

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 20th April, 1999

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

FORMULATION OF POLICY FRAMEWORK PAPER

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

(a) When is the Government going to work on the next Policy Framework Paper (PFP)?

(b) Since the contents in the Policy Framework Paper (PFP) normally affect public policy, particularly with regard to what projects and economic programmes the Government is going to undertake, why has Parliament been kept out of it?

(c) Could the Minister undertake to table the draft Policy Framework Paper before the Finance, Planning and Trade Departmental and Committee and the other stakeholders before finalising the next PFP instead of involving only foreigners as the Government has done in the past?

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

(a) The Government begun working on the successor to the current Policy Framework Paper, which covers the period 1996-1999 in November, 1998. The new Policy Framework Paper is to cover the Fiscal Year 1999/2000 to the year 2001/2002.

(b) The draft Policy Framework Paper is currently before the Cabinet for briefing and deliberations. An appropriate modality will be found for Members of Parliament to deliberate on the paper.

(c) It is planned to have the draft discussed with the Finance, Planning and Trade Committee of this House at an appropriate stage.

Mr. Kombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do appreciate the answers given by the Minister, that the Government is now waking up and it is not working in secrecy. But what I want to know is why is it that some donors have the draft Policy Framework Paper when Parliament, which is the major stakeholder in this country, is not involved and has not even seen the draft PFP.

Dr. Masakhalia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if some donors have a draft of the current PFP, then some of us

are not aware of it. I cannot explain how they got the draft. If you are talking about the current one, the 1996-1999 draft paper, then they should have that one.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that the drafting of the PFP for the period 1996-1999 started in 1998. However, if we look at a Policy Paper which is now going to its fourth year before it is finalised, of what purpose is it? Could the Minister tell this House what purpose it will serve after four years of writing?

Dr. Masakhalia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member did not hear me properly. I said that we are working on a successor PFP to the current PFP which covers the period 1996-1999. That is a past document that we are going to replace. We begun working on the successor paper in November, 1998. What hon. Kombo is asking about is the current draft PFP and not the past one. You can have copies of the past one because it is already there.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we regret that the Ministry has not been bringing this paper to Parliament, I note that the new one is only going to cover two financial years and yet this is a document which is supposed to show what is going to happen in a few years to come. However, I would like the Minister to assure this House that in future the Government will always bring the PFP to this House and not to short-circuit by taking

it to the donors and then put it in the cabinets or files?

Dr. Masakhalia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contents of the PFP are widely discussed. In fact, papers such as Sessional Papers on sectors of the economy cover what policies there are in that particular sector. The Budget Speech which is extensively discussed in this House covers much of the contents of PFP. I should like to indicate that in the past, there have been opportunities for Members to discuss the contents of the PFP, perhaps not directly but through the conduit of Budget Speeches and so forth. Having said that, I should like to indicate that the approach will be to share with Members of Parliament all documents relating to developmental policy and that includes the PFP.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that the writing of the PFP is being discussed widely. It is true that a paper of this magnitude ought to involve as many organizations and people as possible and that when it comes to this Parliament, the Minister will have already written it. Does the Minister intend to involve other people than the Ministries of Finance and Planning and National Development or the Members of this House by, first, showing us a draft of that Paper so that we can all be involved?

Dr. Masakhalia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to indicate that policy formulation is not a one time thing. It is not a fixed thing in time. Policy formulation is a process. Even when the Policy Frame Work Paper (PFWP) is finalised, we still provide a policy document that should be discussed. We may not involve everybody in its formulation. But when it becomes available, hon. Members and every Kenyan will be free to comment and discuss it with everybody else who is involved; like the other Ministries which initiate policies in their sectors.

Mr. Kombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think Kenyans must own the policies being formulated for them. Apart from Parliament, we have other stakeholders like businessmen and industries. Is the Minister going to involve the other stakeholders to discuss the PFWP or not, so that the Kenyans can own these policies and follow up whether they are being implemented or not?

Dr. Masakhalia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the formulation of the Paper has been a process. I think there is a misconception that the Government officers exclude everyone else and it is a privy of the people who have offices there. The stakeholders that you are talking about communicate and interact with us. They are consulted so that a Paper from the Ministry of Agriculture, for instance, on the agriculture sector, has already received discussions with the stakeholders in the agricultural sector. That can be said of other sectors.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN BUDALANGI

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that there is a cholera outbreak in Budalangi Constituency which has so far killed 50 people?

(b) If the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what immediate steps is the Minister taking to curb the outbreak?

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

(a) Yes, the Ministry for Health is aware of cholera outbreak in Budalangi Constituency, which claimed 19 lives in 1998.

(b) Since the outbreak, the Ministry has taken action to contain the situation. Sporadic cases, mostly along Lake Victoria region and Budalangi Division, are being attended to, as and when they occur. The outbreak has been brought under control and a vigilant team is still alert.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cholera in Budalangi Constituency has been continuous because of the flooded area, and the way people are congested in camps. Also, Budalangi is a swampy area and the people cannot dig pit latrines. So, they defecate on water and drink the same water. Can the Ministry tell us which system are they going to use to eradicate cholera, instead of containing it as he has said? We would like it to be eradicated completely.

Dr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that we have few cases, or three cases which have happened in Budalangi. The Ministry has actually taken action in trying to bring the public health sector to some form. In certain areas, the most important thing is to boil the water from the Lake or the rivers which they use. That is the most important thing. Actually, two or three markets in Mabinja and Gulemia were closed due to lack of pit latrines. Also, 14 eating premises were closed due to poor sanitation conditions and all the foodstuffs burnt.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the Ministry doing to make sure that the latrines are put in place for the people of Budalangi?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we as the Ministry are emphasising that the latrines should be built. It is the community which should dig the pit latrines. In certain cases, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been helping. But it is the community which should organise and ensure that there are pit latrines in every area.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised at the answer that the Assistant Minister has given. This is a much bigger problem that we are getting. Public health sector demands intensified and extended programmes. At the moment, can the Assistant Minister explain why the vaccines that ought to have gone to the Government have been withdrawn by the donor community? Also, on 1st April, Kshs140 million for this purpose was withdrawn by the Danish Government. What is the Government going to do to ensure that this country has enough immunisation vaccines? We have typhoid, cholera and other diseases.

Dr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to correct the impression which has been created. The vaccines are for the immunisation vaccines

[Dr. Wako]

which have been going on for several years. This is the vaccine that we are talking about, and which has been sponsored by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) throughout. At one time, there was a little problem between the Ministry and the DANIDA on KEPI programme. Actually, the money that he has been talking about is Kshs600 million which has been withdrawn, but they have given us Kshs130 million to use for the next six months, while waiting for their Parliament to pass the rest.

(Mr. N. Nyagah stood up in his place)

Mr. N. Nyagah: Nooo!

Mr. Speaker: What is that, Mr. Nyagah? Order! You do not stand up and behave that way in the House! Will you apologise to the House for your conduct?

Mr. N. Nyagah: It was excitement---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Will you apologise to the House?

Mr. N. Nyagah: I apologise to the House, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed! What is it? What is really agitating you?

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is not being honest in his answer. We know for sure that out of the Kshs1.8 billion that was funded by the Danish Government, Kshs600 million on this particular project has been withdrawn; and that the Ministry is appealing and pleading with the Danish Government to ensure that this money is given back. Can the Assistant Minister tell this House and this country at large, whether he is aware that this month, the Danish Government is sitting to consider not funding the Kenya Government on the Ministry of Health because it has refused to implement the policy framework on the Ministry of Health?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually, if I may correct the impression, the Ministry has not refused to implement the policy framework which we prepared all along with the DANIDA and the rest of the stakeholders. What has actually happened is that they wanted certain things to be done. The last one was the formation of the Board before the end of December, which we did by 24th of December. Therefore, the question of the Ministry not making the progress is not true. Therefore, we are actually negotiating with the DANIDA to return back to the implementation of the programme.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied by the answer given by the Assistant Minister. Lack of means of communication in Budalangi Constituency is really a problem. Could he assure this House that his Ministry will provide funds to the public health officers he is talking about to enable them to move around in Budalangi Constituency to educate people on how to eradicate cholera?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell this House that we have already put a motorbike in Budalangi Division to ensure that those public health officers can move around during barazas to educate people on how to eradicate cholera. About 21 health education barazas so far have been conducted in that particular constituency.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to mislead this National Assembly on the conditions under which the Danish Government is withdrawing funds for the health sector? Could it perhaps be in order for him to say that he will look for information instead of misleading this House because the principal reasons why the Danish Government have withdrawn funding for health are: First, the refusal of the Kenya Government to honour its obligation under article 17 of last year's contract; that the donor can bring an auditor any time to look at the expenditure of that money. Secondly, there is corruption in tendering

of drugs even using Danish money. Thirdly, the registration of district medical boards. Is it in order for him to mislead the House?

Mr. Speaker: I think, in all honesty, the wrong person was the hon. Member who asked the Assistant Minister about Danish funding when we are talking about cholera in Budalangi Constituency. So, there is no connection.

Next Question. I think we dealt with this Question on Thursday.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to seek your guidance over this Question. I had put this Question on Tuesday morning last week. It is a Question on a very serious matter. But on Thursday last week during Zero-Hour, I was upstaged by one of my colleagues who stood up to raise the matter. I have looked at the answer that the Minister was to bring here to this Question and I have looked at the answer given in the HANSARD when my friend raised the matter last Thursday and there is no difference. So, I do not know whether I should ask the Question. I do not wish to ask the Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I suppose you are right in complaining that once you have put a question, particularly by Private Notice or even an ordinary question, it is should not get into the House through a third party. I am sorry that I should have not allowed anybody to deliberate on this issue at Zero-Hour, having approved your Question in advance. I hope, of course, that the hon. Member who raised this issue during Zero-Hour, did not know that you had put in your Question. If he did,

[Mr. Speaker]

that is wrong. If he did not - I am really sorry that I allowed him, in the first place. But since I think you got the answer, which everybody did---

Mr. Kibaki: Allow him to ask the Question!

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Kibaki. If he got the answer last Thursday which is similar to what he has, I think it would be unnecessary repetition on the part of the House to continue to receive the same answer. So, I will make sure that next time when a Question has been put, I will be extra careful that nobody zeros in on it. Those hon. Members who know that their colleagues have put in Questions, please, know that Mr. Speaker is also a human being. He can forget. So, please, remind Mr. Speaker that your colleague had raised that issue.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. While I appreciate those circumstances in which this matter has been brought up--- This is a very important Question, not just in Bungoma District, but throughout the country. Right now, there are many children in this Republic who may not sit for their examinations because their examination fees money has been stolen by District Education Officers and teachers. We would have liked to have an opportunity to ventilate this issue. I just do not know, in view of what you have said---

Mr. Speaker: What I can do in the circumstance, it would otherwise be unnecessary repetition, but if indeed, as it is likely to be the case, there are cases of a similar nature apart from Bungoma, I think it is in the interest of the House that I do allow the Question to be asked. As I do allow the Question to be asked, can we concentrate much more outside Bungoma District because we already have an answer unless, we are dissatisfied.

NON-REGISTRATION OF KCPE CANDIDATES IN BUNGOMA

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in that case, I beg to ask the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that 12,973 Standard 8 pupils from Bungoma District have not been registered for the KCPE, 1999 despite having paid the examination fees to the District Education Officer?

(b) If the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what is the explanation for this?

(c) What urgent steps is the Minister taking to ensure that these pupils sit for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination at the end of the year?

The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Awori): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) The reason why the deadline of 31st March was not met was because the amount of Kshs3.8 million which had been collected from the 13,000 students went missing between the dates of 19th and 26th March.

(c) Because it is obvious that the money was in the agency of the Kenya National Examinations Council; that is the officers of my Ministry, instructions have been given that these students be registered for the examination.

Mr. Munyasia: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Arising from the Assistant Minister's reply, is he aware that in spite of this assurance, the chairman of the District Education Board in Bungoma, without the DEO, has ordered that heads of the affected schools re-collect registration fees for KCPE from the same them parents?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as soon as I knew that there was a repeat in the collection, I issued an instruction that it must stop forthwith. I have given assurance to the parents that the money will be refunded to them.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I indicated, there are many other schools in the country where this kind of thing has happened. I do know that there are quite a number of cases of a similar nature in Nyamira District. Can the Assistant Minister undertake to find out across the country how many schools and children are affected and ensure that all those affected children will sit for their examinations?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already issued instructions through the provincial directors of education to ensure that, if there are cases such as the ones cited from Bungoma, no pupil is penalised because of the malfunctions of our officers.

Mr. Kibaki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since it is well known that part of the reasons why we are getting into these problems is that the Provincial Administration, namely, the DC get involved in education and in the DEB and they actually give some of those instructions about recollection of fees which have already been paid; would the Assistant Minister arrange that, from now onwards, the administration of education will be totally de-linked from the Provincial Administration so that the education officer will be the only one answerable and the only one to whom we shall go when we have a crisis and cut out the DCs and DOs, who are very corrupt?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I cannot verify this, District Commissioners (DCs) are normally the Chairmen of the District Education Boards. Until that policy is changed, there is very [Mr. Awori] little I can do about it.

Mr. Shill: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this chance to ask the Assistant Minister to clarify whether a child can be refused to register for the national examinations because he has outstanding school fees. This is so because there is a boy in Mbalambala Secondary School in Garissa District, who was refused to register for his national examinations by the District Education Officer (DEO) and the headmaster, because he had an outstanding school fees amounting to Kshs12,000. Is this in order?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Member to give me the details and then I will find out and take the necessary action.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wafula!

Mr. Wafula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kshs3.8 million was not collected the same day. Could the Assistant Minister explain why the money was not taken to the bank on a daily basis as it was being collected? Could he explain that?

An hon. Member: Maybe, he had a plan!

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot explain why the money was not taken to the bank on a daily basis.

