discourage the farmer from growing the crop. It is the duty of the PBK to make sure that the farmer, who takes a lot of trouble to grow the crop, is protected by removing such regulations. These regulations do not help the farmer. They tend to discourage the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of people have been commenting about the case of protecting the farmers in Kenya. What takes a lot of blame is the agricultural policy. It is ironical that last year, we had a bumper crop in his country, as far as maize was concerned. Our friends in Tanzania were actually buying the maize. Come this year, the rains have failed in most grain-growing areas in Nakuru District. Actually, we have lost the crop! Even if it rains today, we cannot salvage the crop in Nakuru District. Unfortunately, there was no crop that was bought by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) in the whole of Nakuru District. What is the role of the NCPB? It is supposed to act as a strategic reserve. At the end of the day, they do not do that. So, why should we maintain a parastatal that, at the end of the day, drains the Treasury? It is actually supposed to facilitate the agricultural policy. We are going to spend a lot of money to import maize to feed the people. If, as we heard the other day, Mwingi District was being given 3,000 bags of maize every month, what about Nakuru District, where we are close to 1.5 million people? How many bags of maize will be needed to feed that number of people? It is very important that, as we move to the next Millennium, we look into the agricultural policy and modify it. The people concerned with policy formulation in the Ministry should be serious in whatever they do. It does not really make sense to have a policy on agriculture which we cannot implement. Why should we only have it in the Policy Paper if we cannot implement it?

Mr. Deputy Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes when farmers were growing barley, they were fully sponsored by the Kenya Breweries in terms of tilling of land, seed, fertilisers, harvest and transport to their depot in Molo. Unfortunately, last year when the South African Breweries started to operate in this country, Kenya Breweries decided only sponsor only about 40 per cent of growth of barley, while the farmers themselves sponsor the other 60 per cent. So, when the Minister failed to introduce heavy tax on imported barley, I think we are not really protecting our farmers. At the end of the day, farmers are not even given the credit they used to enjoy. Without the credit, they will be discouraged to grow that barley. So, what will happen if we spent money to import barley that can be grown here locally? The Kenya Breweries has really discouraged farmers by not giving them that credit to assist them grow barley. So, it does not really make sense, in my own view, to advocate for something, but at the end of the day, we do not support our farmers. I would want to join my friend who said that, if Kenya wants to be an agricultural country, then we must be serious on what we say. Let us not give lip-service to our farmers, because most of our people depend on agriculture to meet their basic needs. At the end of the day, if funds are not provided to farmers, they will not meet their basic needs. In as much as we formulate

policy statements like this one on Poverty Alleviation, we will not really go far because we do not provide funds to our farmers, so as to alleviate their poverty.

Sometimes back before the grabbing of ADC farms, livestock farmers benefited from the dairy industry and sheep breeders.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr. Kibicho:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture is such an important Ministry that even the money allocated to it by this Government is not adequate. It needs a bigger allocation.

If the Ministry of Agriculture is a vehicle for poverty alleviation and is expected to provide food security in this country, then this Government must deal with the one major problem in this sector. There is pressure on land because of population growth. I am not suggesting that the Government deals with family planning as such.

I am suggesting that a deliberate policy must be put in place, so that more land will be set aside for agriculture. In other words, more land in arid and semi-arid areas must be opened up for agriculture. This can only be done, if water is provided in those areas.

