

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 1st October, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No. 644

EXCLUSION OF SONDU TOWN FROM URBAN CENTRES LIST

Mr. Akumu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to correct the Question before I ask it. Sondu is not a town. I also want to complain that I have not received the written reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is sondu?

Mr. Akumu: They have refused to make it a town although it has 11,000 people.

Mr. Akumu asked the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development:-

- (a) why Sondu was excluded from the list of urban centres during the 1989 census; and,
- (b) why the Ministry refused to correct this anomaly, even though the matter was raised in Kisumu District Development Committee and corrective action promised.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Dr. Misoi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the answer I will give will be correct, given that the hon. Member has made that correction. Sondu could be a market centre or a trading centre. The Questioner should have given us the right terminology so that we give a correct answer.

However, I beg to reply.

(a) Sondu Town was excluded from the list of urban centres during the 1989 census because its population displayed purely rural characteristics which did not meet the criteria used by my Ministry to define an urban centre.

The criteria used by my Ministry to define an urban centre is mainly the degree of population concentration and the general availability of socio-economic activities such as those found in city councils, municipal councils, towns and urban councils, including district headquarters and trading centres with at least 2,000 people.

(b) It may be possible that the urbanization process has accelerated at Sondu and that is why the Kisumu District Development Committee may have recommended its upgrading. However, my Ministry is not allowed by law to amend or upgrade a town or a trading centre to urban status unless it fulfils all the characteristics of an urban centre at the time of the census.

For this reason, we cannot ascertain the correct status of Sondu Market until the next round of population census tentatively scheduled for August, 1999. I hope by that time the Question will be framed correctly.

Mr. Akumu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that the Assistant Minister has not been correctly briefed. Sondu has always been second to Kisumu since 1969. It is the largest urban centre, but has not been declared urban because it is a border town. It has been there since 1969. You can check these facts in the library. The DDC has projected its population to be 12,000 and not 2,000. Would the Assistant Minister go back and do more research on this Question and bring the correct answer? This is not the correct answer. The District Development Officer (DDO) had agreed that this anomaly would be corrected. I am surprised about this reply. Can he do that so that we do not make it an issue?

Dr. Misoi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not make an issue out of this. It is Kadiang'a East Sub-location which has a population of 12,000 and not Sondu Market. Sondu Market has less than 2,000 people. So, the sub-location cannot be the Sondu Market. The only time we can ascertain this and have correct figures will be during the next census. There is no shortcut.

Mr. Akumu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already said that the records for the 1969 census and 1979 census are available. According to the DDO's report to the Government, Sondu was the largest urban centre in Kisumu,

next to Kisumu Town. It is bigger than Maseno, Muhoroni and Ahero. Mr. Assistant Minister, do you want us to come back on this matter? We can go to the library here and confirm what I am saying. Sondu is currently projected to have at least 12,000 people. According to the 1979 census figures, which you have in your office, its population was 7,000.

Dr. Misoi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said that it is true that Kadiang'a East Sub-location had a population of 12,447 people. Sondu Market had less than 2,000 people and this population displayed purely rural characteristics because its population comprised of farmers who were not involved in other activities found within urban centres such as the degree of wage employment, trade manufacturing *et cetera*. Also, there were few social amenities that are found in urban centres. A trading centre with less than 2,000 people but with potential for urban growth, was characterized as an urban centre. However, to maintain comparativity with previous centres, only centres with at least 2,000 people were analyzed. Therefore, this will have to wait until the next census when, perhaps, the urbanization process will have defined its category and classification for upgrading from a small trading centre to an urban status.

Mr. Akumu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to end this, next week I will bring the district development officer's report to the Assistant Minister showing what the Census Reports of 1969 and 1979 stated about Sondu. I will also bring the report that was sent to his Ministry headquarters here so that he can tell us why Sondu was left out. Maybe, it is because of border conflicts.

Question No. 521

VIOLATION OF CODE OF REGULATIONS
BY DISTRICT OFFICER

Dr. Kituyi asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the District Officer (DO) for Kimilili is soliciting money from secondary school heads and threatening those who do not co-operate with dire consequences; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what action he is taking to discipline this officer for violating the Civil Service Code of Regulations.

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

(a) I did, indeed, receive information about this particular officer, that his conduct was not up to the standard of the Civil Service and we are still investigating. In the meantime, we removed him from this particular station.

(b) As soon as I have completed the investigations, most of which are almost complete, very serious action will be taken against him because we certainly do not want to have in our service, an officer of such a high rank harassing heads of schools.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while appreciating the reply by the Assistant Minister, I would like to remind him that Kimilili was not the first station where this DO, a Mr. Sigei, was posted and was involved in very damaging behaviour. Before that, this man had been moved from Voi because of claims by administration policemen (APs), who were arrested committing a robbery that they had done so with the knowledge of this officer. From there, he was posted to Ikolomani, where he left without accounting for KShs150,000 donated by hon. Kones for the Youth Development Fund and KShs30,000 collected for the Youth Development Fund from assistant chiefs. After Kimilili, the same officer went to Busia, and hon. Awori knows why he was rapidly jettisoned from Busia. How much more damage is necessary before the Government is satisfied that they can contain this person from destroying the reputation of public offices?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, indeed, I have admitted that a person of this calibre is not required in the Civil Service. But, of course, we must complete the investigations.