An hon. Member: Why?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that, that money was collected from areas which had no banking facilities. Therefore, the money was kept by the education officers until it was ready for banking. In explaining this, I do not condone the fact that the money was not being banked on a daily basis.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Chair and hon. Members in this House to the fact that there is an hon. Member in this House who is not dressed properly. Hon. Sambu, the MP for Mosop, is wearing clothes which do not include a tie and a jacket. I do not know whether it is a religion or a sect that he is being introduced to. I am also aware that we agreed that hon. Anyona wears a jacket and a tie in this House. I do not know whether hon. Anyona has recruited other hon. Members to join him. I am not sure this is the right attire for this House.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sumbeiywo, I cannot see hon. Sambu at all. So, I do not know whether he is properly dressed or not.

(Laughter)

POINT OF ORDER

HIGH CRIME RATE IN NAIROBI

Mrs. Mugo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister in charge of internal security on a very serious matter. We all saw horrifying pictures on our television sets the previous night and last night on the City of Nairobi. Cases of rape and robbery with violence are rampant in Nairobi. Nowadays, people do not sleep in their houses in this City, because the rapists go to their houses, rape the mother and the daughter before the father. This is shameful! I raised a Question on rape just before we went on recess, and the Minister in charge of internal security promised this House that he would look into the matter and bring an appropriate answer, which he did not.

I rise to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister on the measures the Government will take to make sure that women, men, and children, especially girls, are safe in this City. There is no law and order in this country, especially in this City! It has been said many times that the police are implicated in crime, and that is why they do not arrest the culprits even if they know them. Is the office of the Minister also implicated, or why is he not giving us answers concerning insecurity in this country? Could he also answer the old Question.

Mr. Speaker: That one died with the previous Session!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

INSECURITY IN NAIROBI

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a Ministerial Statement on cases of insecurity in this country, and I will let my colleague read it out.

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has said that the Minister is implicated in rape cases. Could he answer that?

(Laughter and jeers)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Maitha, you can hear that the House does not take very kindly to mischievous diversions of House business. You have been mischievous and the House has disapproved of that. Please, next time be serious with the House.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. W. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, I promised this House a Ministerial Statement on the security situation in the City of Nairobi last week. I would like to give the statement to this House now.

It is evident that insecurity in Nairobi has been on the increase. This has been exacerbated by the proliferation of illegal firearms in the City. In order to curb insecurity in this City, security personnel have embarked on security operations, which are intended to flush out criminals from their suspected hide-outs. It is in this regard that on 13th and 15th April, 1999, security operations were carried out in Korogocho and Dandora areas respectively, where several suspected criminals were arrested. Those who were found to have committed crimes were charged in a court of law, while the rest were released. The Government is committed to fighting crime in the country and these operations will continue until all the criminals are apprehended and charged in a court of law.

Further, we wish to call upon the members of the public, who have been very cooperative with the security personnel, who are undertaking this exercise. Members of the public have been very helpful and we would like to call upon them to continue with this new found spirit in Nairobi in order to contain insecurity incidents. I would also like to commend hon. Members of Parliament from Nairobi for being helpful in this endeavour. Further, I would like to thank all the members of the civic bodies and their respective representatives.

As I have said, these operations will continue until all the criminals within Nairobi and its environs are apprehended and charged in courts of law.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also promised to make another Ministerial Statement---

Mr. Speaker: Let us finish with that one first. This is a very sensitive issue, and I expect that a few clarifications are going to be sought.

Mrs. Mugo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have heard that explanation before. In fact, there is nothing new in the Ministerial Statement the Assistant Minister has said in this House. Every time we ask for a Ministerial Statement on this issue, we are told that there are thieves, this is happening, we are going to do this and that and this has been done. Why does the police wait until there is a public outcry to act, if they are doing their work? Does the Minister have a system of ensuring that the police are doing their work properly? The public outcry shows that the police are definitely not doing their work properly. Even the Ministerial Statement the

Assistant Minister has made here is a window dressing kind of exercise, because I do not believe that the Government is serious.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): We are very, very serious. The security operations I have mentioned clearly indicate that we are not interested in a window-dressing exercise because we are dealing with lives and properties of Kenyans which this Government values. I wish to assure the hon. Member that the Government is not involved in any gimmick. This is a very serious operation and we mean what we say when we say that this operation is going to continue until all criminals are arrested and charged.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister should realise that actions speak louder than words. He will not convince this House that the Government is serious by making pronouncements. Last year we brought a Motion here asking the Government to introduce a national crime prevention strategy as a way of dealing comprehensively with the issue of rising crime in this country. It has been done in countries that are serious in fighting crime like South Africa, Britain and in United States. If the Government is serious in fighting crime as the hon. Member is telling the House, can he tell us what plans they have to introduce a national crime preventive strategy that will involve members of the public, the civil society, business community to act also as a check to ensure that the police are doing their work?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say once again that the police force is being equipped with Government vehicles to help reduce incidents of police lacking the necessary machinery to be able to execute their duties in preventing crime. The Police Force we have is well trained. We are going to ensure that the police is as friendly to the public as possible and that is why I did mention earlier that we wish to thank members of the public for the co-operation they have shown so far and the new found co-operation between the police, security operation team in Nairobi under the Provincial Commissioner and members of the public which has gone a long way in the success of the operation that has gone on this far. I wish to give an assurance to this House that we are committed to ensuring that Nairobi and its environs are safe.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to also ask the Assistant Minister the following question: Now that he is aware that people of Nairobi and this country at large are not happy with what is happening about the laxity of security in Kenya, could he make short-term plans and measures by ensuring that the police who have been implicated in very many incidences are apprehended and also by ordering the Police Commissioner to rotate and move the policemen within Nairobi so that he can inject new blood in the various stations within Nairobi as a stop-gap measure before you implement what hon. Raila was asking for?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are security details that I cannot reveal to this House [**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President**] because of their nature. I wish to assure the hon. Member that security personnel who have been implicated in crime have been interdicted or dismissed. I wish to assure the hon. Member that we are going to equip the police afresh. We are improving the public relations between the police and members of the public so that we can further this fight against insecurity in Nairobi, its environs and the rest of the country.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you! We cannot turn this into a debate. If I really must give one more chance, then I will give it to somebody who is very far from Nairobi.

Mr. Keynan: In view of what has been raised for those of us who have read the newspapers today you must have heard that the Court of Appeal Judges and magistrates complaining about their security and our security apparatus. I believe what has been happening in Nairobi is not in isolation. There is total apathy. The security apparatus are not operating. The administration police officers are not operating to such an extent that the High Court judges feel they are not secure when they have armed police guards around them and they have now been forced to ask for private security guards. We would like the Government to take this issue seriously because very soon there is going to be a mutiny whether you like it or not. There are already murmurs because these people are not well paid. It is illogical to expect somebody to survive on a salary of Kshs3,000 per month.

Mr. Speaker: Are you asking a clarification?

Mr. Keynan: Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to persistently give an assurance when he knows that the reality on the ground there is totally different?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Member has made allegations about a mutiny and other allegations which were in the newspapers. I wish not to respond to those allegations.

Mr. Speaker: What have you said? I have not followed.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): I have said that the hon. Member has made

some allegations. I would wish to reply if I have the facts and issues and not allegations.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. You had another Ministerial Statement to make.

ARREST OF MATHARE RESIDENTS

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Ruto): I also did promise this House a Ministerial Statement on the arrest of some Mathare residents at the Holy Family Basilica. I wish to give the statement.

The Mathare 4A housing project is a joint Government of Kenya and German Government Project aimed at upgrading housing facilities for residents of Mathare 4A slum area. The Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi is the implementing agent. The circumstances that led to the arrest of the people claiming to be residents of Mathare Four A area are as follows: On 8th March, 1999 a group of people claiming to be residents of Mathare 4A camped at the Holy Family Basilica and vowed to go on a hunger strike at the church compound until the Nairobi Archdiocese stopped the implementation of the slum upgrading project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the group alleged that the project was not benefiting the genuine residents of the slum. At the request of the Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi, the group was on the same day removed from the church compound and taken to Mathare Chief's Camp where they were released. This was done by the Nairobi Provincial Security Team. Unfortunately, the group returned to the Church compound the following morning, on 10th March 1999, after failing to reach a compromise with the Archdiocese of Nairobi. The members of the group were arrested and taken to court on 11th March, 1999, where they were bonded to keep the peace. Other arrests of the protestors camped at the Holy Family Basilica were carried out on 7th and 15th, April 1999, at the request of the Archdiocese of Nairobi. The arrests followed complaints by the Catholic Church that the group was insulting church workers and worshippers and had refused to talk with the Catholic Archbishop. Those who pleaded guilty were bonded to keep the peace while the case of the 13 protestors - these are the ones hon. Adolf Muchiri is interested in - who pleaded not guilty was set for hearing on 7th June, 1999. The Government is committed to ensuring that the project continues uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker: Was this issue raised by you, Mr. Muchiri?

Mr. Muchiri: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The issue here is, why should the Kenya Government fabricate a case against those people who were demonstrating peacefully, in accordance with their constitutional rights? Why is the Government making them to be bonded to be of good behaviour for being habitual robbers, thieves and hooligans?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. W. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Muchiri is aware, these 13 people we are talking about were at the Holy Family Basilica against the wishes of the Archdiocese of Nairobi because the dialogue which was opened between them and the Archdiocese of Nairobi broke down as a result of these 13 protestors being unable to explain their case to the Archdiocese who are the implementing agents of the Mathare 4A Project. They were asked to leave the Church compound and instead they engaged the worshippers and workers of the Holy Family Basilica in a war of words which was threatening to degenerate into chaos and the Government has a duty to maintain peace. That is why these 13 people were bonded to keep the peace.

Mr. Muchiri: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is talking about 13 residents. I am not talking about the 13 residents, I am talking about the whole incident starting from 8th March, 1999 to date. Even last night these people were arrested outside there. Could the Assistant Minister explain the offence which these people committed by staying there and the Assistant Minister---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Muchiri, where is "there?"

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the Holy Family Basilica Church! Could he explain the offences committed by these people by being there and stop misleading this House that these people are causing chaos?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. W. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Holy Family Basilica is a private property. It belongs to the Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi and the protestors had better places to be---

Mr. Murungaru: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to tell us that the Holy Family Basilica is a private property, when it is a property belonging to all Catholics?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! That is simply a question of semantics. It is private property to the Catholics, it is not open to everybody.

Mr. Murungaru: It is for all Catholics!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Murungaru, this is semantics. I do not think you can walk to the Holy Family Basilica and claim ownership of it and the Archbishop there keeps quiet. I do not think that is possible.

Next Order!

(Loud consultations)

Order! Order, hon. Members! We cannot follow the proceedings now. In fact, I am disadvantaged, we have too much consultations. I cannot even follow what is going on. So, can we consult in silence?

BILLS

First Readings

THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL

*(Order for First Reading read -
Read the First Time - Ordered to be
read the Second Time tomorrow)*

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the provisions of Standing Order No.101 A (1), I beg to move that The Industrial Property Bill be referred to the relevant Departmental Committee.

*(The Industrial Property Bill was
referred to the Education, Research
and Technology Committee)*

THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS BILL

*(Order for First Reading read -
Read the First Time - Ordered to be
read the Second Time tomorrow)*

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the provisions of Standing Order No.101 A (1), I beg to move that The Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Bill be referred to the relevant Departmental Committee.

*(The Medical Laboratory Technicians
and Technologists Bill was
referred to the Education, Research
and Technology Committee)*

THE BUKURA AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE BILL

THE TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL

*(Orders for First Readings read - Read the
First Time - Ordered to be read the
Second Time tomorrow)*

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the provisions of Standing Order No.101 A (1), I beg to move that The Bukura Agricultural College Bill and the Tea (Amendment) Bill be referred to the relevant Departmental Committees.

*(The Bukura Agricultural Institute
Bill was referred to the Education, Research
and Technology Committee and the Agriculture Committee)*

*(The Tea (Amendment) Bill was referred
to the Agriculture Committee)*

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*(The Vice-President and Minister for Planning
and National Development on 7.4.99)*

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 16.4.99)

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Wako, you were on the Floor and you have five minutes. Are you still interested?

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As I was saying, the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) which has been put under receivership--- We are appealing to the Government, as pastoralists and as people who are dealing with the livestock industry, to ensure that the National Bank of Kenya (NBK) which is putting KMC under receivership, to reverse this situation so that the KMC can be given to the pastoralists or livestock farmers plus other interested donors. The livestock industry has a lot of viability in this country and especially when you consider the fact that the Middle East and several other countries have a big demand for meat. However, because of the collapse of KMC, we are not able to meet that particular demand.

As regards security, I would like to add that, all those people from pastoral areas where this security problem is experienced, should ensure that they organise themselves by sitting together to stop cattle rustling which has gone on for quite a long time and has disrupted development and other agendas in this particular area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Government to make sure that its forces, especially the Regular Police and the Administration Police, are provided with vehicles and communication sets in these particular areas. This is because by and large, most of the times when an incident happens in these particular areas, there are no vehicles for the police or the APs to mobilise and follow the bandits. Most of the time, actually there is problem and delay in following up. Equally, I would like to appeal to those on the ground to ensure that they take the information which they are provided with. This security matter does not happen in isolation. As we were talking this afternoon about the security of Nairobi, we showed a lot of concern. It is country-wide that there is problem of insecurity which needs to be addressed. This will be looked into with the fact that, the increase in poverty is increasing the criminal activity in this country which needs to be looked at very seriously. It is with that effect that the Government should actually follow the poverty eradication plan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on corruption, this is a topic which everybody has discussed. Over the years it has been a taboo to talk about corruption. Today, Kenyans are openly talking about corruption. But I think we need more action than talking about this taboo because it has destroyed the economy, it has brought a lot of problems and it is becoming problematic and it should be dealt with seriously. Much more serious now than ever before because the international donors are taking this particular vice which is like a cancer in our society, to ensure that we cannot get donations, grants and so many other issues. That boils down to the fact that most of the Kenyans are economically poor and with that trend, then we are going to face a lot of problems in this country.