This Ministry has very good ideas, but they have never been implemented. Look at their policies. They have a policy on construction of dams. For example, in Masinga in Embu, there is a mechanised station for construction of dams. This station is supposed to serve Central and Eastern Provinces. If you go there, you will find only two earth-moving machines; one is not working, the other one is working. This machine is supposed to provide services to people of Makueni and Isiolo. Before it is taken to Makueni or Isiolo, it must be transported by another vehicle. Why can this Ministry not see that this sector requires huge investment, so that the whole of Ukambani and other parts of Eastern Province can be opened up for agriculture? Unless that is done, we will not have enough food to feed our people. Just look at the amount of money this Government is spending to feed people in Ukambani and Eastern Province. Why can that money not be used for agricultural activities in those areas? If you go to the same station, you find that the few tractors which are supposed to be used by farmers are not working. Why do we not have a policy to invest properly, so that we can realise good results?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for agriculture to give us maximum yield from available land, extension services are very important. But do we have them now? We have a policy where Kenyans have been discouraged to pursue degree courses in agriculture, because we train graduates in this field without employing them. Why do you, as the Ministry, not come up with a policy so that you only train people who you can employ?

You do not have to discourage young Kenyans from pursuing courses in this sector. If you do that, we will have no people who will be interested to pursue courses in agriculture. And if few will be interested, then they might not be the best brains to train in agriculture. One would have expected by now that all graduates from Egerton University are employed by this Government. For example, when you retire your officers, replace them with graduates from our universities because these are people with knowledge and will offer extension services of high quality. Every hon. Member who has contributed today has said that extension officers have done a good job, but there is still room for improvement.

We grow coffee, tea, pyrethrum, cotton, sugar and other major crops, but we do not have a policy that can make these crops contribute higher than they do today to our GDP. What do I mean by saying so? Look at tea, for example. As we talk now, tea is said to be the leading foreign exchange earner in this country, but the farmer gets very little from the sale of it. The Minister will tell us that, this is happening in a free market. Tea is sold at Mombasa and every factory gets what it delivered to the market at Mombasa. But if the Minister wanted to help the tea farmers, then one thing can be done as far as small-scale farmers are concerned. Most of our 45 tea factories have borrowed money at a very low interest rate. The same KTDA has on-lent this money on commercial rates to farmers. Why can the Minister not reduce the interest rates, so that farmers can benefit because each year, farmers pay so much money to maintain roads? The KTDA is already a very rich organisation and it does not require so much money. This is almost like a grant, and the money is lent to factory companies at a commercial rate. I have a tea factory which is called Monunga in my constituency. This factory was put up at a cost of Kshs140 million in mid 1980s and the loan is Kshs180 million today, because of these rates and devaluation of currency.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the Ministers said that as far as he is concerned Presumptive Income Tax is a burden on farmers, and we support him. However, we expect him to convince the Government so that this tax is taken away from the farmers. This is because the Kenyan farmer is not given any subsidy. Therefore, whatever little is available must be made to reach him so that he does not lose so much money.

Though we are not discussing the Tea Act, we would like the Minister to remove corporate tax from the tea industry when tea factories revert to the owners and are fully liberalised. This is because if this is not done then the amount of money the farmers will get from their crop will be low. If the amount of money which the farmers will earn from their crop will be low, then they will uproot tea and grow flowers or practice dairy farming. This

will be a big loss to our economy!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the livestock industry, a deliberate policy must be put in place to ensure that the people of North Eastern Province have enough water for their animals. The Government should also beef up security in that province. This is because as we are talking here, the people of North Eastern Province are killing each other because of lack of water. Until this Government considers all parts of Kenya as the same, and a policy is put in place to ensure that every person who lives in this country contributes to the economic growth of this country, Kenya will continue to be a very poor country. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a problem with the coconut industry which is in Coast Province. Why should we import coconut oil from other countries, and yet, many coconut trees are grown in this Province? Why can this Government not come up with a policy, which will deliver so that the end result will make a difference in this country?

On the tariffs which the Minister proposes to institute so that our agricultural sector can be protected, we would like to request him to ensure that the enforcement of these tariffs is done effectively so that we do not have a situation whereby instead of the tariffs benefiting our farmers, they benefit those people who import agricultural products but evade paying tax. I do not want to use the word "corruption", which we use here everyday. However, that is what I exactly mean. We should not be corrupt if we want to achieve economic growth.