Mr. Wetangula: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This particular officer menaced the headmaster of Friends School Kamusinga to give him money. When the headmaster declined to give him money, having previously given him money repeatedly, he wrote a letter, accusing the headmaster and the entire board of the school of which I am a member, of being members of the Opposition and saying many other things. This kind of extortion is a criminal offence. If indeed the Assistant Minister says that he is aware of these negative activities of the DO, can he consider interdicting him while the investigations go on? If it is proved to be true, he should be prosecuted for extortion.

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the action that we have taken is quite adequate to meet the request by the hon. Member.

An hon. Member: He has a godfather!

Mr. Obwocha: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir for finally recognising me.

It is evident from very eminent hon. Members of this House that this officer has done wrongs. Would it not be fair for the Assistant Minister to retire this officer in public interest?

Hon. Members: Not retire him; sack him!

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, appropriate action will be taken. I am afraid the Civil Service cannot take action simply because the hon. Member has asked us to do so. We know what the situation is and the replies that I have given should be quite adequate.

Mr. Magwaga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ikolomani, which is my constituency, happened to have been mentioned by the Questioner, hon. Dr. Kituyi, over the officer. That is where this officer was before he went to Kimilili. It is true he snatched Kshs150,000 from me and denied he had been given that money. He still has the money, including the money which he collected from the assistant chiefs and from other people on the pretext that he would repair the DO's centre. If the Assistant Minister is honest, he should know that the same officer was interdicted while he was serving in a division in Coast Province because of misappropriating money. How can he continue to tell this House that they are carrying out investigations when actually they know the officer is not worth his office as he had been earlier interdicted?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take exception to my honesty being questioned by the hon. Member. I have stated right now that appropriate action is going to be taken in respect of this officer.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not doubt the honesty and intentions of the hon. Assistant Minister. We know and we can give categorical statements about different schools such as Chesamis High School, Namwela Secondary School and Busakala Secondary School, whose headmasters were not as daring as the headmaster of Friends School Kamusinga to tell this man "no", and he managed to extract school money from them. What action will the Government take, apart from punishing the individual concerned, to get that money returned to the respective institutions from which he extorted it?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will ensure that the money is returned if he still has got it.

Question No. 646

BENEFICIARIES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mwiraria is not here, so the Question is stood over for the moment. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No.614

PAYMENT OF INJURY PENSION CLAIM TO MR. CHIMA

Mr. Obwocha asked the Minister for Finance when Mr. Stephen Maroko Chima (APN/PC 79256, Pension No. APN/PC 55507), TSC No.115262, will be paid his injury pension claim.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there anyone from the Ministry of Finance? There is nobody from the Ministry, so the Question is stood for the moment.

Mr. Obwocha: No, hon. Keah was here. Where is he?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order!

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Oh, here he comes.

*(Mr. Keah entered the Chamber
through the back door)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Have you got the answer?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

Mr. Stephen Maroko Chima (APN/PC 79256, Pension No. APN/PC 55507) and TSC No.115262 was paid his pension vide cheque number 067224 dated 22nd August, 1997. The cheque was sent to him through the Manager, Barclays Bank, Kisii Branch.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Ministry should wait for four years to pay a person like Stephen Maroko Chuma, whose pension has been pending since 4th May, 1993. The injury pension was approved, but he has never received the payments. It is very unfortunate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful if, indeed, the money has been sent to the Manager, Barclays Bank, Kisii branch. But could the Assistant Minister assure this House that subsequently, he would be sending his monthly payments?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can confirm that, and we will send his subsequent monthly pension payments to the bank account to which he has advised us. I would like to say that when Mr. Stephen Maroko Chuma retired from the Government service on age grounds, his normal pension was processed and paid to him on 5th October, 1993. His injury pension claims documents were received by us on 8th March, 1995. Mr. Chuma fell when he stood on a stool to collect teaching materials from the ceiling of his school's store on 20th May, 1993. I regret to say that it took our office some time to establish whether or not Mr. Chuma sustained the injury while in the actual discharge of his duty as a teacher. The circumstances of the delay are, indeed, regretted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question!

Question No.588

COMPLETION OF EREGI-SHIKOKHO ROAD

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

- (a) how much money was allocated to Road E.305, from Eregi-Shikokho to Malinya Market, in 1995/96 and 1996/97 financial years;
- (b) if he is satisfied with the quality of the work done on this road, and if not, what he is doing about it; and,
- (c) if he could take urgent steps to have the road completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Minister for Public Works and Housing is not here, so the Question is stood over for the moment. Next Question!

Question No.621

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS IN NEW WARDS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o is not here, so the Question is stood over for the moment! Now we go back to Question No.646 for the second time!

Question No.646

BENEFICIARIES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Murungi, on behalf of the **Mr. Mwiraria**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) how much money from the National Youth Development Fund was sent to the District Commissioner, Meru and when it was sent; and,
- (b) if he could furnish the House with a list of the beneficiaries and a list of the members of the committee which distributed the money.

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

(a) The District Commissioner, Meru, received Kshs9,570,575-70 for the National Youth Development Fund. The money was sent to Meru on 30th April, 1997.

(b) I hereby table a list of the beneficiaries as approved by members of a special district development committee (DDC) held on 21st July, 1997, whose names appear in the minutes.

(Mr. Awori laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we appreciate the answer given by the Assistant Minister. The problem is that there were gross irregularities in the distribution of money from the National Youth Development Fund in Meru District. Although there is this committee which was appointed by the DDC, as a matter of fact, the DC alone distributed this money as his personal petty cash to the groups that he wanted, in total disregard of the sub-DDC's recommendations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that not all the Kshs9,570,575.70 was distributed, and that there are numerous complaints about dishonesty and the DC having ignored the recommendations of the

sub-DDC?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information I have is that the distribution was carried out according to the recommendations by the special DDC where there were 45 people. I would like to table the list of those who sat and agreed on the distribution of the money.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not totalled the amount of money on that list to see whether it is the whole Kshs9 million. But even if it is not Kshs9 million, in many areas the initial distribution has always left a certain amount for a revolving fund. So, it is likely that, that is what has happened. I would like to table the list of those who sat to distribute the money. It was not the district commissioner himself.