On the question of constitutional reform, I think we need to blame the Opposition. They took the first step and the lead to ensure that they bring the reform, but of late, they have changed their minds. I do not think it is only the division of the number of Commissioners within the party-lines which is the whole problem. There is much more greater problem than that. We think that people in the Opposition, probably, want to delay the reform process until the year 2002 when they think Moi will be gone so that they can have the reforms.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mrs. Mugo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I too wish to contribute to the debate on the Floor concerning the Opening of Parliament. I too feel perturbed at that Speech because the President's Speech had no vision and offered no solution to the many problems facing Kenyans today. When the President himself resorts to crying foul about the same problems we and the ordinary people are facing, then Kenyans feel lost as to who we shall turn to for solutions. Who will give Kenyans hope for tomorrow?

The President talked about poverty, corruption, lack of food, sick people without health facilities, children not going to school, but stopped short of telling Kenyans how we shall go about correcting the situation. If we look at the poverty which has bedevilled Kenyan population today, most of us believe that this is man-made poverty; that poverty could be eradicated within a very short time. In fact, the Governor of the Central Bank is on record as

having said, "If corruption was stopped and it could be stopped within six months, the economy could start to grow". But what happened after that? Who holds the key to stopping corruption in this country, and especially official corruption? It is not the real shillings which the policemen are bribed with on the roads or the real "kitu kidogo" in the offices that is killing this economy - although it is a big disadvantage to the ordinary mwananchi who cannot get services because without paying that they cannot get services - but we know that what is killing the economy is official corruption. It is the people there at the top who definitely have the protection of the top man in this country.

President Moi is the only one who can eradicate corruption in this country; not asking us Members of Parliament to preach out there telling people to stop corruption. It is time the President took the lead to eradicate corruption by removing those people he knows are responsible for stealing from public coffers. They are known, they come in year-in-year-out. But what happens is that they continue to hold the same positions or being moved to even better positions. So, if the President wishes that this country comes out of this terrible problem, he has to take the lead. The onus is on the President to really save Kenyans and Kenya from corruption. Failure to do that, we shall go on into the next millennium without realising any relief to the Kenyan public.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the insecurity which we were just discussing is serious. People are losing lives and property like life is not valuable any more. Whatever is said, Kenyans are afraid even to be in their homes. Where do they go? Before the President talks of beefing-up security on the borders, we want security inside our homes. We want women, children and men to sleep in their homes without worrying whether they will wake up tomorrow and what tomorrow will bring; whether the properties they have will be there. This can be done again, if the President is serious on eradication of poverty on taking the reigns of this country and removing those in the 'Kitchen Cabinet'; those other 'small presidents' who have taken over power. I feel they have a lot of control in what goes on here. We want the President to take charge and remove those people who are perpetrating these crimes or protecting those people who commit these crimes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Constituency; Dagoretti, when criminals are arrested, they are taken to the chief's camp. The chiefs have opened their own courts in their areas and they release these people on payments of Kshs500, no matter who these criminals are. Yet, they are arresting innocent people and those are the people who are taken to court if they fail to pay the fine. They bring up trumped up charges of drug trafficking by "planting" drugs on you. We are asking the Government machinery; those who are in charge of administration, to make sure that if somebody commits a crime he is taken to court. We will charge those people if the Government cannot do that to remove corruption. We refuse to have kangaroo courts manned by chiefs in constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of insecurity is very serious, and I think we have all seen what is happening to women, especially. I know these incidents occur all over the country, but I know much about Nairobi since that is where I reside. When women cannot even carry out their economic activities because they cannot come home after 7.00 p.m. before they are waylaid on the roads, what kind of a society is this? Do we have a Government here or we do not? Do we have security machinery or not? If we have a Government, then it had better do its most important business; that of protecting the citizens of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the presentation of the last Budget Speech, we all agreed that we would tighten our belts so that our country can come out of its present state. But looking at what has continued to happen, we wonder whether that was only meant for the teachers, people who fall sick and cannot find medicine in hospitals and parents who cannot afford to take children to school. The Ministries have continued to spend a lot of money. We should be told what has been reduced from the Ministries' expenditure.

When the President did a Cabinet reshuffle recently, we expected him to reduce the number of Ministries to a manageable number, instead of using Ministerial positions to reward individuals who think of themselves and not the country. He should have reduced the Ministries so that the country can be able to survive on the little money there is.

This morning, we read in the newspapers that the Attorney-General was quoted - I do not know whether the Daily *Nation* newspaper misquoted him - as having said that we cannot get security in this country because we have very little money. This is because the money ends up in private pockets and there is misuse of public money. For example, when the President travels somewhere, all the Ministers follow him in limousines. Who pays for the vehicles' petrol? This is not necessary. If it is something to do with education, the Minister for Education can travel with the President, but not the whole Cabinet. Who pays for the expenditure of the drivers and yet we are told that we do not have enough money to give Kenyans security in this country? The misuse of public money has to cease.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently when the President made a visit to Namibia, the Ambassador said in an interview on television that the whole mission was to do with trade. If indeed, it was trade, why did the Minister for Trade not go? We would like to know what benefits our country will get out of such trips which are made by

the Head of State at a time when the country has no money.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Nyachae: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am happy that this is the first time I am talking from the Back Bench since I was elected a Member of Parliament.

First, let me take this opportunity to join my colleagues in thanking you so much for the statement you made during the State Opening of Parliament, when you requested for a Parliamentary Service Commission. This is very important, not so much because of what would happen then, but because it is going to enhance separation of powers. This is because when officers working for Parliament are appointees of the Executive, it becomes very difficult for Parliament to maintain its independence, when its servants are concerned about their security under another umbrella.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say, I noted the contents of His Excellency the President's Speech, and I think the points covered therein are not contestable. They are all reminders of our daily problems in this country. All that I would have wished to see included in the Statement would have been arrangements for action. That should have been included. Nevertheless, I think we cannot doubt the fact that the President is aware of the problems. Now that he is aware, what can we do about these problems?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we would be pretending if we did not admit that the majority of Kenyans, as things stand now, are in a state of hopelessness. Whether you talk about economic hopelessness or security hopelessness, that is a reality. We should accept that we have these problems as a nation and accept to find ways of dealing with them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding poverty in this country, I am old enough to state that the kind of poverty that I see in my constituency, and get to know from my employees and other friends, is poverty that we have never had since 1963. It is a desperate situation and we should accept it. When people cannot pay school fees or afford medicine, then what do you call that?

I am a businessman and I know poverty is there because people cannot buy my bread or flour for ugali. That is a sign of poverty and we should find ways of dealing with that problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manufacturing industry, where I again belong, is in a terrible situation. Factories are closing down, and people are being declared redundant. What are we doing about that? If investors are pulling out, which way are we going? If factories are closing down, which way are we going? Agriculture is in a mess. If you drove from here through Kisumu to Busia, from the number of fields people have been able to afford to cultivate and those that they have not been able to cultivate, you would agree that farmers can no longer afford to produce even enough food for that particular area. Worse still, we are unable to market our milk because the industry is just collapsing. Instead of finding solutions, we are just chasing and locking up each other. That is not a solution. We should find ways of understanding what the farmer wants and help him come out of these problems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have spoken about crime. Crime is a very serious problem, which cannot end unless we sort out the problem of unemployment. What do we expect the many jobless university graduates and secondary school leavers to do? These youths have no food, they have no money, and their parents cannot support them. So, they have to earn a living through criminal activities or whatever means. The situation becomes even more dangerous when we have clever people becoming criminals.

The other issue I would like to speak about is infrastructure. I have an office in Nairobi's Industrial Area, but I cannot reach it in a saloon car any more. I have to drive in a Four-Wheel-Drive vehicle to get there, and yet I pay Kshs1 million every year for the maintenance of that road. Everybody who uses that road pays a similar amount of money each year. Where does that money go?

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, another thing that is not known in this country is that the construction cost of roads in this country is higher than in Uganda and Tanzania. However, the life-span of roads in Kenya is much shorter than that of roads in Tanzania and Uganda. Why is that so? It is because of corruption. This is a subject I would not like to talk much about because our roads are in disarray.

If we do not attend to the problems I have outlined carefully, they will inevitably create instability in the country. This House cannot ensure stability for this country. It is the poor people out there who can actually help this House to stabilise, or destabilise, this country. I think we should appreciate that fact. So, let us look after those people out there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because my time is running out very fast, I will now talk about how to tackle the problems. Let us not leave this to the Government alone. The Government has been looking after these things, but

has not succeeded. So, let us support and work with the Government with a view to solving these problems. These problems are not for those who are in the Government now. They are affecting all Kenyans, the tribes and political parties they belong to notwithstanding. Some people have told me not talk about working with other people. I am going to work with others so that we can tackle these problems. We have to tackle these problems together as a nation. Let me say that

anybody who is opposed to working with others does not understand the dangers facing this country.

I would like to speak about corruption for just one minute. One of the reasons why I had to resign from the Government is because I talked against non-performing bank loans taken by some people. I now want to repeat the same as a Back-bencher, that those who took bank loans improperly, should return them. That money should be repaid because it belongs to the people. This money was from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), and was banked with the National Bank of Kenya (NBK) before it went into people's pockets. That money belongs to workers, and it should be returned.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, leaders should stop involving themselves with contracts in the public sector. If we have to effectively deal with corruption, all leaders holding public office should declare their property and explain how they got it. Their previous activities should be investigated to establish how they got the property. If they got it through proxy, they should say so. I am ready to declare everything that I have. If we do this, we will be able to deal with corruption effectively.

I would like to request all leaders in this country to work together as a nation, because these problems will affect all of us. They will not affect the President. In fact, the President may be the last person to be affected by these problems. So, I have noted the contents of the President's Address.

Thank you.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the President's Address. First of all, I would like to go through the initial stages of the President's Address. I would like to point out exactly how the State Opening day is really organised.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will have realised that on the State Opening day we had several religious leaders who went through long political speeches instead of offering prayers. I am just wondering whether this practice could be stopped next year.

(Applause)

Secondly, I do not know whether one of the religious leaders who were supposed to offer prayers on that day was a traditional dancer. He recited his prayers in a language that was incomprehensible to most of us. I would like to know what religion that religious leader represented. If it was an African religion, what religion was it?

An hon. Member: Alikuwa Mmaasai!

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he was a Maasai, we do not want that type of a thing in the future.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Achola, can I assure you that God understands all languages! Proceed!

Mr. Achola: Well, I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, but we would like those speeches to be short. Also, the content of those speeches should not be political. The religious leaders actually took steam out of the President's Address.

Having said that, I would like to comment on what some hon. Members have criticised, namely, that the President did not really present anything to this House. It is not fair to say that the President did not say anything. He actually mentioned a few things. However, let me start by defining the word "exposition". To "expose" is to show something that is generally hidden, or secret.

If we go through the President's Address of that day, we will realise that he has not told us anything that is new. So, to talk of this House giving thanks for the exposition of public policy by the President on that day, is really to fool ourselves. I think the Leader of Government Business should find another word for expressing what actually the President did. In fact, it would have been better if he had brought some traditional dancers to dance for the President on that day.

(Applause)

Nevertheless, I have just said that the President did mention a few things. Let me start with poverty. So many Sessional Papers have been brought to this House. One of these Sessional Papers talked about industrialisation by the Year 2020. Now, that was just another Paper which has now been filed somewhere. It is now gathering dust. Kenya is an agricultural country. In fact, currently, 36 per cent of this country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from the agricultural sector. The manufacturing sector contributes a very small fraction to the GDP. Services contribute the bulk of the this country's GDP. However, the way the Government is treating unemployment and poverty in general will not help this country to industrialise by the Year 2020.

If we were to ask the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development to tell us the status of that Plan, the answer would be an affirmative "no". Agriculture is this country's main economic activity. Hon. Nyachae has been talking about how we are going to eradicate poverty in this country. For example, the biggest income generating activity in Nyanza Province is fishing. This industry is being killed by those who are in this Government. Recently, a Government officer made a ridiculous statement which scared away fish consumers, and thereby negatively affecting the province's fish production.

I would like to ask the Minister for Health to apologise and compensate the affected farmers for the loss they incurred during that particular period. It looks rather ridiculous because the ban lasted only one week.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is ridiculous because the ban only lasted one week. It was a ban that was useless. The second crop that is very important in Nyanza Province is sugarcane and as I speak today, it is the only province which has sugar worth Kshs300 million in stock which cannot be sold because of the imported sugar. And as if that was not enough, just across in Mumias, we have sugar worth Kshs7 billion in stock and yet, some of these greedy cats here are still importing sugar at the rate at which---

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me now go to corruption.

Hon. Members: Goldenberg!

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleagues are shouting "Goldenberg" but I will not talk about it because we have been told that it is *sub judice*. Therefore, we do not need to talk about it and I would also not want to embarrass our newly-appointed Vice-President. I would only want to offer what we think could be the solutions to corruption. First of all, last year, we passed a Motion here saying that we need to appoint an Ombudsman. That is one thing that I think we need to put in place today, if we are going to curb corruption and if we are committed to do so. I say this, since committees like the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Public Investments Committee (PIC) are actually audit-trail committees which tell us stories that happened four years ago and by this time, some of these cats like that hon. Member who was in the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation before had already sold the post office---

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Maj. Madoka! Mr. Achola-Owino, you are trying to take us to the dark days of 1993/97. We have just got out of that. Do not use insulting language in this House. Will you apologise?

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry if that is the impression you get, but there are certain sharks in terms of economic deprivation---

Mr. Speaker: Will you apologise?