On water, we would like---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Kibicho, your time is up!

**Mr. Mboko:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. I support this Motion with a heavy heart because as I stand here my constituents are currently living on relief food. They are living on relief food because of the poor policies which have been put in place by this Ministry. If the policies of this Ministry were good, today, my people would be self-sufficient in food.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has killed Kenyans in many ways. When the Government started retrenching civil servants, the Ministry acted very fast and retired some of its officers to the detriment of the development of this country. All the technical assistants who were deployed in the rural areas were retrenched. Now, the farmer cannot get advice on the modern farming technics, and yet, in my constituency, Kibwezi, which the Minister is fully aware of, irrigation has done a wonderful thing. Instead of the Ministry promoting irrigation so that my people can be self-reliant in food production and feed the entire country, it is just having the "wait and see policy". We have enough water in Kibwezi Constituency, but the Government is not exploring it! In fact, the Government is not doing what is required of it in order to give this country a better policy in the management of the agricultural sector.

The other problem with this Ministry is that there are so many things which are overlapping. For example, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) which used to fall under the Ministry of Agriculture now falls under the Ministry of Research and Technology. Worse still, research on livestock production still falls under the Ministry of Research and Technology. It is high time this policy was changed. Let the KARI fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, so that we can deal with the Minister here, knowing very well that this body is under him, and what they are developing is for the betterment of this country. He should not allow people to do research elsewhere, but when it comes to the implementors, they are not well informed. This is what is killing us!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still on that issue, many hon. Members who have spoken have highlighted maize as our staple food crop. The way it is being managed is not good. For example, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), which is supposed to buy our produce has been liberalised. How do you liberalise such a sector when you are poor? How do you allow people to buy and sell maize which is our staple food? When there is a shortage of maize in the country, and the Government says that it has allowed people to import the product into the country, who imports the maize? It is the Asians who import maize into the country and not the Government. This is because it is the Asians who can import this commodity into our country in large quantities. What is the Government doing when it allows these people to control our staple food sector? This is very wrong! Let the NCPB have the mandate it had previously of importing maize into the country when there is a shortfall. Likewise, when there is an abundance of food in our country, the NCPB should be left alone to buy it.

I remember last year, we had enough rain in Ukambani, which resulted in the best harvest, but the maize went to waste. This was because duty on maize was done away with. At that time, one could not even store maize for more than six months. This is because it was destroyed by pests whose origins we did not know. When we asked agricultural officers who were on the ground where the pests had come from, they told us that they did not know their origin. In fact, we were left wondering as to what was happening. Time has come for us to subsidise our own farmers. This is because farmers have the biggest task to feed this nation. But for them to succeed they need to have good implements, which are now very expensive. For example, the inputs, fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals and labour are very expensive. Therefore, when they produce their crop, the end result is very