(Mr. Awori laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Maundu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister said that a certain amount of money has been left at the district level as a revolving fund. Is he aware that the Office of the President issued a circular to the effect that all amounts of money must be distributed to the youth groups and that there should be no revolving fund?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said, in certain areas, the people sitting decided to leave a certain amount of money for the revolving fund. I did not refer to this particular one. In quite a number of areas, including my own Busia District, we set aside a mutually agreed amount of money for a revolving fund.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Assistant Minister to clarify the matter of the revolving fund. I sat in the Bungoma DDC to discuss the distribution of this money to the youth groups. My understanding in the DDC was that there was a circular from the Office of the President that, whichever formula we used to distribute the money, there must be some money left for a revolving fund. Now the Assistant Minister says that, actually, that was a discretionary matter for certain areas, but not an order or a circular from the Office of the President. Could the Assistant Minister clarify this matter? It is through this that corruption has started within the district treasuries and the DCs' offices over this money.

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the circular left the discretion to the districts.

Mr. Magwaga: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to refute the fact that the President later on ordered that all these Kshs10,000 or the amounts left should be given to the youth groups?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there seems to be a complete misunderstanding of the whole issue. The revolving fund should be used by the youth. So, I do not see why someone stands up and says that this money will not go to the youth. It is for the benefit of the youth.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that the DC, Meru, has been transferred because of messing up this Fund and that the revolving fund he is talking about is non-existent in Meru District? The money has just disappeared.

An hon. Member: It is revolving in the DCs' pockets!

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware.

Question No.588

COMPLETION OF EREGI-SHIKOKHO ROAD

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

(a) how much money was allocated for the Road E.305, from Eregi-Shikokho to Malinya Market, in the 1995/96 and 1996/97 financial years;

(b) if he is satisfied with the quality of work done on this road, and if not, what he is doing about it; and,

(c) if he could take urgent steps to have the road completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Minister for Public Works and Housing is not here? Therefore, the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Question No.621

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS IN NEW WARDS

Mr. Maundu, on behalf of **Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o**, asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) if he could explain why North Central Seme Location has not had a councillor since its inception; and,

(b) what the Government position is regarding the election of councillors whenever a new location is created after a General Election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do you have his instructions?

Mr. Maundu: Yes, I have his instructions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why did you not ask this Question on his behalf the first time I called it out?

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he told me that if he does not appear the first time the Question is called out, then I ask the Question the second time it is called out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Mr. Maundu, but you should have apologised for not asking the Question the first time that I called it out. Did you apologise?

Mr. Maundu: I apologise but the instructions were that if he does not appear for the first time, then I ask the Question after it is called for the second time.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether what the hon. Member is saying is true because he does not know Seme Location very well. The people who know Seme Location are here and they are the ones who would have asked that Question, including myself.

Mr. Maundu: But that is not your business!

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Central Seme Location has not had a councillor since its inception because it has not been gazetted as an electoral area. This is because the respective council under which it falls or any other party has not proposed and recommended it to be converted into an electoral area to the Ministry of Local Government.

(b) The Local Government Commission of Inquiry is currently reviewing the local authorities countrywide along with other areas and this location will also be considered. If it qualifies, it will be gazetted as an electoral area. Also, if the local community and the Kisumu County Council under which it falls feel that the location qualifies to have a councillor, they may also make a direct proposal to the Ministry for consideration upon which a commission of inquiry will be appointed to make a review.

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very big area with a huge population. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that during this year's election, this area will be gazetted for the purposes of becoming an electoral ward?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already said that the Local Government Commission of Inquiry is currently reviewing the local authorities countrywide and the area will be considered.

Mr. Musyoki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can the Assistant Minister assure this House that all locations in the whole Republic of Kenya will be considered as electoral wards because, it is quite unfair for a councillor to be attending to two different locational development meetings under two different chiefs at the same time? We understand that Government policy on development matters starts from grassroot level up to the national level. Can he undertake to actually establish or make those locations in the whole Republic electoral wards?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am the co-Chairman of that Commission of Inquiry and when I visited those areas, I was requested to consider making them electoral areas. If I have received no request, I am not in a position just to go and visit an area simply because it is a location.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I recognise hon. Manoti.

Mr. Manoti: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. A location is considered to have very many people, therefore it requires to have a councillor. In the past whenever a location was created, it automatically became a ward. This policy has changed and the Assistant Minister is getting requests from the Members who come from the grassroots that such areas require councillors. Why can he not confirm that they will automatically become electoral wards this year since he is the co-chairman of the Commission of Inquiry?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got the message right, but my Ministry may not know which location has been created unless a request has been made. The local people know that a location has been created, therefore it is their duty to inform the Ministry of Local Government because it is not the Ministry of Local Government that creates these locations.

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am getting very surprised because it is not really fair for the Assistant Minister to continue misleading this House that they are considering turning these locations into

electoral wards. This is because one of the amendments proposed to the Local Government Act is to transfer the powers of creating electoral areas from the Minister for Local Government to the Electoral Commission and we are debating that Bill right now. Is the Assistant Minister in order to continue misleading the House that they are definitely going to be in a position to review these electoral areas when they might not have those powers?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the amendments, but I am not aware that they have been passed. So, I am still going by Cap 2 (6) (5).