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, well, I have apologised and thank you. Now, talking about the corruption, I have just suggested that we should implement the Ombudsman office in this country, so that we can curb corruption in total if you like.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, number two, I would also suggest that we need to have in this House and in fact, one of the committees we were deliberating in today is that of the Anti-Corruption Committee and I think without pre-empting what the Committee is going to recommend, we would suggest that this House forms a Standing Committee on Corruption. In other words, we have an Anti-Corruption Committee, and this will be like the Departmental Committees, which is standing and can deal with any corruption case at any time, instead of waiting to deal with corruption four or five years after the events have been committed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thirdly, let me talk about insecurity. A lot of it has actually been talked about this afternoon. Insecurity in this country is actually arising out of the remuneration that we give to our security personnel. We know for example, that the policemen or certain police officers have become worse criminals. They

use guns to go and rob wananchi. I would like to give you an example that in my own constituency of Migori, we have an Anti-Stock Theft Unit which is supposed to help control stock theft between the three communities of the Kurias, Maasais and the Luos but we find that in that particular camp, all the personnel in that group are actually thieves. What they do is that, they dress in ordinary clothes and use the guns that have been purchased by the taxpayers to go and rob wananchi. This is one area which I think the Government needs to do something about and particularly, those who are in the Office of the President. They must ensure that the Police Department gets properly paid, so that we can stop this kind of theft.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on number three, we find problems in Nyanza with cotton. The cotton industry was actually killed by and you will stop me from calling them rustlers, but this is just the right word. This is because if the farmers were delivering their cotton to the ginneries, the ginneries had the farmer's money and the money was not paid to the farmers. The farmer's money was actually "eaten" by some of those who had been appointed by these nonsensical parastatals. If we are going to eliminate poverty because insecurity also comes out if someone is poor and they will naturally run around trying to look for something to eat but let me leave that for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the President wanted to tell us something about the public policy for this country, he should have mentioned the collapse of the infrastructure in this country. Now, if the Government is collecting taxes and there is only one road that connects Mombasa to Nairobi which is the gateway to East Africa is worn out completely to its very foundation and nobody sees this until we request the World Bank to come and help us, then what the hell are we doing as the Government?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government has no integrity. Last year at Mbagathi and you were there, the President and his group came and asked Kenyans to help revive the economy. They were given a few things to do. They were asked to go and trim the Cabinet and instead, they came back and increased the number of Ministers and at the moment, I do not think there is any challenging Minister in this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. Lengees): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to join my colleagues in contributing towards His Excellency's Speech during the State Opening of this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to join my colleagues in congratulating His Excellency the President for such a very decent and fatherly Speech that he made on that particular day when he was opening this august House. For the time that I have been in this House, in all the State Openings of this Parliament, the President has been giving us a lot of good advice and views on how we, us as Members of Parliament and leaders of this country are going to unite and solve the problems of this country together. The wananchi in this country also heard the President when he was opening the House. The President gave us a lot of encouraging advices and the people outside are waiting to see how we are going to solve their problems. As we know that poverty abounds in the country, it is true that poverty is looming among Kenyans. The population of the country is increasing and this also contributes to the high poverty levels. It is important that all of us as the Government and the Opposition sides do unite and solve these problems together. It is not for the President or the Government alone to fight poverty but it requires all our collective responsibilities as leaders both from the Government and the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I go ahead, I would also like to take this chance to thank His Excellency the President for appointing the country's Vice-President, hon. Prof. Saitoti because the country really required a Vice-President. So, because the people wanted that, we thank him for appointing the Vice-President. Kenyans have a lot of problems. In his Speech, the President mentioned about unemployment, hunger and the burden of cost-sharing in schools and even in hospitals. Again, I support what my colleague, the former Minister for Finance, hon. Nyachae said; that, it is not the problem of the President alone but it is a problem for all of us to get united and solve these problems which are facing the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should unite to eradicate poverty as His Excellency the President said in His Speech. He has already launched the National Poverty Eradication Plan. That plan will never be of any meaning if the Government and the Opposition cannot unite and implement it. I am sure once we are united, even our donors, would see that this is a united nation and then they would give us what we want; money for eradicating the same. So, I urge Kenyans and particularly us in this House - I think we are already mature enough both the Opposition and the Government, we are more brothers than the time we started being into two different sides. Let us unite to solve this problem amicably without getting this nation into trouble.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me talk a bit about security. For some of us who come from the rural areas of this country, we know exactly what insecurity is because of cattle rustling and so on and the Government seems to be doing something. The Government is doing a lot in security, but it requires some funding and maybe some machinery for the personnel.

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is this hon. Member in order to mislead this House that the Government is doing everything to stamp out insecurity when we know very well that the very policemen who are supposed to protect and provide security cannot protect themselves?

Mr. Speaker: Is he not able to articulate his opinion or must you think for him? Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. Lengees): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think I am expressing my opinion maybe from what I have seen in my own area. If nothing is done in his own area, I think the Government is generally doing a lot in the other parts of the country in terms of security. We have the Army, the Police and the APs, but they lack the machinery to curb these issues. They also require our own local community support in those areas. In my own area, we have problems with cattle rustlers from the Turkana side; they cross into our area and take cattle from us and it is not in history that we have taken cattle from the Turkana side.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from Turkana and since there is a 'new breed' of Members of Parliament from Turkana District, let us unite to ensure that there are no Turkanas or Ngorokos or cattle rustlers cross Suguta Valley to get cattle from the Samburu who are very innocent and want peace. I have a lot of hope for those two newly-elected MPs. They are really trying to see that cattle rustling menace is eradicated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have health issues in my district. I think this is a country-wide issue, but I would like to ask the Ministry of Health to select a national health committee or technical committee that could visit each and every district to find out what health facilities are there in the district hospitals for the people of those particular areas. Also, they should open up more health centres. I would refer to my Baragoi Division which has been made a sub-district. We have a health centre there, we want it upgraded to a sub-district hospital. We also, have Suguta-Marimara-Wamba, which should be upgraded from dispensaries to health centres.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is important also to ensure see that the roads are well maintained. I am sure the Ministry is doing very well, but it only requires some money to open up some new roads for the opening of some development activities within my area and maybe some constituencies in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, I would like also to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your speech during the State Opening of Parliament. You gave your remarks calling on Parliament to be separated from the other arms of Central Government.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues who have contributed to this Presidential Speech. We have so many burning issues in this country that would take more than even two days to go through them one-by-one in order to complete the entire list of issues that we wanted to discuss about.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand whether brains are working on the Government side or not. I am saying so because instead of creating more Harambee districts and divisions, why can the Government not use that particular brain and continue training more teachers in this country? As I am talking now, in my area, particularly Bumula, there is acute shortage of teachers. I know this is applicable everywhere. Kenyans need proper and good education in this country. They do not need DCs or DOs. Why do we spend a lot of money creating more districts when we can use the same amount of money to employ several teachers in this country? We have teachers who graduated two years ago from various teacher training colleges, but they have not been employed, even from various universities in this country and yet, the Government finds it so easy to create a district that will not generate or create improvement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the side of health, last year, we asked the Minister for Health to construct a mortuary in Bungoma and he promised this august House that the Government had set aside some funds to construct the mortuary. To date, nothing has happened. When a Question will come, the same Minister will be so shameless to tell us that the facility will be constructed when funds become available. That is why sometimes we are not comfortable with this Front Bench. When we ask questions, we are told this and that would be done when funds become available. When the Minister for Finance presents the Budget, we all accept and give him whatever amount of money he wants and yet, there is no single development that the Minister for Finance or any other Ministry is doing for the good of this country at all. We keep on wondering what is happening. When would the Minister finish the construction of Bungoma Mortuary? It is now more than a year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Agriculture promised that he would bring us a new management who would be able to pay sugarcane farmers their outstanding amount of money of Ksh300 million within three months. This was last month, and the outstanding amount now owed to the farmers is running to Kshs500 million. Is that not what the Minister promised us? We want action to be taken and an answer to that. We do not want to be told that the Government will do A, B and C which turns out to be a false promise, and later on they start blaming

the farmers. I do not know why the Government finds it so easy to import sugar and yet you cannot export cereals to Japan or USA at all. You cannot do anything at all! Now, is it only in Kenya where liberalisation was accepted while in other countries it was not. You cannot liberalise the agricultural sector; you can only import when you have a shortage of that particular cereal and not when you have got an excess stock of that particular cereal. By creating problems of that kind, you are creating unemployment in this country. It is high time the Chairman of the Kenya Sugar Authority fulfilled his promise that no importation of sugar will be allowed into this country. Let him be serious with that promise; It is no good for him to keep on promising that the Government will ban the importation of sugar, and yet he is one of the fellows who may be importing sugar to this country.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Nyachae did mention about unemployment here. It is true that some even hon. Members are holding more than five jobs. Why do they not relinquish some of these jobs to other Kenyans? You would find that one is a hon. Member and at the same time he is the chairman of a parastatal or even a director of another parastatal. Why can such persons not leave those extra jobs to other Kenyans?

An hon. Member: Also Chairman of a Commission!

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when such hon. Members come to this august House, they call themselves "hard-working" Kenyans and they have taken other peoples' roles. It is important that the new management of Nzoia Sugar Company does pay the sugarcane farmers their outstanding amount of money of Kshs500 million now. They came over when the amount of money was standing at Kshs300 million, and now it is Kshs500 million. When will they pay the farmers? I am one of the farmers, and we should not be told: "You will be paid when funds become available."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue is about the Ministry of Local Authorities. There is no need of having one officer working in one station for over 20 years without being transferred. That is one way of creating corruption and yet---

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ogeri): On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sifuna, do you want to be informed? Make up your mind!

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let him inform me. I hope it is genuine information.

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ogeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, well, I think by the time the hon. Member gets to his station over this weekend, the officer will not be there.

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Let this not only be in Bungoma District because everyday when you read a newspaper, you come across a municipal or county councils of various towns in this country complaining about chief officers. Let these chief officers be transferred after serving two to three years so that they can go and serve elsewhere. Just like policemen, instead of being trained and armed, they are being trained to be thugs. When the Minister of State, in the Office of the President, in charge of security, says that they want to increase their salaries, one is tempted to ask: "But for what reason?" There is robbery and thuggery in this country being carried out by police officers and instead of sacking them, the Government refuses and goes on to transfer them. We do want that. Even police officers in Bungoma are the prime suspects in all evils that are taking place there. So, let them be transferred elsewhere, and we should be given other officers. I do not know how to put the situation so that the Minister of State in the Office of the President can understand and take action against these police officers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of Transport Licensing Board, the Government must find ways of raising money because Kenyans are heavily taxed. We keep on wondering about this: If matatu operators pay Kshs1,900 per year for road licence, another presumptive tax of Kshs4,320 per annum, a by-law fee to various municipalities amounting to Ksh40 per entry, a sticker fee of Kshs800 and then PSV licence fee of Kshs360, why add other charges? Now, the Government wants them to pay more money for the Transport Licensing Board. But for what reason? Can the Government not get satisfied with all this amount money that it is robbing from the matatu operators? At the same time, the Government is demanding that matatu touts be removed from the terminus. But did it employ them? Let these touts do their work and the Government be contented with whatever it is getting from them, or the amount that it is 'tealing' from these people. The Government does not repair roads. If you go to Eastleigh, you will see that roads are in deplorable state and yet Kenyans are the most heavily taxed people in this continent when there is no development at all. The only development you see is Ministers coming to the House with big stomachs, and calling themselves "hardworking Kenyans" and holding Harambees as if they were elected to do that.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up! Yes, Hon. ole Ntimama?

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. ole Ntimama): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the Presidential Address, which we are discussing right now, on page 8, the first paragraph, the President mentioned, in general, the very low economic growth rate, and in particular, the low productivity in the agricultural sector. He said that we should all make it a priority to try and pay our attention to the low productivity in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an agricultural country, and the economy of this country is primarily based on agriculture. Until we develop the agricultural sector properly, we are probably not going anywhere at all terms of revamping the economy of this country. Many statements have been made, some of them very authoritative, in and outside this House, affirming that Kenya will be an industrialized nation by the year 2020. This is very interesting because unless we develop the agricultural sector properly in this country, and also develop the agro-industry, there is no way we will be industrialised by the year 2020. This must be realised by everybody. The Economic Surveys have come up with this idea of Kenya being industrialised by the year 2020 and I think that it is a luxury in a way; we are not serious in a way. But the question of Kenya being industrialised by the year 2020 will mean that the agricultural sector must have been developed to the fullest point. You cannot jump to that status; there is no short-cut the world over. It has to be that we develop the agricultural sector properly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am basically a farmer, and the farmers of this country have been riddled with a lot of problems, some of them being the pricing of their agricultural produce, the expensive fertilizers, which are not even readily available always, the seeds which are not good enough as they have not been properly tested, and many other things. We should come out with a proper policy of assisting the farmers because, singly or collectively, they are people who can really support and revamp the economy of this country. If we think that we can industrialise without developing the agricultural sector in this country, that is a wrong thinking; it will not come to us.