expensive. That is why you will find that maize from South Africa, which is thousands of kilometres away from this country and other countries like Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, is cheaper compared to our local maize even when duty on it is paid. We always say that we are ahead of them, but how are we ahead of them? How are we ahead of them when they can bring their produce through Mombasa Port? To purchase a bag of it, you need Kshs900; yet, this country cannot feed itself.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, touching on the horticultural produce, most of us have produced a lot of horticultural crops, which we are exporting at the behest of the Asian people. They are the ones who decide the price at which to buy your own horticultural produce. When our farmers do not want to sell to them, they have no other place to sell and they do not know how to eat them; they are mainly eaten by Asians. When the farmers have packaged, they decide how much they are going to pay per carton. It is high time the Government regulated the prices of such produce, especially those bought by people of Asian origin. They have cartels at the airport and farmers cannot export their produce to the outside market. Farmers cannot get air space. They have established cartels from the farmer to the importer and the airlines. The Asians have destroyed our economy and it is high time they were prevented from dealing in these produce. Asians should be prohibited from doing this business.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) used to be a very good corporation. It used to finance farmers, even when they did not have title deeds. Most of the small-scale farmers were very faithful and they used to pay the money back. But when the 'big sharks' came in and looted the corporation, small-scale farmers have no access to credit facilities. When the money is not available to invest, farmers cannot produce. Then, we start importing goods from South Africa, Israel and other places, because we cannot support the local farmer. The small-scale farmer is the person who suffers. The large scale farmers are commercial people. They do not eat the maize or Unga. But the small-scale farmer is the one who should be supported and he must have access to credit facilities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, we used to have sufficient land to grow cotton and we used to grow a lot of it. But somehow, somewhere in-between, the Government stopped involving itself in the cotton industry. I wonder whether it is better for this country to spend the money it earns from other sources to import cotton from India and other countries, when our own country can have enough supply of cotton. Today, if you go to the health centres, it is very sad. So, it is high time the Ministry considered facilitating cotton growing in this country. We should not spend so much money on imports while we can produce our own cotton here and create employment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that many institutions have been introduced by the Ministry. We had Bura Irrigation Scheme and other schemes which were started to cater for production of various crops. But due to mismanagement, a lot of things have gone wrong. We need also to give attention to our own traditional food crops, for example, millet, cassava and others. We should promote our crops which are favourable to our climate.

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

**The Assistant Minister for Finance** (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are agreed that Kenya is an agricultural country. The majority of our people live in the rural areas and are either farmers or derive their living from the farms. Many Members have spoken regarding our failures in agriculture. These have been very serious failures. I am sure, the Minister and his staff are hardworking people and I would like to commend them for the work they are doing. At the same time, I would like to let them know that we have a lot of expectations from the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we are going to move our people out of poverty, quite a lot has to happen in agriculture to ensure that 80 per cent of our people have a regular income out of what they do. In this country, and I have said this before, we have tended to favour a small minority living in urban areas; that is, people who are in employment. This minority now eats the fats of our land, as it were, while the majority of our people are suffering. We talk about low food prices being good. When we talk about low food prices, we are talking about a small minority that resides in urban areas. The other side of the coin which we fail to remember is that this means low prices for agricultural produce. If we are going to ensure a regular income and a sustainable standard of living for our people, we have to change this attitude, where we translate low food prices to low income for our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has also come out very clearly is that we need to re-think about liberalisation. We seem to have embraced liberalisation without any checks. The original idea has come from elsewhere and we seem to be embracing it in all our national activities; liberalising almost everything. I am among those who have said that nowhere in the world is agriculture liberalised, not even in the Western world, where this idea came from. We should not, therefore, open our markets and embrace liberalisation without seeing what this

does to our people. I think we have to accept that liberalisation works in a situation where we have a certain level of income already; where people are rich. Our people are still very poor. They need to be protected. In that instance, therefore, as I said, we should look at it extremely carefully. We have liberalised the dairy industry and we have seen what has happened. We have liberalised the cereals industry and we have seen what has happened. Those two industries have collapsed. I believe we started with the liberalisation of the beef industry which collapsed a long time ago. We now seem to be retracing our steps. I think we should do that at a faster pace because unless we take action where we are sure of a ready market for our people, some of those industries that are still functional will go the same way as the beef, dairy and cereal industries.

The tea industry is one such industry, which if we are not very careful, will go the same way as the cereal, beef and dairy industries. We are in the process of liberalising the tea industry. I am not convinced that we should be considering liberalisation at this stage or that, in fact, we are doing it the right way. I have said before that in this country we have got different levels of development and I think that we should consider this in our policies. There are policies that are suitable to the urban areas, Eastern Kenya and Western Kenya. In terms of the tea industry, it is very clear that certain policies that are suitable for the eastern side of the country are detrimental to the development of the tea industry in the western side. I would urge the Minister to consider maybe, slowing down on any measures to liberalise the tea industry. Let us look around so that at the end of the day we do not regret what we have done in haste.