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

SWINDLING OF WANANCHI BY ZONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that Zonal Holdings and Credit Investments Company Limited, Private Bag, Nkubu, and Bright Investments and Trading Company Limited of the same address, have swindled numerous people of their money pretending that they are in a position to grant them loans?

(b) Is he further aware that the managers of the said companies have closed their offices at Nkubu Market, so as to avoid their creditors?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" are in the affirmative, what urgent steps is the Government taking to bring the creditors of these companies to book, and to ensure that the money stolen from innocent wananchi is returned to them?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the gravity of the matter in this Question, I have discussed with the Questioner and agreed that I should bring the answer tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not the first time that we are asking questions about these two companies in this House. I do remember hon. George Anyona asked a similar Question and the Assistant Minister gave an answer last year, but with regard to the different locations. However, since he has not given me any written answer, I am agreeable to the answer being given tomorrow, if the Question could be put on the Order Paper.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Ministers in the Office of the President have a tendency of not giving answers to questions put to them. I asked a question here regarding money being deducted from a chief and an assistant chief. The Speaker himself did order that the answer was not satisfactory and he directed the Minister who was answering that question to bring a proper answer at a specified time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have to direct the Ministers, especially those from the Office of the President to be answering questions, because they have a tendency of taking this House for a ride.

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to say that the Office of the President has a tendency of not answering questions is misleading this House. The Office of the President answers about four to five questions everyday and it is probably more consistent than any other Ministry. As for the Question of hon. Sambu, I regret that I was not here when that Question was asked. I was not the one who gave that undertaking but obviously, because of collective responsibility, I will look into it.

RELIEF FOOD FOR LIKONI VIOLENCE VICTIMS

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that victims of Likoni clashes are starving?

(b) If the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what arrangement is the Minister making to have these people supplied with relief food?

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

(a) The victims of thuggery in Likoni are not starving. Those camping at the churches are being fed as of now.

(b) The Government has already assisted the victims of thuggery in Likoni with a donation of Kshs500,000.

Prof. Mzee: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House by calling those people victims of thuggery? We cannot understand why it is the policy of this Government to call those people "victims of thuggery". Is he in order to call those people victims of thuggery and yet, they are suffering because of the Government's perpetrated thuggery?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am quite in order in using the term thuggery.

Mr. Farah: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Assistant Minister is misleading this House because these are victims of tribal clashes and the Government has said so. Why is it that in Rift Valley, the people who were affected were referred to as victims of tribal clashes and yet, in Coast Province, they are referred to as victims of thuggery?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the most important thing is whether these people are being fed or not. I have said that they are being fed and the Government has donated Kshs500,000 and, it is arranging to distribute 200 bags of maize to these people. This is the most important thing as of now.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is about the victims of Likoni clashes and not thuggery. Those people left Likoni and they went to Kisauni, Changamwe and Mvita constituencies. In fact, others went as far as Pemba and Tanga. The Assistant Minister has only talked about the small number who are camping at the churches. However, could the Minister tell this House what arrangements the Government has, to feed those people who have moved to Kisauni, Changamwe and Mvita constituencies, and also those who have moved to Pemba and upcountry areas? Who is feeding those people who have left for upcountry destinations?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question referred to the victims of Likoni and I brought the answer about the victims of Likoni. As for the people in Changamwe, Pemba and other areas, I can investigate and bring the reply.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, personally, I have been a victim of tribal clashes. When they talk about clashes, I know what they are talking about. It is also worrying to hear the Assistant Minister say whatever happened in Mombasa was thuggery. This is to show that he does not know what is happening there and if he knows, then the Government is not willing to assist. Can this Assistant Minister tell this House how many people are camping in mosques and churches and how many of them have been fed and with how much food?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not got those statistics.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Would I, therefore, be in order to say that the Government has not sent anybody to those areas, because they do not even know the number of people to be fed?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he would be completely out of order.

Mr. Mwavumo: Bw. Naibu Spika, kwanza ningependa kumshukuru naibu wa Waziri kwa ule msaada ambao Serikali imepeleka kwa watu walio katika makanisani. Je, Serikali inaweza kupeleka msaada huo kwa wale walioko katika misikiti na kwingineko?

Mr. Awori: Bw. Naibu Spika, tutawapa msaada hata wale ambao wako katika misikiti.

Mr. Nthenge: Bw. Naibu Spika, hawa watu wako na shida ambayo ingezuiliwa lakini haikuziwa. Je, Serikali inaweza kuweka chakula pale karibu ili hawa watu wasiumizwe na njaa kwa sababu walikuwa wakijilisha? Sasa Serikali imeshindwa kusuluhisha shida hiyo ambayo imeletwa na wakora. Yafaa waweke chakula pale ili hawa watu wapatiwe bila kuhangaisha Wabunge na watu wengine.

Mr. Awori: Bw. Naibu Spika, si haki kusema kwamba Serikali imeshindwa kuangalia hawa watu. Ya pili, nimeleza kwamba kuna magunia 200 ya chakula ambayo yatapeleka huko Likoni na kugawanywa kwa makanisa na misikiti kama vile ndugu yangu anavyouliza.

Mr. Farah: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If you remember---

Mr. Maundu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. How come you are giving chances to one side of the House only?

Mr. Farah: But I am on a point of order!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: He is on a point of order! Why should I give yours preference over his? This morning, I was accused of doing the same when I kept on recognising hon. Members from Makueni and Machakos on a Question which was from this side of the House.