Particularly, I would like to mention the case of the wheat farmers because we in Narok produce lots of wheat these days. In fact, we are probably producing a little more wheat than our brothers in Uashin Gishu. But we have a problem here. We cannot transport our wheat to the market! We have got the Mau Narok-Nakuru Road which is connecting us to Nakuru Town which was funded by the African Development Bank; and we all thought - because we were involved - that the money that was earmarked for this road was going to be enough to tarmac this very important road upto Nakuru, so that our produce can move from Narok and Mau Narok to Nakuru. But the funding by the African Development Bank was only able to do 12 kilometres from Narok. The rest of the 42 kilometres which were also supposed to be covered were not done because a number of contractors came to the site - we do not know from where - took a share of the loot and went way. Another contractor came, took a share of the loot and went away. For the last 15 months, the contractor has remained withdrawn from that road when only 12 kilometres of the road has been done. We cannot pass through that road at all! In fact, there is no other funding, even to grade or to repair the potholes on that road. I must say that it is only a tractor that can pass through that road.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our wheat is rotting in Narok and we cannot take it anywhere. It is expensive to bring it all the way from the hills of Mau Narok right down to Narok Town and into Nairobi. It will be four times as expensive, considering the kind of prices that we are getting now, because of the importation of wheat - especially when we are harvesting - it is a disaster. I am appealing to my colleague here, the Minister for Public Works and Housing, to see to it that, at least, those 42 kilometres are repaired to enable the farmers move their crops to Nakuru. I think it is very easy to get some money out of the Petroleum Levy Fund in order to help complete this road because the situation is serious and yet the road is so vital. Two days ago, I was going to have a meeting at the farthest corner of my constituency, in Mau Etolokurto, but I could not move in a Four-Wheel Drive vehicle and I had to be pulled by a tractor. How do you then expect a lorry with 220 bags of wheat to pass through? It is a total disaster and the people are feeling it because they cannot move their wheat to the market and yet, they have not developed so well agriculturally to the extent of keeping pigs so that they can feed them on that particular wheat. The prices are very low but we need that money for survival and for supplementing whatever we do so that the people can survive.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road has got a very interesting history. During the days of Kim Gatende, the Engineer, the road was put on the map as a fully tarmacked road. We know where the money went to. It probably went into somebody's pocket. I do not believe that the African Development Bank funds have disappeared. But we do not know whether the funds have gone to somebody's pocket too. It is so unfortunate because we are the people who should be considered, especially on infrastructure because that is the only way the economy of that area can

develop. I am making this appeal to the Minister for Public Works and Housing. As a matter of fact, I followed it very carefully upto to the Provincial Works Office, and I found out that our allocation was only Kshs2 million for the whole of Narok District. I do not know whether it is for grading or for repairs. What can one do with Kshs2 million in a vast district like Narok? There must be equality in some of these things; and proper distribution of resources. If resources are not properly distributed, then some people will suffer. In this particular case, we as Narok farmers who are producing this wheat are suffering immensely and something must be done. I am sending out a Save Our Souls (SOS) message to the Minister for Public Works and Housing to see to it that something is done about the 42 kilometres. In fact, we are not saying that it should be tarmacked because we know that the money is not there. We are only asking him to do some light grading to enable the lorries which are fully loaded with wheat to transport it to Nakuru. That is all we are asking for. I want to particularly urge the Minister for Public Works and Housing to make sure that we get a fair allocation of funds for this road.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Shakombo: Ahsante sana, Bw. Spika.

Bw. Spika, wakati nchi hii ilipopata Uhuru, Serikali iliahidi ya kwamba watu wote watapata elimu na matibabu ya bure. Lakini Serikali haijatuambia kwamba imebadilisha msimamo wake. Kwa sasa hivi, inatuambia ni lazima tusaidiane nayo

kuendesha zile huduma ambazo iliahidi itoa kwa wananchi. Jambo la kusikitisha ni kwamba wengi wa **[Mr. Shakombo]**

wale watu ambao wanatakikana kuisaidia Serikali hawana kazi.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, sasa tunaambiwa tujenge shule zetu wenyewe na pia tununue vitabu na hali ukienda kenye shule ambapo vitu hivyo vinatakikana, utakuta kwamba wale watu wamedhoofika sana. Elimu ni muhimu sana kwa sababu inafanya mwanadamu kuwa na maarifa ya kuona jinsi atakavyojitegemea. Ikiwa tunamnyima elimu basi tutakuwa tunazidi kumdidimiza badala ya kumsaidia.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa sababu mji wa Mombasa ni wa pili kwa umuhimu katika nchi hii, tulikuwa tunatarajia kupata chuo kikuu kama vile sehemu nyingine za Kenya. Tumekuwa tukisema haya kwa zaidi ya miaka 36 na tumeambiwa kwamba tunaweza kupata kimoja hivi karibuni, lakini ni lazima tutoe Kshs24 milioni kabla ya chuo hicho kikuu kuletwa kwetu.

Na tukifanya uchunguzi, sehemu nyingine zenye vyuo vikuu hazikuulizwa zilipe pesa kama tunavyoulizwa. Ni kwa nini tunaulizwa tutoe pesa? Pamoja na hayo, wenzangu hapa watakubaliana na mimi kwamba, nchi hii ni moja kati ya nchi zile ambazo watu wake wanatoa ushuru wa hali ya juu sana. Na wakati Serikali inafanya mipango ya kutoza watu wake ushuru, inaigiza mfano wa nchi za Ulaya. Jambo la ajabu ni kwamba wakati tunapoambiwa tutoe ushuru, tunaigiza nchi za Ulaya. Lakini wakati ule tunatarajia Serikali itupatie faida ya ule ushuru tunaotoa, haiigizi nchi za Ulaya! Kwa mfano, mpaka leo kule Ulaya, watu wanapata elimu ya bure na matibabu ya bure. Hata wazee waki wacha kazi, hata kama sio watumishi wa Serikali, wanapatiwa malipo ya uzeeni. Hapa kwetu, hatuoni hayo yote. Tena, tunaambiwa tusaidiane! Sasa, tunashindwa kuelewa Serikali ina msimamo gani kuhusu watu wake.

Jambo la pili ambalo nataka kusema kuhusu uporaji wa mali. Kila nikikaa, nafikiria kwamba ikiwa jambo hili halitaondolewa, uporaji wa mali utaendelea kila siku. Kwanza, uporaji unafanywa na wale wanaosimamia kazi mbali mbali. Tunawaajiri watu ambao hawana ujuzi wa kutosha. Tunawaajiri watu ambao hawaamini kwamba wanaweza kuzifanya kazi hizo.

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. ole Ntimama to hold yet another meeting here, when we are actually having another hon. Member contributing?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order, Mr. ole Ntimama!

Mr. Shakombo: Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda kwa kunilinda kutokana na mhe. ole Ntimama. Mimi nafikiri moja kati ya njia zitakazotufanya tupunguze ufasidi ni kuajiri watu wanaostahili kufanya kazi hizo. Pili, tusiwalinde sana wakati wanapofanya makosa bila kupelekwa mahakamani. Ni huu ulinzi ambao tunawapatia unaotuletea shida.

Jambo la pili litakalotusaidia kumaliza uporaji wa mali ya umma ni kuhakikisha kuwa tunatengeneza mahakama za kushughulikia kesi kama hizo haraka, ili tuweze kuhakikisha kwamba mambo yamefanyika vizuri.

Jambo lingine ni koti zetu zimalize kesi ndogo ndogo haraka. Mtu saa yote anakwenda mahakama na hakuna kitu chochote kinachofanyika. Analazimika kutoa kitu kidogo akishikwa ili asiende kortini kupoteza wakati wake. Akimpatia polisi kitu kidogo, hataenda kule kortini. Kwa hivyo, Serikali isipochunguza mambo haya, sisi tutailamu kwa kuhimiza uporaji wa mali.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tumeambiwa tuondoe umaskini. Watu wa Pwani wanashangaa watauondoa umaskini kwa njia gani, ikiwa zile huduma za Serikali zilizokuwa zikitolewa kabla ya Uhuru hazipo tena! Miradi iliyokufa huko Pwani ni kama ile ya Tana and Athi River Development Authority (TARDA), Ramisi Sugar Factory, uvuaji, ukuzaji wa mikoko na Hola Irrigation Scheme. Hizo ni sehemu ambazo zilikuwa zikisaidia watu kupata pesa. Sasa, Serikali, isiseme haijui, bali sisi tunaamini kwamba Serikali ndiy imeua miradi hii kwa sababu ambazo inazijua yenyewe. Basi, ikiwa kweli Serikali inatilia maanani mambo haya, tunataka kuona umaskini ukiondolewa kwa kufufua huduma na miradi yetu.

Jambo lingine ambalo nafikiria linaweza kutusaidia kuondoa umaskini huko Pwani ni kuona kwamba feri za Likoni na Mtongwe zimepewa pesa na Serikali. Hivi karibuni, tunakumbuka magazeti yaliandika kuhusu wasimamizi wa feri hizi. Mpaka sasa, feri moja haifanyi kazi kwa sababu ya madeni. Kenya Ferry Services imeshindwa kulipa madeni hayo. Ikiwa Serikali inaona umuhimu wa kuendeleza Kusini mwa Pwani, ikiwa feri haitasimamiwa vizuri, sioni wakati wowote ambao sisi tutakuwa na matumaini ya kuondoa umaskini. Tunaomba pia, kwa vile kuna njia nyingine ya kufika kule Kusini mwa Pwani, Serikali itengeneze daraja nyingine huko sehemu za Kipevu ili kusaidia usafirishaji wa watu wanaotoka sehemu hizo.

Jambo la tatu ninalotaka kuzungumzia ni juu ya usalama. Wakati tulipopata Uhuru, magaidi wa Kishifta walianza kujitokeza. Wakati huo, walikuwa wanakuja Kenya kushambulia kidogo, na wanarudishwa na majeshi yetu ya usalama. Sasa, miaka 35 tangu tupate Uhuru, badala ya kuwa tumemaliza mashifta au majangili wanaowasumbua watu kule, wameingia ndani ya nchi yetu na kufika mpaka sehemu ya Gongoni karibu na Malindi. Sehemu hiyo sasa inasimamiwa na wale wakora. Serikali imepoteza usimamizi wa sehemu hiyo. Sasa, mkisema mnataka usalama udumishwe, sisi watu wa Pwani tunashindwa kuelewa Serikali inasema nini. Katika sehemu za Kiunga, watu waligura miji yao. Watu wote sasa wamekuja kiziwani. Watu hawa mnasema mnawalinda? Au Serikali inasema inalinda watu hawa? Ikiwa pahali pa huna, sijui ni kitu gani cha maana utaweza kukifanya. Sisi watu wa Pwani tunapozungumza mambo haya, tunazidi kusikitika tukifikiria kuwa Serikali yetu inaonekana haitutilii maanani. Sisi ni watu ambao wameachwa na Mungu wao. Hali kama hiyo ndiyo italetu watu kutosikilizana, na hata watu wazuri wawe wanyonge na kusema: "Potelea mbali, hatuna haja na kusikia eti sisi tunalindwa na Serikali yetu."

Kwa hayo machache, ningependa kuunga mkono.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I would like to commend the wonderful Speech by the Speaker, where he outlined the facilities that Members of Parliament need to have, in order to discharge their duties effectively. I think that is good for both sides of the House. I think those of us who are on this side are lucky to have offices. So, we are able to be seen by our constituents. But I think quite a number of Back-Benchers and people on the other side of the House have a problem of where to meet their constituents. So, I do think that, that is a good speech on the part of the Speaker, to emphasise the facilities that we ought to have to be able to be effective and discharge our duties honourably.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming to the Presidential Speech, I would like to say that exposition of the Speech--- There is an hon. Member here who said that "exposition" means bringing out something new. I think my understanding of English is that "exposition" means bringing out something, whether new or old, so long as you are bringing it out. That is what "exposition" means. So, I do think that what the President did was to highlight the major problems that face this country; the major problems that we must address, not just as the Government, but as Kenyans and particularly Parliament.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think somewhere in one of his remarks, the President did point out some of the concerted efforts required in order to address adequately the problems that we face this country. I do remember him mentioning specifically the question of poverty and its alleviation. I think any right-thinking Kenyan and any leader who is serious about problems of this country, can summarise problems facing Kenya only into two categories; that is poverty and unemployment. The rest of the problems that we are talking about are merely manifestations of those two major ones. For example, if we talk about agriculture, economic growth, macroeconomic problems, inflation, infrastructure and so on, all these are just descriptions of symptoms of unemployment and poverty. Some hon. Members have said that the President's Speech did not merit much credit.

But I really want to disagree with that because a Speech of that nature, lasting only 15 minutes cannot capture all the problems and their solutions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are sectoral strategies that have been put into place to deal with each and every aspect of Government. When you talk about infrastructure or agriculture, there are sectoral

strategies that deal with that. As to whether or not those strategies are working, it is a different matter.

I do think that, at the beginning of last year, when we had the first Session of the Eighth Parliament, the President came and made a Speech here, following which we had this kind of discussion. One thing came out very clearly; that Kenya's economic situation was grave and something needed to be done. So, some initiatives took place in the form of the Mombasa meeting which was organised by the other side of the House, and then we had the Mbagathi Forum organised by his Excellency the President himself. I think that gave us a good opportunity to do a thorough diagnosis of this country's economy and to actually come up with the key problems that afflict Kenya. Everybody had a chance to put in their ideas. After that, there was a chance for all of us to put together all those issues in the Budget. I am sure our Budget captured many of those issues. When the Budget was presented to this House, I do remember there was a lot of glowing tribute paid to it by all of us. We said that was a wonderful Budget; a balanced Budget that captured the key issues that needed to be addressed by the Government. After the Budget, several measures that were included in the Budget were implemented. One of the major issues that was worrying us was, of course, the huge Budget deficit, particularly the domestic debt aspect, where it was clearly understood that it needed to be looked at very carefully in order to reduce it to a manageable level. We could, therefore, impact on the interest rates so that the debt service would be lower and, at the same time, we would be able to influence commercial lending rates. I think that has happened. If you look at some of the economic reports that

have come out, there is a very clear indication that there have been genuine efforts on the part of the Government to address that issue. The interest rates have come down, although they have not come down to the level which was expected. This, therefore, raises the fundamental question: Was the question of Treasury Bill rates the real issue? Is it not the inefficiency of the operations of the banking sector? I think the answer is the latter; that we have a lot of non-performing loans in most of the banking institutions. As a result, there is only so much reduction in lending rates that can take place even though the Treasury Bill rates have come down. Today, the Treasury Bill rates are below nine per cent or thereabouts. As for the commercial lending rates, we are being told that the base lending rate is 15 per cent. Why can that not go to the level of the Treasury Bill rates? That is the question we all ask. The answer, of course, as I said, is that banks are not operating efficiently. They have very high over-head costs and a high portfolio of non-performing loans. As a result, there is only so much reduction that they can undertake. They must be able to lend at a rate where they can recover all those expenses and, at the same time, make a profit.

The Government has liberalised the banking sector. Surely, I do not think we can bear blame for all that. So, the Central Bank of Kenya on its part can only appeal to the banking institutions to reduce their lending rates, but they cannot force them to lower their lending rates below 15 per cent. So, what I am really saying is that the Government may not have done all that was needed to be done. But I think they have done a commendable job in that respect.