What we are doing in the tea industry now arose out of agitations emanating from the eastern part of the country. We are moving towards a direction where we are doing everything to try and satisfy that part of the country. My solution is that if we are to proceed, let us split the Kenya Tea Development Authority into two bodies and then let each part of the country determine the direction and extent of liberalisation that they deem necessary for that industry. If we allow market forces to rule, our farmers will be the biggest losers. Those who will benefit will be the middlemen as we have seen in other industries such as the cereal, dairy and meat industries. If the aim is to give a better income to tea farmers I think we have the instrument to more or less dictate what prices our farmers should take. We should fix a certain percentage and say: "This is what should go to the farmer out of the gross proceeds." Let us hold on and not hurry to the liberalisation of the tea industry.

If we are to encourage agricultural production it is extremely important that we maintain our infrastructure. At the moment we are taxing our farmers by way of road use cess. Once the cess money is received and disbursed to the country-side it is wasted. In fact, I think there are stronger words that can be used to describe this. We have committees that are supposed to manage the use of cess money. These committees have directed and misdirected this money to individual pockets. We need data control over the cess management committees. One idea that I would like to propose is that the Members of this House should be made members of the cess committees. After all, at the end of the day it is ourselves who are constantly required to explain why roads are bad in our various constituencies. If we cannot have any input, we begin to find ourselves in rather difficult situations.

I would urge that this be reconsidered not just with councillors, officials of tea factories and so on. Let us have Members of this House represented in cess committees so that when we have to explain the position on roads, we have an answer.

I beg to support.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Asante Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa kunipa nafasi ya kuchangia juu ya makadirio ya Wizara ya Kilimo.

Wizara hii ni ya umuhimu sana kwa sababu tunapozungumzia mambo ya kilimo tunazungumzia pia mambo ya utawala. Si rahisi kutawala mtu aliye na njaa. Haja ya kwanza ni kuhakikisha kwamba ameshiba. Ni lazima ukulima uanze mashinani. Ijapokuwa ninasema kwamba Wizara hii ni ya umuhimu na ni sawa na Wizara ya Utawala, maofisa wa nyanjani hawafikii wakulima kuwaeleza kwamba ukulima huo unahitaji kufanywa museto. Taita Taveta ni sehemu ambayo ina rotuba nyingi ya kukuza aina mbali mbali ya vyakula. Lakini hawa maofisa wa nyanjani hawaonekani kuwaeleza wananchi jinsi ya kulima museto. Sehemu ya Taita ni nzuri sana kwa upandaji wa mihogo, mbono, pili pili, pamba na hata makonge. Kama haya yangezingatiwa na hao maofisa wa nyanjani wa Wizara ya Ukulima, nchi hii haingekuwa ikiomba vyakula kutoka nje.

Ingawa hawa maofisa wamepelekwa huko utaona kwamba wana ulegevu kwa sababu usimamizi haupo. Ninaomba Wizara hii iwe na usimamizi bora upewe maofisa ambao ni wazuzi wa nyanjani. Hao maofisa ni wa muhimu lakini wakati wanafunzi wanapochukuliwa katika vyuo vya mafunzo ya ukulima utaona kwamba sehemu nyingine huachwa nyuma sana. Kwa sababu ya hio ukulima umeenda chini. Huwezi kumweleza mama ambaye hajaenda shule kwa lugha ya Kiingereza ama lugha ya Kiswahili ambayo mama hawezi kuelewa. Lakini kama maofisa wengine ambao wanaelimishwa kwa ukulima wangetoka sehemu hiyo, wangeeleza akina mama vizuri na ukulima uweze kuimarika.