Mr. Farah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you remember sometime back, the Government undertook to give a comprehensive Ministerial Statement on the Likoni issue during the special Motion of Adjournment. Why has the Government not done that? Why has the Office of the President not given a comprehensive Ministerial Statement as undertaken in this House?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation having cooled down, there was no need whatsoever to bring to the House a Ministerial Statement.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. During the Motion we had here, the Minister of State, Office of the President, in charge of internal security, did not say actually what was the cause of the violence. We do not want to deal with the issue of feeding the victims of this violence, when we do not know the cause. He promised this House and the nation to come back and issue a comprehensive statement, detailing what was the incident or the operation going on there in Mombasa. When are we going to have it or was the Minister taking the House for a ride?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will pass the information to the substantive Minister and, I am sure, if necessary, he will bring the statement. I did believe, since the Government had "equalised" the situation, that there was no necessity, but I will pass the information to the Minister.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem in Likoni will continue, in view of the fact that, that old man who was conducting the oathing ceremony was released yesterday, so that he can continue with the job. However, I would like to tell the Assistant Minister that the Kshs500,000 which was given by the President was not enough. The expenses are estimated at the rate of Kshs500,000 per day for the people who are in the churches, excluding those in the mosques and the people who went to Changamwe, Mvita and Kisauni. Is the Assistant Minister satisfied that 200 bags of maize are enough? After all, in Mombasa, most of the people use rice and not maize only. Could he tell this House whether he is still satisfied those bags are enough and when should they expect the first consignment?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those are so many questions that I think I will just give a general answer. I personally do not believe that, that is enough. There can never be enough food anywhere, but we will see that those people in Likoni do not starve. We will take into consideration the fact that some people at the Coast prefer to eat *wali* and that also will be distributed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will go back to Question one by Private Notice by special dispensation, Mr. Murungi.

SWINDLING OF WANANCHI BY ZONAL
HOLDINGS LIMITED

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the second time, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Zonal Holdings and Credit Investments Company Limited, Private Bag, Nkubu, and Bright Investments and Trading Company Limited of the same address, have swindled numerous people of their money pretending that they are in a position to grant them loans?

(b) Is he further aware that the managers of the said companies have closed their offices at Nkubu Market, so as to avoid their creditors?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" are in the affirmative, what urgent steps is the Government taking to bring the directors of these companies to book, and to ensure that the money stolen from the innocent wananchi is returned to them?

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

(a) No, I am not aware.

(b) The offices of Zonal Holdings and Credit Investments are still open and operational, but Bright Investments and Trading Company Limited have moved and are currently operating from their headquarters in Mbale.

(c) The transactions entered between the firms in question and their clients was purely contractual and the issue of the Government taking steps against the firms is not viable.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. If you remember the background given by hon. Murungi, the Assistant Minister is totally out of order because the Question that was asked by hon. Anyona and answered by the Attorney-General stated that they were pursuing the directors. It happened in Thika and several parts of Meru, and I even tabled receipts of a similar case some time last year. Now, the Assistant Minister says that these are contractual arrangements. The Attorney-General did say that they were pursuing the directors for fraudulent activities of taking money and not honouring their obligations. So, could the Assistant Minister go back and reconcile the answer given by the Attorney-General and the one he is trying to give now, and then we have a better answer or some coordinating answers from the same Government?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps, on that note, I would like to ask the hon. Murungi to ask the Attorney-General.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We know that the directors of these two companies come from Western Province, where the Assistant Minister comes from. This may explain the

inconsistency given by the Attorney-General, saying that he is pursuing those directors who have swindled the people of their money and the Assistant Minister saying he is not aware. That notwithstanding, the matter raised by my Question is not contractual, because this is a case where these two companies have defrauded the people of South Imenti of thousands of shillings on pretext that they are in a position to give them loans. It is either obtaining by false pretences or obtaining credit by fraud. So, these are in the realms of criminal law. Since the Government is bound, as a constitutional duty, to protect the property of the people of this country, can the Assistant Minister explain why the Office of the President with police machinery such as the CID, regular police and so on, cannot apprehend these directors who have literally stolen from our people instead of passing the buck? If they do not do so, the people of South Imenti will take the law into their own hands and protect themselves. We are not even sure what will happen to the directors of the Zonal Holdings and Credit Investments, who are still operating at Nkubu. Could the Assistant Minister be in a position then to intervene, to protect law and order or protect the law to safeguard the property of the South Imenti people now?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not a secret that I, as the Assistant Minister, Office of the President, come from Western Province. It is not a secret that the Attorney-General also comes from Western Province, and the fact that the directors of these companies come from Western Province. The insinuation that those directors could be swindling money from Nkubu, Eastern Province, to take it to Western Province is outrageous!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to recommend to my friend who has, I am sure a law firm, to use that very law firm to apprehend these people and let them face the law.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to ask me to use my law firm to apprehend the directors, instead of the Government using the CID to arrest these directors and take them to court? I am not paid to apprehend criminals!

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the representative of people in Eastern Province, surely, it is in your interest, particularly considering that very soon we are going into the general election, where you require their votes, and perhaps, you would like to help them that way.

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did ask a question when this Question came up here last time and the Attorney-General confirmed in the answer to my question that, the directors should be apprehended as soon as practically possible. Now, it is surprising that the Assistant Minister does not want even to take any action except that he wants a private prosecution. Can he go back and investigate this matter with a view to apprehending these criminals and bringing them to book for cheating people in Nkubu?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very surprising that the Attorney-General having given an undertaking, you bring back the matter to the Office of the President!