When you talk about a balanced Budget, you are also talking about expenditure as well as revenue. If you look at the record since last year, I think revenue collection has improved tremendously. I think even expenditure levels have also been kept within reasonable limits. So, there are some efforts which have been made on the fiscal side. There are also efforts on the monetary side.

Things like economic growth rates---

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister for Energy to mislead the House by saying that in a liberalised economy, the Government abdicates its responsibility towards the banking institutions and leaves them entirely on their own? Is it in order for the Government to leave the banking institutions alone to do what they want to do in this country because of liberalisation?

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I said that. What I said is that the banking sector is liberalised. Liberalisation means that the Government has a regulatory duty. "Regulatory" means that the Government cannot tell them to do this or that. But it can give guidelines to ensure that the banking sector works in the interest of the public. That is really the role of the Government in a liberalised economy.

Mr. Kajwang': On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Does the Minister know, as we are talking now, that those who keep their money in the banks in savings accounts get 2.5 per cent in Barclays Bank and the bank lends out that money at 32 per cent?

Hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think he is emphasising my points, if he listened to what I said, at the very beginning. That is exactly what I said. As much as we have

tried to do - because the excuse was that the Treasury Bill rates were too high--- We have done something about it as a Government. Having done that, the rest is now supposed to follow suit. If the banks are not prepared to follow the trend taken by Treasury Bills, then we cannot force them to lend at any rate or to give any rate of interest to the savers. That is not the role of the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch briefly on the question of corruption. I think that is a topic that has been talked about by everybody in this House. I think there is too much hypocrisy on both sides of this House. If you were really to look carefully at corruption, I do not think the majority of us would escape blame.

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

Dr. Oburu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion. But I would like to say here that, if there was any exposition of public policy, I do not think it was well done. I say this because our country is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and yet I have not heard either from the Minister for Agriculture or from the Presidential Speech an exposition of food policy because a hungry nation is not a good nation. It cannot be a democratic nation. Nobody will follow democratic principles when he is hungry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, three months ago, farmers were selling their maize at Kshs640 per bag and yet the cost of production is Kshs900 per bag.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, maize was sold at a high price of Kshs1,400 per bag in a neighbouring country and yet our farmers were not allowed to export the crop to that country in order to recover the cost of production and make some profit. This problem has been solved temporarily. What is the policy? Is it just going to be an *ad hoc* action by the Government, to rescue farmers when they are in problems? This is because there is no policy as far as food is concerned! There was an haphazard food policy which was presented to this House, but we do not see it helping the farmers at all. In developed countries, especially in the United States of America (USA), farming is subsidised. Whether they use the words "recovery" or "compensation" for loss of revenue, or a "subsidy," the fact remains that farming in developed countries is subsidised. This goes on while our farmers are not given any assistance, purportedly because we are implementing the World Bank policy of liberalisation. I would have liked to see a clear food policy brought before this House.

If one looks at sugar, he will find that there is no clear policy which deals with the importation of this product. We have been told in this House the measures the Government has taken to seal loopholes in sugar imports, and yet the fact remains that the commodity is still imported into this country. Right now, sugar is being imported into this country through our border with Somalia and or other border points. Two days ago, more than eight lorries which were carrying sugar were impounded by the police, although we are told that there will be no importation of sugar into our country because the loopholes in the importation of the commodity have been sealed. The person who suffers most is the farmer! We have always said in this House that there are some tycoons in this country who import sugar from other countries, but no action has been taken against them. These tycoons keep on swelling their bellies, and yet we keep on complaining about them! The farmers have become helpless. The solution to importation of sugar should be to apportion importation of the product to the sugar factories. Let these factories be allowed to import sugar on a prorata basis or according to their production capacities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no country which can industrialise without some kind of control. Even the Asian countries which are industrialised today had to take some measures against importation of cheap industrial products from developed countries. Developed countries have a wider market and they also gain from economies of scale. Therefore, we cannot develop our industries effectively if we open our doors for imported goods. It is in this light that we should tell the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) what we can take and what we cannot take. This is because we are the wearer of the shoe, and it is the wearer of the shoe who knows where it pinches. We should tell the two lending bodies that we can take this and not that. This should be done in a bold and a clear manner.

I would like to say that Kenyans do not mind paying taxes. At the moment Kenyans pay more than Kshs200 billion in form of tax, and yet they receive poor services from the Government. This is why Kenyans are completely dissatisfied with the performance of the Government in provision of services. In fact, Kenyans would not even have minded if taxes were increased to finance the ailing economy, if only the money which the Government is collecting now was used properly. But Kenyans are a disappointed lot.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to touch on the banking sector. It is known all over the world that whenever an economy is performing poorly all businesses suffer, including the banking sector. However, it is the opposite when it comes to Kenya. This is so because the banks make windfall profits when the economy of this country is ailing. Why is it that control measures are not taken to ensure that the Government cuts down its expenditure when the economy is ailing? Why should the Government continue borrowing huge amounts

of money through Treasury Bills when it has not enough money? It is from these Bills that these banks make windfall profits! This is so because they do not invest in any development project, industries or commerce, but they invest in the Treasury Bills. The Government spends money obtained from Treasury Bills because it does not want to be blamed when the economy begins to collapse. The banks earn 'immoral' money, which has been a burden on Kenyans. Although the burden is on Kenyans, these banks are very disgraceful to the same people who have enabled these financial institutions to make windfall profits. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) must find a way of controlling these banks. This is because in their home countries some of these banks do not earn money from Treasury Bills. A good example of this is Barclays Bank. They do not go about their business in an immoral way in their home country, but when they come here they rape our economy and exploit our people. They do not even respect Kenyans especially when they raise deposit levels to unaffordable amounts for the ordinary Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from the Lake region. We are being told, day-in-day-out, that trawling is prohibited on Lake Victoria and yet we know that there are so many trawlers, which are destroying fish nets and yet the owners do not compensate the fishermen. The trawlers are also destroying breeding grounds for fish in addition to catching immature fish although we are told that they are not there.

I have just arrived from Bondo Constituency, and I would like to inform this House [Dr. Oburu] that there are 11 trawlers going about their business during the day at Luanda-Kotieno Beach even though we are told that there are no trawlers there. The fisheries officers, policemen and chiefs in that area are corrupt. This is because they are bribed by the owners of the trawlers. Therefore, they turn a blind eye and do not want to arrest the culprits. If action is not going to be taken soon, then wananchi will take the law into their hands and destroy those trawlers. This is very easy because we can burn the trawlers which are there.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to dwell on that issue because my time is running out. The recent ban on night fishing in Lake Victoria was a mistake. It was done in a rush and it made our fishermen lose millions of shillings. I would like to appeal to the Government not to venture into the activities which are going on at the Lake, particularly when it has some people who are not from there. These people think that fish is a snake! These people should not be in charge of banning night fishing in Lake Victoria. They do not know how delicious fish is because they think it is a snake!

The *El-Nino* induced rains destroyed some bridges in my constituency, for example, Amayo Bridge.

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also stand to raise my voice and add my appreciation for a very explicit policy exposition made in this House. Unfortunately some hon. Members have mistaken policy exposition for a catalogue of things that must happen. What took place in this House was that the President laid openly the issues that we need to grapple with as a Parliament and as a nation in order to set things on course. Therefore, we must differentiate a policy enunciation from statements and facts that are made elsewhere. Elaboration of those policy enunciations is the business of Ministers in charge of various portfolios who are able to expound further on the policy framework that was enunciated by his Excellency the President just as I am about to do in connection with my portfolio. I think we must capture the main issues that were raised in the policy enunciation. One was the question of fiscal monetary policies. Hon. Chris Okemo has amply dwelt on the question of fiscal monetary policies that were put in place in order to address the current issues.

It is quite clear that instead of lamenting and giving a litany of problems by the other side of the Bench there must be reason. Instead of talking with bitterness you must reason it out and be able to give out issues that are beneficial and useful to our own economy. On the question of the fiscal monetary policy there are quite clear indicators. Such clear indicators like the interest rates albeit they were very high ranging from 27 per cent, 30 per cent to 32 per cent, it is quite clear that in the expression of the financial sector that these has dramatically come down. At least the base rate now is 15 per cent. The question of the exchange rates has been fully addressed. In many countries it is very difficult for the economy to be able to move forward if you have uncertainties in the exchange rates because it is very difficult to be able to wheel deal in the foreign market if your exchange rate is suspect. The fact that we have been able to stabilise the exchange rates in itself is a clear indication of the success with the Government has been able to put both the fiscal monetary policy in place in order to achieve that target itself.

Of course, I need not mention about the inflation rate which has been kept within the single digit bracket and that is a highly commendable issue. You need not go far. When you look at the exchange rate parities between us and the neighbouring countries, it tells the whole story. Whereas the Shilling here in Kenya is worth Ushs20 in Uganda and in Tanzania it is worth Tshs8, that in itself tells you about the strength of our shilling and about the

reliability of the exchange rates that we have. That in itself is a better mechanism of determining whether Government policies have succeeded or not.

I want to mention the issue of domestic borrowing. It is not a one-year problem. It is a problem which has accumulated over a number of years and there is definite Government will and policy in trying to tackle the issue of domestic debt. Many measures have been put in place in order to tackle that issue. One of them of course, is the expenditure control. Before this House there is already a Motion to that effect; both on Recurrent and Development Expenditure. Those are measures that are aimed at curbing Government expenditure and controlling development in order to be able to cut down on domestic debt. I think we should applaud the Government rather than lamenting and talking with bitterness on why the Government has not done A,B,C,D. One would appreciate nature in its own entirety.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one would appreciate nature in its own entirety, that the destruction of our infrastructure is not of our own making, or our own creation but by an act of God. We had very severe *El Nino* rains here which rendered havoc to our infrastructures and we are now trying to rebuild it. I would like to remind hon.

Members that some of us, instead of going out and speaking with one voice, saying we needed support from multilateral donors, we in fact, went out and did exactly the opposite. For almost nine years, from 1992 to-date, we have not had flows of funds from external resources to be able to supplement the resources that have been raised by Government in order to address this critical problem of infrastructure. Without infrastructure, there is no way the economy is going to jump-start. That must be made absolutely clear.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say in as far as the infrastructure is concerned, the Government has indeed put in place measures and actions to remedy some of these situations. If I may pick up the example of Nairobi, my hon. colleagues from the other side have been lamenting, crying and talking with bitterness. But they should have actually taken the liberty to visit their own constituencies on a road-to-road basis.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before my contribution this afternoon, I took an extensive tour of the road network in the City of Nairobi. I invited my colleagues to join me in this extensive tour in order to alleviate their fears, that contracts that have been put in place to tackle the question of the infrastructure and road network are indeed, in place. I am grateful to hon. Gumo and hon. Raila who came, and hon. Gatabaki who has no role in this issue of the City infrastructure.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a Point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this Minister to bore this House, by talking about infrastructure when we know the condition of our roads; the potholes, the craters and the hopelessness of the infrastructure? A Minister in charge of Local Authorities is telling this House that something has been done. Is it in order for this Minister to talk nonsense and tell lies about our infrastructure?

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is the kind of bitterness I talked about. Instead of reasoning, he is talking with bitterness.

Mr. Maundu: On a Point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Gatabaki, in his agitated interruption, used the words "lies" and "nonsense." I think that is unparliamentary. Can he withdraw those words to enable Parliament gain its clout?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Mr. Gatabaki--- I did not hear that, but you must withdraw the unparliamentary word.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will replace that with "notoriety."

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Mr. Gatabaki, you must withdraw unconditionally. You must withdraw! You either withdraw or you do not, but will you withdraw, unconditionally. Hon. Members do not "lie".

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the word "lies" to---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Proceed, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I invite hon. Gatabaki to be better educated. When he visits these roads, he will see what is going on. I suspect he is talking from a position of ignorance because he has not visited these roads to be better educated of what is going on.

Having said that, I want to say quite categorically that there is extensive work going on now in Nairobi, in fact covering all areas of Nairobi.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

I do not know what is itching Members, because I have not said anything to trigger off points of order or interruption. I think they are just wasting my time. Therefore, I will continue. I want them to come with me for a tour---

Eng. Toro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister for Local Authorities, who is in charge of all local authorities in this country, to keep telling us about only one local authority in Nairobi?