Ningependa kusema kwamba unyakuaji wa ardhi ya majaribio ya ukulima umekuwa unatuzorotesha sana



katika nchi hii yetu ya Kenya. Ninaposema hivyo, uwanja shikilizi wa Bachuma Holding Ground umeshakodeshwa kwa watu ambao si wa sehemu ile na wenyeji wa sehemu ile wanashida ya kuchunga ng'ombe wao. Nimefwatana na jambo hili lakini sikuweza kufaulu na bado ninapambana nalo. Lakini unyakuzi na ukodeshaji wa sehemu hiyo ya shikilizi ya ng'ombe unapoelekea Pwani umetuletea shida sana. Kuhusu uagizaji wa chakula kutoka ng'ambo, kuna shida kutokana na kodi ambayo inatozwa kwa mauzo ambayo yanatoka nchi za nje. Utaona kwamba kodi ya ngano ngumu na ngano nyafifu huchanganywa pamoja. Hii inaleta ulaghai kwa sababu mtu huenda akaleta ngano ambayo ni ngumu na akalipishwa kodi ambayo ni ya ngano isiyo ngumu au mtu anaweza kuleta ngano ambayo si ngumu lakini atalipishwa kodi ya ngano ambayo ni ngumu. Tunaomba Wizara hiyo iangalie jambo hili kikamilifu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa kuzungumzia kuhusu wakagusi wa nyama katika sehemu za vitongojini. Ni lazima mwenye kichinjio awaite maafisa kutoka nyumba zao kwa sababu hawapatikani kwa urahisi. Wakati wanapochukuliwa kutoka nyumbani mwao, ni lazima wahakikishiwe kwamba baada ya kazi watapata kilo moja ya nyama na kumpeleka mama watoto au yule wanayeishi naye. Kwa hivyo, hawa maafisa wanawapatia wenye vichinjio shida nyinyi sana. Tungewaomba maafisa hao waimarike katika wajibu wao.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, katika Wizara hii, Halmashauri ya National Irrigation Board (NIB), imepatiwa pesa za usaidizi kiasi cha Kshs1.5 bilioni. Sijui ni kwa nini wamepatiwa pesa hizo. Miradi ya Bura na Hola ambayo inatajikana kukuza mpunga kupitia unyunyiziaji wa maji haifanyi kazi na hali wanapatiwa pesa nyingi. Nilikuwa mkurugenzi wa shirika hili kwa muda wa miaka mitatu na ninajua kwamba hili ni shirika ambalo linaweza kujisimamia likiwa na usimamizi wa kutosha. Lakini viongozi au mameneja wanaolisimamia hawana ujuzi. Shirika hili linakuza mpunga katika eneo la Mwea, West and East Kano, pia linakuza vitunguu katika eneo la Perera. Lakini utaona kwamba, kwa sababu ya uporaji na usimamizi duni, usaidizi unahitajika kutoka kwa Wizara inayohusika. Kila wakati tunaambiwa kwamba serikali fulani zimetoa pesa za kusaidia miradi ya Bura na Hola, lakini pesa hizo hazionekani. Umekuwa ni wimbo tu! Tunaomba Wizara hiyo ishiriki katika kutekeleza yanayohitajika kufanywa ili serikali zingine, kama vile Israeli na Misri ziweze kusaidia miradi hiyo ambayo itanufaisha watu wa Pwani kwa jumla na Kenya yote, kuhakikisha kwamba Kenya imestawi katika ukuzaji wa mpunga.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, vituo vya mafunzo ya akina mama au wakulima wilayani ni muhimu sana, lakini vituo hivi vimesahaulika na kupoteza umuhimu wao. Nikisema hivyo, ninarejerea kituo cha Ngerenyi katika upande wa Taita Taveta. Zamani kituo hiki kilikuwa kinafundisha wakulima jinsi ya kulima vizuri na kufanya ukulima wa mseto. Lakini sasa kimesahaulika na kupotesa umuhimu wake. Katika makadirio ya Wizara hii, hakijapatiwa pesa za kukirekebisha ili kiweze kuwa na manufaa kwa wakulima wa Wilaya ya Taita Taveta. Kama Wizara haiwezi kukimudu kituo hiki, ni vizuri kuwe na mipangilio ya ugawanaji wa gharama. Ikiwa wakulima watachukuliwa kutoka tarafa au sehemu fulani kuhudhuria mafunzo ya kilimo bora, yafaa waambiwe kwamba watahitajika kutoa kiasi fulani cha pesa na Serikali itatoa kiwango fulani katika kuendeleza mafunzo hayo ili chakula na mapato ya kutosha yasitawishwe hapa nchini.