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister claims that he was not aware. I have the documents here proving that these companies swindled people, as far as, Eastern, Coast, Central and Western provinces. I have also the claims here that these companies are owned by Cabinet Ministers who come from Rift Valley and others from Eastern Province. Now, that he said he is not aware, I am going to table these documents. Could the Assistant Minister promise that he will bring another answer telling us how he is going to make sure that people are refunded their money?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you tabling the documents? Why do you not table then?

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Kiliku. You have no authority to call on somebody to take the Floor. You asked a Question and said you are now going to table the documents. May I first see you table the documents?

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order? Hon. Kiliku, what is your point of order?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Kiliku has made a very serious allegation that some Cabinet Ministers are involved in the fraud. Could he name those Cabinet Ministers, so that we know who are involved in the fraud and who are not?

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, responding to that point of order---

An hon. Member: It looks like this was arranged!

Mr. Kiliku: I have the papers here, showing that this company has political protection; it is claimed to be owned by some Cabinet Ministers from the Rift Valley and two from Eastern Province. It is believed to be raising funds for campaigns.

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

Mr. Kiliku: I have not gone through all these and I wanted to go through them; I want to table these receipts to show how this company has swindled people across the country. These are the official receipts from the company

and then, I will read through this one and whoever has been mentioned, no matter how big he is in the society, I will name him. This is one.

(Mr. Kiliku laid the documents on the Table)

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Order Mr. Obwocha! Next order! Order No. 7!

(laughter and loud consultations)

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I have called for the next order.

Order! Order! As far as I am concerned, the hon. Kiliku has laid a document on the Table. I think the Minister, of course, deserves the right to look at the document and respond to it. We do not expect him to go through that dossier now and respond to it in the next 20 or 30 seconds and the usual rules of the House regarding documents which have been tabled before the House apply. For now it is the next order.

Mr. Awori: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I cannot accept that alone, because the hon. Member stated that he was going to table not only the receipts, but also documents proving that Cabinet Ministers from Western Province are involved. I would like to see that.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are not only the receipts. We have all the documents from the company, proving that this company has swindled the people. I said the Cabinet Ministers are involved and we are looking into which Cabinet Ministers are involved and we shall name them.

An hon. Member: Read their names right now!

Mr. Kiliku: No, they have not been named in the paper which I am reading; I am going to give you the papers to read.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Kiliku! You had better learn to be a little more guarded, not to bandy around with statements which are of a serious nature, potentially affecting the integrity of Members, unless you are ready to substantiate it. As you said, you are still studying your document; I will leave the matter there and for now, it is next Order. I will not entertain further points of order on this subject.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order! Who was on the Floor last time? Mr. Nthenge, it is you to move your Motion.

MOTION

CONSTRUCTION OF NAIROBI-MOMBASA DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

Mr. Nthenge: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to Move the following Motion: THAT, while appreciating the Government plan to do reconstruction work on the Nairobi-Mombasa Road; considering that there is an increase in traffic by both heavy and light vehicles on this road and since there is need to reduce accidents and time wastage on our roads; this House urges the Government to construct, if necessary in phases, dual carriage way from Nairobi to Mombasa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the outset, I would like to mention this: Nairobi-Mombasa Road is older than any of us here. It is a very old road and the width of that road has remained the same for ages and ages. By the time the road was constructed many years ago, the traffic was less than one per cent of what it is now. The traffic has been increasing year by year, time by time and by now, if you fly-over it, you will think there are people going for a wedding because the motor cars are following each other as if they are all going to the same function, only to find that everybody is on his own way. At times, even the fastest car like a Mercedes Benz 300 and all the other fast moving cars are forced to move at a snail's speed because in front of them, there are heavy lorries moving towards Mombasa and towards Nairobi. So, one has no alternative but to take one's position in the queue because you cannot overtake. The road has not been widened for years and years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is wrong to expect development on one side and forget development on the other side. If we are increasing traffic, it is our duty to increase and widen roads and that is why we have road licences. The purpose of collecting road licences is to be able to have enough money to care for traffic.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mombasa Road is such an important road in Kenya that, every one at one time or