The Minister for Local Authorities (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to educate the hon. Member, if he can only be patient and listen to my speech. I have started with Nairobi and I have very good reasons why I must start with Nairobi. About 47 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of this country comes from Nairobi. Any measure that we want to take to address the issue of infrastructure must take into account the GDP of any given town. Together with Mombasa, the GDP of Nairobi, put together, is about 66 per cent. Any reasonable person like myself cannot ignore this reality of the position. I cannot address myself to trivialities that do not put even a single in-put to the economy of this nation. That is why I am persuaded that I should spend more time and indeed, I have spent more time in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu, Eldoret, Kisii, Homa Bay, Bungoma, Kitale, Nyeri and Nanyuki. All these towns put together, contribute more than 90 per cent in terms of GDP, which is a very critical measure of any economic growth in this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Gatabaki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to contribute to the so-called Presidential Address.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I spent some time studying this document. I have also spent some time listening to the "State of the Union Address" by the President of the United States of America. But above that, I have listened to President Mandela in South African Parliament. I have taken time to listen to the exposition of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II about her Government. When I compare these with what President Moi did in 15 minutes, I wonder whether somebody has misled our President about what ought to be the exposition of public policy. There is no public policy here. The President read a statement which could have been read to nursery school kids.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have seen a nation go to waste for the last 42 years. We have seen the per capita income of this nation deplete from middle a income developing country to the poorest of the poor. Yet, the Minister for Local Authorities is telling this Parliament that the roads are in order. That Nairobi City and Mombasa where the GDP--- I can forgive him for being a medical expert, but not an economist. When he says our roads are being done, we wonder whether we are living in Heaven or in Hell. The hon. Mwai Kibaki asked: "What is this Government talking about? Are we talking about air? Who is in charge?"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me spend one minute in congratulating Mr. Speaker, for talking about the empowerment of this House. This is what ought to have happened many years ago. In addition to the empowerment of this House, let me remind those are in charge of this House that the improvement of Parliament needs to be done as quickly as possible; before anything else. This is a Parliament that is neglected, where even in the cafeteria and dining hall, there are about 13 telephones for more than 200 Members of Parliament. There is one television set which I do not think works; there are clocks all over which read hours you cannot tell which hours they are; there are staff members who look so idle, nobody knows what criteria is used to employ them. Anybody who goes to any Parliament anywhere on earth will wonder what kind of Parliament this is. So, before the empowerment of this Parliament, Mr. Speaker must take charge and impress upon the Clerk of this House on the necessity of maintaining a proper, decent Parliament that is worth its name.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about the Asians. This Government has put everything in the hands of 100,000 people called Indians. I wonder whether you have had the chance to go to India. I know as a fact that you cannot own a centimetre of land in the vast Continent of Indian; neither can you do any business. And yet an Asian comes here and gets a licence to operate a business or a bank, but our coffee and tea farmers cannot be licensed. Today the Asians control every single conceivable industry and 34 million Kenyans are more or less beggars, today as we speak. The Indians have taken over the milling and distribution of maize from the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). African millers cannot buy maize because Asians buy the entire lot of maize. I do not know what to conclude about it. It is politically untenable for a nation of 34 million black Independent Africans to be controlled by 100,000 Asians. It is untenable and the only reason why this Government gives the control of the economy to Indians is because they are corrupt and the most notorious people on earth.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Minister for Information and Broadcasting is here, I would like to talk about the media. When you turn on the news, you wonder which country you are in. From morning up to the evening there is only music. There is no news until about 7.00 p.m. when there is news about who is fired, which DC went where, which chief said what. Time has come for this Minister to think seriously about giving licences to professionals like the *Nation* and like myself. Anybody who is capable of giving news to this country must be given a licence without conditions.

I want talk about the banks in this country. Banks in this country have had it so easy. You deposit your

money in the banks, the banks invest the same money in Treasury Bills and earn for themselves 24 or 34 per cent interest. These same banks, some of which are part of our colonial heritage like the Standard Chartered and Barclays Bank, charge very high interest rates and other numerous charges. They have the audacity to raise the minimum amount of money you are required to pay to savings and current account. Such an amount of money is not affordable to the ordinary majority of Kenyans who are wage earners. For whom are these banks working? Who is the Central Bank of Kenya working for? The Government has a legitimate duty to protect the interests of the people of this country. When the Government fails to exercise the responsibility of taking care of its own people, that Government is a bad Government. I was persuaded to agree with the Leader of FORD(K), who said last week that President Moi is too tired to lead. Time has come for the President to be convinced that he is too tired to lead and that is why his so-called Presidential Speech is not worth commenting upon.

Finally, let me use this forum of the House to request the President to do something. The whole crisis facing this country is tied to one man who controls the destiny of this country. Last week that man went to Mrs Ouko and asked her to write letters absolving him from the murder of Dr. Ouko. That man told the new Minister for Finance to read a statement to whitewash his name from the late Ouko's murder. That man forced the new Commissioner of Police to alter the true statement of the Troon Commission. Unless President Moi does something about the hon. Biwott, this country is doomed. We are talking about Milosevic; and this is Kenya's Milosevic. The President is tied up to a man whose origin we do not know. The President is hostage to a man who is condemned and who wants to put this country into a crisis. This is a man who sponsored tribal clashes. This is a man who is in charge of every conceivable crime in this country. Time has come for us to address the issue. He wants Kenya to become another Yugoslavia. He wants our country to be turned into hell and he is capable of doing it. He is the man tied to the President of this country and he is convincing him that he can govern for another five years.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I tried to read President Moi's biography. At least, the President means good for this country. He wants to leave a legacy for all this country---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Before hon. Gatabaki finishes his speech, he made a serious racist statement about 100,000 Asians being the most notorious people in the world. It stinks so much of nazism. Would it not be in order to ask hon. Gatabaki to withdraw that particular racist statement against nationals who cannot defend themselves in this House?

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will ignore that. I would like this House to take note of the danger we are in, in the hands of hon. Biwott.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Sankori): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Pogishio): Order! Order! I just want to say this: Mr. Gatabaki, you are really treading on dangerous grounds. Why do you not stop naming hon. Members unless you have a substantive Motion to bring into this House?

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are the only Parliament, we are the only law-making body in this country. We will be held responsible for what happens in our country. These things are happening in Yugoslavia and we do not have the energy to say that this is the man responsible for such consequences.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no quarrel with hon. Biwott, but time has come for us to ask ourselves: What has this gentleman contributed to our economy? What has this gentleman done to the peace and development of this country? What has this gentleman done to the President of this country? And when all these things are summed up, he is the author of all corruption and all the crises in this country.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Pogishio): Order! your time is up! Yes, Mr. Kamanda.

Mr. Kamanda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just want to start by saying that we should be honest to ourselves as Members of Parliament, on the Government side, the Opposition and the Ministers. I am saying that because I want to talk about corruption. We have heard about corruption and the level of corruption in this country has been mentioned in this House by the Head of State. There is no way you can fight corruption if you are corrupt. The problem we have in this country is that the person who is supposed to fight corruption is the most corrupt person.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, just the other day, Kenyans had started seeing light when Mwau was appointed Director of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) but he was removed. Kenyans had started seeing light when we had the former Minister for Finance, hon. Nyachae. As soon as he started fighting corruption in this country, he was moved to a different Ministry. So, we are asking ourselves, and this is the question that Kenyans are asking the Government: Who is there now to fight corruption, if the Government

cannot fight it? Recently, we saw people mentioned in the Goldenberg scandal being appointed in the Government. Is the Government serious in fighting corruption? Is this the Government we are saying is capable of fighting corruption in this country? This Government is not capable of fighting corruption. What we are saying and what we are telling the Government, if they are unable and if the President is unable to fight corruption--- We know that he does not rule this country any more. There are a few people in the Government who rule this country. It is better for the President to give power to that particular person so that we deal with that person instead of having the Government being run by proxy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to touch on roads especially in Nairobi. This City belongs to us all and I am wondering whether it is the capital of this country or, maybe, the capital of this country has been transferred to another town.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us Members of Parliament, and it is high time we did away with sycophant Ministers--- Let us have Ministers who will be able to tell the---

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Sankori): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to say that the Government has sycophant Ministers? Can he substantiate?

Mr. Kamanda: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot substantiate the obvious. I did not mention any name. I can also say "sycophant" Members of Parliament because they are there!

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Sankori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point of order is this---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): I have to give that authority! Can you proceed!

Mr. Kamanda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am talking about roads in Nairobi and I am saying that all of us, in one way or the other, we are Nairobians. We live in Nairobi. Surely, are you not ashamed - those people in authority - when you move around Nairobi and see the condition of the roads in the City?

Sir, I have moved from that side of the subject although I would like to say that, the Minister for Local Authorities was here, he has spoken about a tour today. He wanted Nairobi MPs to tour Nairobi, but he informed most of us in the morning. I want to tell the Minister that we are not employees of his Ministry; we are hon. Members and he should respect us as hon. Members. We are not there to be called in the morning and be given half an hour that the Minister wants us to accompany him on a tour, and we are not given time. We are busy hon. Members of Parliament, and with all due respect, we could have attended that tour, but we were not given enough time.

Sir, I would like to touch on Local Authorities again. There is going to be a seminar of "sister cities" all over the world. All the mayors of the world are going to be in Nairobi in July this year. There is a budget to be used by Nairobi City Council, and that vote will come from the Ministry. When that money comes from the Ministry, that is taxpayers' money, and we want proper use of that money. The money will be Kshs500,000 million shillings to be spent on that seminar. As we are talking now, a tender already has been given to renovate City Hall at a cost of Kshs80 million. One should ask himself whether that tender was advertised or it was given under the table to one person?

The seminar is in July this year. This man is supposed to do that job within two months and be paid Kshs80 million. That is a lot of money to be paid for a job of a duration of one month. We would also like to know how that tender was awarded. Hon. Members of Parliament from Nairobi, like other hon. Members from rural areas, would also like to be involved. Hon. Members from the rural areas normally attend the DDCs where those tenders are awarded. We also want to be involved so that we can know those people who are being given those tenders. We are asking the Minister to tell us how he is going to spend Kshs0.5 billion on renovation of Nairobi City Hall.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something on security. Several hon. Members here have already talked about insecurity in the City of Nairobi. The other day Mr. Matagar, a senior police officer, was shot in Nairobi. The same day he was shot, other eight people in Nairobi were also killed. Surprisingly, the Commissioner of Police and other senior officers did not care about the lives of the innocent Nairobians. All of them went to see Mr. Matagar. I am not saying that they should have not gone to see him. I am only saying that the life of a human being is very important, whether it is that of a Minister, the Commissioner of Police, a Member of Parliament or a slum resident anywhere in the country. I am asking the Commissioner of Police to be sending his officers to scenes of crime, any time we have a problem in this City.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to dwell again on the Nairobi City Council because we depend on it. If it does not deliver, we are all going to fail, including the councillors. We have a few companies

being registered by few individuals, and being used by the Minister for Local Authorities to loot the Nairobi City Council. One of them is Vinyo Enterprises which has been paid Kshs5 million.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Thank you very much Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to the Presidential Speech.

We have heard a lot from hon. Members' contributions, but if I refer to what some hon. Members have said here, particularly from the Opposition side, it has always been repeated that the Government has done nothing, it has no leadership and vision. But I would like to say that there is no government that does nothing. The Government must always do something. That is why the KANU Government has been in power all this time since Independence and I am sure it is going to continue being in power, because instead of most of the Opposition hon. Members joining the Government - not necessarily crossing the Floor---

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Order! Could those of you consulting do so in low tones.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, so that we should work together for the benefit of the citizens of this country. We have kept on wrangling and pulling each other. Kenya is such a young country that we cannot afford not to work together. We have a lot of problems, and most of these problems are common. They are not for Government or for the Opposition. We need to work together so that we can develop our country. We do not have to keep on criticising all the time. Criticism is not going to help us. For the last five years since multi-partyism came in, we have never been able to agree or work together. In fact, it has even been very difficult to find KANU and Opposition Members of Parliament doing Harambee together. This trend must stop. We should behave like hon. Members of Parliament in developed countries and sit together, take tea together and try to develop this country. We should even hold Harambee meetings together instead of being suspicious that when you are invited in an area which is mainly Opposition, they always think that the Government has a hand in it and it is going to cause destruction or something like that. We should not think like that. We must go beyond that and try to help our people. We should forget about criticisms.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have always talked about liberalization. But liberalization has, in fact, pulled this country backwards rather than moving it forward. Most of the problems we are having today are as a result of liberalization. We are now importing a lot of commodities that we used to produce locally. Most farmers are suffering because of liberalization. There was a time when we were exporting maize, but today, we are importing maize. We had a lot of sugar and now we are importing sugar. It is high time we opened our eyes and decided what to import and what not to import. If we banned imports of sugar and maize, I am sure the following year we shall have more than what we need. Kenyans know very well that when there is a shortage, that is when they have a market for their products. I understand right now there is a lot of imported sugar, most of which is imported duty free, disguised as transit sugar. It ends up being dumped in the country and it jeopardises the position of our factories. Therefore, we must consider that very serious and if possible ban the importation of sugar. For example, in Japan, even America has not been able to penetrate their market. They have put their regulations to make sure that imports do not come in easily. And even America itself. But here, we have allowed things to move in without control.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, allow me to commend the Minister for Local Authorities. He has quite tried since he took over the Ministry. We must accept that most of the roads in most urban areas were so bad that vehicles could not use them. However, these roads cannot be repaired overnight. It is only one year since he was appointed to that office, but he has done a lot in many areas, including Nairobi. Some hon. Members have said here: "Ooh, most of the roads that have been repaired are in Westlands. Roads in other areas of Nairobi have not been touched".

Today, we toured Langata, Makadara, Mathare, Starehe and all other areas, and found that there has been a fair distribution in the road repair work being undertaken. Most roads within Nairobi have been done, and more will be done. Road repair is an expensive undertaking, but the Government is trying its best to see that roads are repaired. In fact, the Nairobi City Council comprises of mostly Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) councillors. An example of a DP Government is at the City Hall. If the DP cannot manage City Hall, they cannot manage any Government at all. There are more than 50 DP councillors there, but they have not repaired even a single road. These DP people are the ones who want to come and mess us up again here. We will not allow them to do so.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): What is it, Mr. Maitha?

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister not aware that roads are built by local authorities and not by the Minister for Local Authorities? It is the councillors who vote money for roads to be repaired. So, the Assistant Minister cannot rightly say that DP councillors at City Hall are not doing any job. He is wrong!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that my friend does not know what he is talking about.

Hon. Members: Teach him!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): These particular roads are being done by the Central Government, through the Ministry of Local Authorities, because the Nairobi City Council, under the leadership of the DP, has failed completely to discharge its responsibility.

Mr. Munyao: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. As much as I would not like to interrupt my good friend, I am incensed by his remarks. Is the Assistant Minister in order to continue misleading this House when he, himself, has contributed to its inability to do so? When the councillors meet, he organises the "Jeshi la Mzee" youths to go and disrupt their meetings. They cannot feel relaxed.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the

President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy

Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member does not even know what he is talking about. What I am saying is that City Hall is just a small example of a DP Government.

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Aah, niache nimalize!

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

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last Parliament, hon. Members from the Government side used to lash out at FORD(A), which had the highest number of councillors in Nairobi City Council then. Now, they are whipping the DP. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House when he knows very well that it is the Minister for Local Authorities which approves the councillors' proposals, and that when the Minister does not approve them the whole council is rendered useless? Where does all the money that is collected by local authorities go?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Order, Mr. Ndicho! Mr. Gumo, finish up!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel sorry for them. The hon. Member is just confirming that the Opposition cannot make it. Last time, FORD(A) failed. This time round, the DP, too, is failing. Both parties failed, and the Government had to move in.