Bw. Naibu Spika, viwanda vingi vyetu havishughulikiwi vyema. Kwa mfano, kukosa kushughulikia kwa kiwanda cha Kenya Meat Commission kwa kukosa kupatia sehemu ya pesa ya kuweza kukifufua, ni kuwamaliza wakulima wa mifugo. Watu wa Taita Taveta, Maasai na Kaskazini Mashariki ni wakulima wa mifugo. Ni vizuri kama kiwanda hicho kingekuwa kinafanya kazi katika Wilaya ya Athi River na Mombasa. Watu wa sehemu hizo wangesaidiwa sana kutokana na kukomesha hali ya unyanyasaji unaotokea sasa. Kwa mfano, mkulima kutoka sehemu za Namanga au Kajiado akileta mifugo yake hapa Nairobi kuuza, akipewa Kshs5,000 kwa ng'ombe wa kiwango cha Kshs20,000 katika Kenya Meat Commission, hana lingine ila tu kupokea pesa hizo. Kwa hivyo, tunawafanya hawa wafugaji wa ng'ombe kuwa maskini zaidi kwa sababu ya kukosa soko la mifugo yao katika kituo ambacho kingeweza kuwanufaisha kwa gharama ambayo ingeweza kuwafidia gharama za karo na kusaidia jamii zao.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ni pendekezo langu kwamba maafisa wa nyanjani waache kutegemea gari kwa kila ofisa wa mifugo na wale wa kutoa huduma katika mashamba. Yafaa wawe wakitumia gari moja wakienda katika shughuli zao za kazi.

Naomba kuunga mkono Hoja hii.

**Mr. Sambu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In supporting this Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture, I hope that they are going to do something about eradicating the poverty that has afflicted our people.

Lack of guidance and investment by the Government has resulted in unbearable poverty amongst the rural people. It also extends to the urban people. In my district, for example, we get a good yield of maize in a normal year. I thank God, that although some areas in this country are feeling the effects of drought, we are not badly off. But how is this going to help us? When it gets to the maize harvesting season, a 90 kilogramme bag of maize sells at between Kshs400 and Kshs500. This cannot even return the input cost used to produce that bag of