other uses it; whether you are in the coast or in the Western part of the country, you still have to use it. It is our entry road, as it were, because those who bring goods from overseas by sea, the goods come through Mombasa and finally, they have to be brought in the inland using the Mombasa-Nairobi Road. So it is the most important road in Kenya. It is also where, whether we like it or not, the Vice-President or the Head of State, unless he flies, has to use it because, to visit the Coast Province, unless they fly, they have to use the same road. So the importance of this road is so great that I do not have to spend much time explaining it. All the Members of Parliament from Coast and Eastern Provinces, when they come to Parliament, do not have an alternative but to use the same road, unless they fly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the importance of this road is very great. I am thankful to the Government because after some time this road was tarmacked, but it has never been widened. It should be widened now; it is overdue, because the traffic has increased tremendously. If we are not going to widen it, then we should device ways of eliminating all the heavy traffic on this road. That will be unfair to the users. The fairest thing is to make this road a dual carriageway. If it is not widened, it continues to waste a lot of time for very busy people, like hon. Nassir, hon. Keah and others. Instead of taking five hours' drive to Nairobi, they take seven to eight hours, and three hours are wasted for great thinkers of coastal Members and other hon. Members, and doctors like Dr. Wameyo. It is a big loss to this country. Even one hour is very important for people like Dr. Wameyo; maybe, he would save three women from death because when they are delivering, sometimes they need his assistance in order to deliver safely.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the width of this road now is not enough for our traffic. Therefore, we want vehicles going to Mombasa, to have their own lane and those coming from Mombasa to Nairobi, to have their own lane, just like the Nairobi-Thika Road dual carriageway. Since the Nairobi-Thika Road was made a dual carriageway, the vehicles move quickly. Secondly, there are not many accidents on that road, because there is no on-coming traffic. It is only a distance of nine miles from Nairobi towards Mombasa which is a dual carriageway, but immediately you pass the Airport, it becomes a single road, causing heavy traffic congestion. When a driver becomes impatient, he tries to overtake on the wrong lane, thereby causing accidents. This causes deaths and injuries or delays to the commuters. Neither of these is wanted by Kenyans. Therefore, the only solution I can find, and I hope all the hon. Members will agree with me, is to make this road a dual carriage way because it is a very busy road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we make this road a dual carriageway like the Nairobi-Thika Road, at least, we could succeed to ease the congestion on this road. I agree it is a long road and maybe, it will take a long time to complete. Therefore, let us make this road a dual carriageway for every 30 to 40 miles, starting from Mombasa to Nairobi and vice versa, and within a few years, the road will be a full dual carriageway. Whenever an accident occurs--- I am the greatest victim of that road because I lost nine members of my family, plus my niece on the same road because of its width. There were so many vehicles coming towards Nairobi and others were going to Mombasa, and we could not fit on that narrow road. So, I decided to swerve to the bush to avoid an on-coming lorry. The lorry landed on my car, and I lost 10 people in that accident. Only two of us out of the 12 are living, my son and I. So, when I am talking about this, I have a lot of bitterness. God is great, because He has made me forgive those who were involved, but I cannot completely forget that accident. I lost one of the most beautiful women in the world, a star, and children who were very good at home, four daughters and four sons died. The only solution is to have that road made a dual carriageway, so that when you are going to Mombasa, you do not have to meet on-coming traffic and when you are coming to Nairobi from Mombasa, you do not have to meet with on-coming traffic.

The importance of safety is so great that whenever we say this, nobody should come and talk about money. There is not a single day that passes, that road is used by less than 1,000 vehicles. I am asking hon. Keah, if he is going to talk about money - he is an expert in this Motion - to explain to us how much money we collect from this road from road licences alone. There are also weigh bridges. I believe even weigh bridges bring revenue to the Government. So, when I am calling for the Government to make this road a dual carriageway, I am also suggesting where the money is. For all these years, we, the users of that road, have been paying road licences. Why are we not also told by the department concerned: "Thank you very much for paying your road licences, now we will make it a dual carriageway; if it becomes a safer road, it becomes a faster road and very convenient". Now, when I am talking about this, and although I have not travelled very widely, I have an international knowledge of roads because I have done a bit of travelling. Bumps should not be erected on the roads so that when you are moving, you are looking at the road and there is interference. Why should bumps be there?

If the road network is international and, all over the world there are vehicles, why are we unique in having these bumps on the highways? Maybe one is moving at 100 Km/h or so, and then one's car lands on the bump unawares; one might even cause an accident. For heaven's sake, let us make Kenya part of the world and to have international standards. These bumps are just unnecessary because if we are required to move slowly, we should be informed by road signs. It is internationally accepted that we have road signs which show you that there is a hospital, a school or something ahead, and then you move slowly. But it is not good, as it were, to put a trap to annoy the driver, to annoy the vehicle owner and if we keep on jumping over those bumps often, our cars will require repairs more often.

This is because the ball joints and other parts are damaged. Why should we do that? The roads are narrow and they are made more inconvenient by having bumps.

I am calling upon the Minister, in his reply, to tell us why we should have bumps. We should not have bumps on dual carriageways. This is because they are not internationally acceptable. It is an idea which came with some fools. When I asked these fools why they put them, they said: "Because the matatus are not obeying traffic rules". Does this mean that if a group of people are disobeying the rules, you have to punish the whole lot? That is communal punishment which will never be right. This is because if hon. Nassir and I are making a mistake, should all the Members of Parliament be punished? It is wrong. So, if a few drivers are not slowing down, you do not punish every other driver.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I invite my learned friend, the scholar, Prof. Mzee, to second this motion, I would like to mention this: We are very late in doing these things. Mombasa Road should have been made a dual carriageway 30 years ago. Therefore, we do not have time to waste. I am proposing this: That a team of widening the road should start from the Nairobi side and, maybe, another team starts from 40 miles ahead, and they meet somewhere. Then other teams should start at Voi, coming this way and others going down to Mombasa. Other teams should also start from Mombasa, coming to Nairobi and then they meet somewhere. This way, it will not take ages to do it. I agree that the road is very long and it is about 300 miles, and it requires time, but let us put enough people at work. I am suggesting that there should be about eight groups with four of them going towards Mombasa, and the other four coming from the Mombasa side, and they meet somewhere. Within a few years, the road will be a dual carriageway. But we cannot keep on being told to wait while the Government looks for money. We have been paying road licences for a long time.

Sometime ago, I had an accident with hon. Nassir because the road is narrow. My car was a fast and heavy one and he was ahead of me. It was drizzling and the road was a bit wet. His driver panicked after seeing the police.

So, although I applied my brakes, my car rammed into his because it was a fast car and I am a fast driver. We had an accident because the road is narrow. The narrow roads are dangerous and it was by sheer luck that we, intellectuals, did not die or get hurt. We were saved by the grace of God. But we should not take such risks. This is because the more we risk, the more we do not take action and the more God gets annoyed with us. He will say: "I gave you brains to use! Why are you not using them? I gave you money to use! Why are you not using it?" Therefore, because we have got these things, let us start by dividing the road among four groups. In this way, certain sections of the road will be done and after two or three years, the whole road will be a dual carriageway, which is long overdue. I do not want the Minister to give an answer which implies that I am asking for something which can wait. It has waited for over 40 years.