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. Keti chini wewe!

(Laughter)

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Overruled! Proceed, Mr. Gumo!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Nairobi has had a lot of security problems. We have had a lot of thugs terrorising people around. However, we must congratulate the new Provincial Commissioner because, since he took office, he has done a lot of good work. Security operations have been conducted in some city estates. These operations will continue to be carried out so that---

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): With those few remarks, I support.

Mr. Shitanda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the President's Address. In his Address, the President focused on three areas, namely, insecurity, corruption and poverty.

Over the years, the security situation in this country has been deteriorating by the day. We have been told that the insecurity problems being experienced in the country are a result of cross border insecurity. However, another contributing factor is that this country's security personnel have not been dully motivated to encourage

them combat insecurity. Security officers in this country are poorly remunerated. Awards of promotions are not based on merit. The Government has even abandoned the recruitment methods that were in use previously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that for anybody to be recruited into the Police Force nowadays, he has to pay Kshs40,000 as a bribe. The same applies to the Kenya Armed Forces and the Kenya Prisons Department. Promotions are not awarded on merit. In the Police Force, you will find that some people who were recruited as police constables about five years ago are now Superintendents of Police, while others who have been in the force for over 20 years---

The Assistant Minister for National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Ms. Mwachai): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know how other Departments conduct their recruitment. However, officers of the Kenya Prisons Department do not accept bribes from anybody to be recruited or promoted. So, the information I have given the hon. Member shows that he is lying.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I least required that information.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to use the word "lie" while disagreeing with the contribution of the hon. Member on the Floor regarding the way recruitment and promotions are awarded in the Prisons Department?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): It is not in order, and I will request the gracious lady to withdraw and apologise to the hon. Member on the Floor.

The Assistant Minister for National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Ms. Mwachai): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to apologise and request the hon. Member to desist from misleading the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Order! Ms. Mwachai, no conditions are given on a demand from the Chair. So, could you withdraw and apologise?

The Assistant Minister for National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Ms. Mwachai): I withdraw the statement, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Could you also apologise?

The Assistant Minister for National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Ms. Mwachai): I apologise, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I was rudely interrupted, I was about to say that the Prisons Department had a recruitment exercise early this year, which was cancelled because of the massive corruption that was involved in it. Talking about corruption and recruitment into the armed forces, we have ended up recruiting people who do not deserve to be policemen, Kenya Army personnel, or prison warders. That is why many of these people have become robbers. We recently had an incident in Bungoma where a policeman turned an AK-47 rifle, which was entrusted to him for his duties, against innocent people and robbed them of some money. What we are experiencing right now is a culmination of the wrong manner in which we have done recruitment in the past.

So, curbing insecurity requires much more than discipline in the country's security personnel. The personnel we have are not disciplined at all. They were not recruited on merit, but rather through other considerations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not just in the Police Force or in the security personnel where we have problems of placing the wrong people in the wrong places. We have some parastatal chiefs in this country who cannot pronounce the name of the organisations they head. A case in point is the chairman of the Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation. I doubt whether the chairman of that organisation can pronounce the name of his organisation. What kind of efficiency do we expect from that kind of a person? Does he know what he is supposed to do on a daily basis or they have been put there for other considerations than merit?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, talking on corruption, the major department that collects revenue for the Government is the Kenya Revenue Authority. Until very recently, this was a department of the Ministry of Finance. They were given autonomy, so that they could improve the collection of revenue. What has happened? Corruption has continued. People have continued importing sugar and cars into this country without paying duty. The question is: Were they inefficient because they were being lowly remunerated or they are just victims of a corrupt system?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of tax thieves in this country and most of them are not

common men. They are not ordinary wananchi on the streets. They are people in high places. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport has become a major drug conduit on this continent. The people who peddle drugs in this country are not the commoners who walk on the streets. They are highly placed people with high connections in the Government. So, to stamp out corruption, the Government will have to become a little bit serious about the approaches it uses. Every now and then, they come up with the announcement of what they are going to do about corruption and insecurity but day-in-day-out, we continue experiencing these vices. We continue seeing these vices go on.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the collapse of the banks is as a result of our indiscriminate abuse of banking rules and our wanton belief in grabbing. As hon. Nyachae put it, he was put under a lot of pressure for exposing people who owed money to the National Bank of Kenya. That list did not contain any small names. That list was like a profile of who is who in the high ranks of Government. We would like the Government to demonstrate some seriousness about tackling corruption, by first following up these people and making them pay the debts so that, the common man can have some reassurance that may be something is going on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, we had an announcement in the papers today that the Kenya Sugar Authority through its chairman, has banned importation of sugar. This is one sector which has been seriously abused. This is a sector which is rendering a lot of people unemployed in this country. Mumias Sugar Company has been a major victim of sugar importation in this country. We hope those announcements are going to be taken seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on poverty eradication, our attitudes and the rate at which we dispossess the poor of what they have, is what should be addressed before addressing the issue of poverty eradication. How many times do we grab land meant for public utility? How many times do we dispossess the poor of Mathare Valley or the poor squatters of Lugari Forest land in order to make a quick buck out of that and we are the same people coming to this House speaking about poverty eradication?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I oppose.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Now, we need to know that in just about ten minutes, to come we will call upon the Mover to reply. So, we will use one minute or two.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Muchilwa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to begin with, I would like to thank His Excellency the President for the excellent speech that he delivered on the Floor of this House during the State Opening of the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament. The Speech highlighted the problems that Kenyans face as a country and went ahead to challenge us to rise and do something about those problems.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to take the opportunity to record my gratitude to our Head of State for the very peaceful manner in which he has made this country which has enabled Kenya to enjoy peace from the time he took over up to now. That is why there are so many refugees in this country because it is now a haven of peace. I would also express my gratitude to him for the efforts that he has put in conflict resolution in the area. He is the peacemaker and statesman that has distinguished himself in this area for helping to bring about peace in the region. Because of that, Kenya is now a favourite destination for those people whose countries are in trouble and do want to solve their problems peacefully.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, members have spoken about the twin problems of poverty and unemployment. The two are products of one and the same thing; that is, the problem of poor economic development. The problem of poor economic development is not caused---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! I will now call upon the Mover to reply.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Let me begin by thanking all hon. Members who have made their contributions to this Motion which has been about the Presidential Address on the exposition of public policy.

When I moved this Motion, I did make it very clear that the Presidential Speech on the exposition of public policy is not supposed to be a detailed Speech and indeed, within the tradition of the parliamentary democracy that we follow, that particular Speech is supposed to trigger off a debate on matters pertaining to public affairs. The actual implementation or details and other relevant matters are normally articulated by the Ministers. I am glad that my own colleagues on the Front Bench have done justice in trying to explain exactly what kind of implementation would be taken in quite a number of issues.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I touch on a number of issues, there is one thing that in the course of this debate did actually come to the fore, but I think it is something which needs to be addressed properly. I am referring to the fact that we as hon. Members of Parliament on our election to come here, we come here to discuss matters pertaining to the members of our constituencies and indeed, the general pattern of our own country, the difficulties and others. There is one serious feature that I think needs to be taken into account not in

this debate, but including other subsequent debates. We do not come here to attack Kenyans who are not Members of Parliament and who do not have the opportunity to defend themselves in this Parliament. It is a cowardly act for anyone of us in this House to use our own privileged position here to attack members out there, make allegations against them and yet, they cannot be in a position to defend themselves. I really hope that this is not going to happen because there were about two or three cases of people being named here who do not have the forum to defend themselves here. If a Member of Parliament is sure that, that particular person is guilty of something, please, you can denounce that person in public so that, that person too will be in a position to defend himself or herself.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of insecurity has received a great deal of attention here. Indeed, it deserves to have taken that much time. There is no doubt we have a lot of problems, we have a lot of incidents and we know of incidents where innocents Kenyans have lost their lives. We have incidents where Kenyans have lost a lot of their property. Security is bad enough, not only does it make it difficult for the local investors to expand their business and, therefore, to create more employment opportunities, but it also makes it difficult even for the foreign investors to come and put their resources here.

As the Leader of Government business, I only want to assure this House that the Government takes exception to what is happening. We want to assure the hon. Members that plans are being put in place because a war is going to be declared against crime in this country. It is going to be done because Members on the other side may very well say that we in the Government do not share their sentiments, I am sorry. The issue of crime is not a question of the Opposition or for that matter of the Government; it is a national issue. The Government is going to declare "war" against crime to unearth it. What is the cause? Some people say it is poverty. I do not think it is poverty, yes, the little petty crimes. We want to establish what is the root cause of these big criminal activities perpetrated by individuals with sophisticated weapons. Where are they coming from? Who are these people? It is something much bigger than crime. We may be having activities coming in under the guise of crime. This is a problem and it is going to be addressed fully and clearly. It is the responsibility of the Government. The situation has reached a level where it must be addressed massively.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister in charge of internal security said resources will be made available. That is true, it is going to be made available so that our own security organs responsible for dealing with crime are properly equipped, have operational ability to deal with criminals and, of course, trained to deal with those criminals. It is today a major problem and we agree it is a major public problem to be addressed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one cannot talk about crime without, of course, talking about poverty. Poverty remains a very major issue and we cannot be able to solve the problem of poverty unless we have resources flowing into this country in investment. If indeed, there is no expansion of the local enterprises and as long as we have crime, then we cannot solve the problems of poverty. We have addressed these problems of poverty and we have come out clearly to say that we have to form a sound partnership between the Government, the Opposition and all the stakeholders. The problem is too big enough just for the Government alone. We have to form a partnership and this is why the Paper spelling out the National Poverty Eradication Plan is going to be tabled to this House for debate so that Members can ventilate on this important document, make contributions so that we can be able to address really this terrible problem that threatens the social fabric of this country. But like I said, the problem of poverty cannot be solved unless the economy also grows. That is a classical economic theory. It does take time.

So, in the long-term and indeed, right now, the focus is on the recovery of the economy. To do so, and I am glad hon. Members have made that observation, we have to address the problem of the infrastructure. It is true we have got to look into our roads. We have got to look into other areas. We cannot say we have not had a problem. There has been for some time a shortage of resources and although people say it is because of corruption, I am afraid. The international economic dynamics too has taken its toll on the scarcity or the paucity of resources not just in Kenya, but overall.

We have embarked on liberalisation and structural adjustments. I know some hon. Members said that we should really abandon these structural adjustments, I want to say we cannot adjust. In the long-term, the solution to our problems is the restructuring of this economy. We have to be efficient to be able to sell things cheaply to our own people. We must be able to earn foreign exchange. It is also equally agreed in the short-term structural adjustment policies and implementation does create problems, it escalates poverty and hence the social dimension. That is why we do have the National Poverty Eradication Plan.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that brings me to an important matter that has been discussed here. The question of corruption will not be solved by pointing fingers at anybody the way you want merely because you do not like that person. We have agreed that corruption exists and it has to be addressed. But where did we start from? The Government has already established the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority, and it is true that the

establishment of the body has had its own hitches, but right now somebody has been appointed as its director. He is Justice Aaron Ringera; a man of impeccable record, and nobody has pointed an accusing finger at him whatsoever. What is there are little technicalities and complaints here and there. I wish to say that Justice Ringera must be allowed to do the job.

(Applause)

We want to say loud and clear that we have confidence in him and that he should move ahead now with his work. If there is any little thing happening, he should stop it. He must start working now by making sure that the characters who have been involved in improprieties are dealt with now. He should not listen to all kinds of diversionary tactics, such as questioning how the appointment was done or that it was improper because he is a judge.

If, indeed, we are serious that the whole idea of corruption must be stopped, then the beginning must be really to back Justice Ringera, who is a man of impeccable character so that he moves fast to stop whatever malpractices may be happening. I think he should start doing that now. I do not think that he should be listening to those queries that appear to me petty. He should not listen to the talk about him and other little debates. We should tell Justice Ringera to move ahead and do his job. This is the only way of dealing with corruption. It cannot be dealt with through name-calling and pointing fingers at the Government. It can only be dealt with by backing this body which is in place. In that way, we shall be able to get somewhere. I have no doubts myself that if the political backing is given to Justice Ringera, he will do his work and things will start moving. We all want a fair resource allocation and sound management which are the most important things.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, I want to thank, indeed, the hon. Members for the manner in which they have been able to discuss this very important matter on public policy. I want also to tell the hon. Members that the way ahead will not be easy because the world, as far as the economy is concerned, has now been reduced to a very small village. The world today stands on two major pillars namely liberalisation and globalisation. What happens in Asia also affects us here because not too long ago, we had the Asian crisis. We may have thought that it did not affect us but it affected us a great deal. It affected us in terms of the demand of our own export ratios to Asia. This has created a problem.

There are many other things that have happened in Europe which have created problems. There is also the problem of liberalisation which we cannot get out of. It will be a major problem and incidentally, we are not the only ones affected. But I do believe that we are a country endowed with enormous resources and with fairly well trained manpower and people who really want to move on.

We, as politicians and hon. Members, look upon them to provide an enabling environment. There is one thing that we, as hon. Members, must do, and in the not too distant future, and to provide it as a gift to the Kenyans. This is the revival of the stalled constitutional reform process. In itself, it is a big shame to all of us here. We are still arguing over the numbers which each political party should be allocated. I know that Kenyans are not amused by that. We must forge together, rise up and address ourselves to our obligations and reach an

agreement on how we will divide these seats amongst the parliamentary political parties. This is the challenge that His Excellency the President threw to this House. I do not think that we would want to wait until church leaders help us to share the seats amongst ourselves. Kenyans and church leaders look upon us because we are the law-makers and the people to provide hope to the rest of Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would end on this note: I hope that in the not too distant future, we will be able to sit down and agree on how to share out these 13 Commissioners who are to sit on the Kenya Constitution Review Commission which are reserved for political parties so that the constitutional reform process can move on. In that way, we will go a long way in creating an enabling environment.

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

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, hon. Members! It is now time for us to interrupt the business of the House. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, the 21st of April, 1999, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.