maize. This is because the millers have been allowed to import maize, duty-free. It is claimed that some tax is levied on it, but this does not appear to be so. What do we do? When we ask for Government intervention, it takes three months for NCPB to intervene. When they intervene, they pay for Kshs1,000 per bag, which is still very low. In most cases, they would only open stores, for example, at Mosoriot, Kipkaren or Turbo, and purchase only 500 bags.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good to liberalize, but no country in the world allows its food policy to be liberalized. I would like the Minister to tell us which country has liberalized its food policy, when he will be replying. He who cannot feed his family is a slave to the one who feeds the family on his behalf.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we claim that we encourage production of cash crops, but Nandi District is one of those districts which have got land where we can expand coffee and tea production. Most of the other high-potential districts already carry the capacity of the tea and coffee production. In my district, I want the Minister responsible to tell us how much they have invested, particularly in Mosop Constituency. I want him to name one project in which the Government has invested worth more than Kshs10 million since Independence to promote agricultural production.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we shall be voting for this Ministry, we will say "Ayes". If it is going to be involved in the alleviation of poverty, then they have to learn from those who are on the ground. We want to tell them what we know. You should not call us rebels, we are telling them the truth. So, if you are serious about alleviating poverty, then you should listen to us, because I know that Nandi District has the potential for tea production along the borders with Western Province, Nyanza Province and Kericho District. It has a big area for tea production, but the farmers cannot get polythene bags for setting up the nurseries. The officers in Kapsabet would like to help, but they do not have vehicles to move in there. In fact, it has the biggest potential in the Republic for expansion of coffee production to enable the country produce more coffee. Where are the planting materials? Where are the seeds for Ruiru 11? They are not there. But sometimes, we hear that one individual has been given 20 to 50 kilograms of the Ruiru 11. When Sambu says this, he is called a rebel. Let me be a rebel for the cause of my people. I have never abused anyone, but I speak the truth about the negligence by this Government for my people. We do not want anything big, but we want planting materials, seeds and polythene bags. The same applies to sugarcane production on the lower zones. What is happening along Miwani, if you have been there of late, Mr. Minister? Farmers are not delivering cane to Miwani Sugar Factory because they have not been paid for a long time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the infrastructure, I believe Nandi District is the only district in the Republic without a single working grader. The Government of Japan donated graders in 1989. I am not an engineer, but I know that a Mitsubishi grader is not a machine that would break down in five or seven years, if it is serviced properly. But those people there just dismantled them openly and sold off the parts. It is such a shame that a whole district has got five graders lying idle there and the roads cannot be done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we talk about the Government as a whole, because we cannot talk about rural development as not being integrated development. Rural development is integrated development. You cannot deal with improvement of production of tea or coffee, without looking at the infrastructure and the Government should be aware of this. It is a sad thing. There are many tractors for doing rural roads which were donated or bought by the Government which are now being used for other things. They have been cannibalised and in fact, sold. There are those yellow lorries which were also donated by the Government of Japan which are now doing private work. The rural access engineers and the public works officers are using them for doing contract work. If there is milk which is to be sold, it cannot come out of the interior of Mosop because there are simply no roads.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, no country can experience development without capital. We cannot expect farmers to borrow at the prevailing bank rates of 25 per cent to go and plant cane, coffee or tea. There is a scheme which is being administered through the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) but the KCB and those other banks administering it are doing it on a commercial basis. You cannot lend money to a coffee farmer who will plant his coffee which takes three years before harvesting. The same applies to tea or cane farmers. You cannot lend to him a loan at the rate of 25 per cent because by the third year, the interest alone will be 75 per cent. How long will that farmer take to repay that kind of loan? This Government should cease being theoretical and only looking for ways of answering its critics and calling them rebels. It should do something about setting up a farmers bank. Now, when the coffee farmers have started setting up a bank, why should they be discouraged from doing so, when the Government cannot control the interest rates on the market? We cannot produce when we cannot get any capital and we cannot accept capital when it is being sold at 25 per cent per annum.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my final appeal to the Minister is to speak to the Government and work on the roads in Nandi District.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker,  
Sir.

**Mr. Waithaka:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for granting me this opportunity. I would start by thanking the Minister for Agriculture for his contribution and I would also add my voice to what hon. Members have said on the importance of this particular Ministry. This is because ours is an agricultural country and agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. However, I will start by saying that I was extremely surprised by the revelation of the Minister that they are operating with a work force of 23,000 instead of 28,000. Hon. Members will agree with me that for the last six years, students who have graduated in agriculture and even livestock from our universities and tertiary institutions have not been recruited into the job work. The Ministry has not been recruiting graduates from university who have graduated in agriculture or veterinary medicine or even from AHITI and other institutions. I fail to understand if agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and yet, they are working below the required work force. How are they able to give the necessary assistance to our farmers? This could be the reason why we are not producing enough food to feed this country and we have to import food during drought.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would call upon the Minister in his response, to say why they have not been employing those graduates and why they are working with a force of 23,000 when they are supposed to have about 28,000 people in the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until 7th July, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.