When I was a representative of Machakos in 1961, the road was a nuisance even then. I had to come to Nairobi. I have told you about my tragedy which occurred because of the narrowness of the road. I would like all the Coast Members of Parliament and others who also go to the Coast to come and support this Motion, so that we can have safety on our roads. This is because at one time or another, everybody will use the road; from the Head of State to the ordinary man in the streets.

With those few remarks, I beg to move. I invite Prof. Mzee to second the Motion.

Prof. Mzee: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am very much honoured to be seconding this Motion, which is requesting the re-construction of a dual carriageway between Nairobi and Mombasa. I have always stood on the Floor of this Parliament and said that if we want to attract investors in this country, we have to develop the infrastructure first. For the people who have visited South East Asian countries, the so-called economic tigers due to their economic development, in the last 20 years or so, they were not different from us. They did not have the kind of rhetoric that we have, of just saying that in the year 2000, we are going to embark on a serious industrialisation programme. If you are serious about industrialising this country, you have to create a conducive environment to attract investors. You must put in place a conducive political and infrastructural environment to attract investors. There is absolutely nothing in the infrastructure which is so attractive to the investors like a good road network. We have two important cities in this country, Mombasa and Nairobi. Mombasa is a gateway and an outlet for our exports, and Nairobi represents the hinter-land of this country where coffee, tea and other manufactured goods are processed. These things have to find their way down to the Coast, to the town of Mombasa, where they will be exported overseas, to bring in foreign currency.

If we have the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and if we want to attract investors, without developing the infrastructure, we are going to talk in a total vacuum, and nobody is going to listen to us. We have to see the super-highways and fly-overs all over the country, to tell the investors that we have a conducive environment, both politically and economically, to safeguard their money here, and if they bring their money here, they will earn some profits. If we do not have those, we will just have rhetoric like before; like just saying that in another ten years, we will be making our cars; in another ten years, we will be top in medical research; in another ten years, we are going to have more petrol than Saudi Arabia. These are just empty words which have not proven to be true. But if we plan very carefully, and we start with our most important roads, things will work out. At present, our roads claim the lives of Kenyans every day. It was only last week that we had flash news on Kenya Broadcasting Corporation after 10.00 p.m. I thought that something very important had happened and probably the Government of Kenya had been changed.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought Prof. Mzee would have said that the Kenya Government had won the elections again!

Prof. Mzee: The worst thing had happened! It was worse than the change of Government in this country. It was an oil tanker which had an accident, and was set on fire near Manyani, and the whole road was closed. Some of my friends were on the road that night, coming to Parliament. The road is very narrow. The edges have been eroded. Even in constructing the road, the contractors, in a hurry to make as much money as possible, neglect the sides which are eroded. In a short time, a road which is supposed to carry a two way traffic is able to carry only one way traffic. A road, as busy as Mombasa Road, when its edges have been eaten away, becomes so narrow and turns into a death trap.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been a victim of a road accident in this country. I bear scars sustained in a road accident precisely because, our roads are very poor. This is because we are not serious in protecting the lives of Kenyans on the roads. We are going to talk about road accidents and factors contributing to road accidents. The major factor which is probably constituting 75 per cent of the accidents on the roads in Kenya is because the roads are very poor, narrow and potholed, and every year, the Nairobi-Mombasa Road is under construction. Every year, we spend millions and millions of shillings on consultancy for the Nairobi-Mombasa Road. There is absolutely no significant change.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the 1997/98 Budget, for the small section of the road, between Changamwe and Mariakani--- Instead of moving ahead and repairing that small section of the road, this year's Budget has approved Kshs6 million for consultancy alone for hardly 40 kilometres. I cannot understand what consultancy is required to repair a road which is killing people. Why should we spend all that amount of money in a whole financial year on consultancy alone and nothing comes out of it? Kshs6 million could have been used to construct the section of the road between Changamwe roundabout and Miritini, which hon. Nassir will agree with me is impassable at the present time. There is no road there; the tarmac has been completely eroded.

On the Nairobi-Mombasa Road, we have a section between Kibarani roundabout, right to Miritini--- There is no road existing there. It is not a potholed road; it is full of craters. Moon craters exist there. The tarmac was eroded a long time ago. Imagine, it is not only our lives that we are concerned about but our cars are also getting damaged. We have to import spare parts because we do not make them. Therefore, a lot of foreign currency is being wasted in repairing vehicles because of poor roads. In Mombasa, the life of an exhaust system and a shock absorber is hardly six months and they are very expensive. There are people who are making millions and millions of shillings and they have an interest in keeping this road in a state of disrepair, so that they can continue to make money.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing would like the roads in this country to stay the way they are, because every year money is allocated to this Ministry whereas substandard work is done and people end up pocketing the money. This is because the contractors and engineers in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and some powerful people, are the ones who are inhibiting the construction of a good dual carriageway between Mombasa and Nairobi, so that they can continue to make little money every year from Kenya. We need to have a dual carriageway and not in bits and pieces. The whole plan should be executed and we should be told how much it will cost at a go, because we do not want to be told that they will do the work between Nairobi and the Airport, and that is the end of it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Motion.

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. This is an excellent Motion and I totally support it. I want to make the following observations in support of the Motion. The Mombasa-Nairobi Road is the kingpin of our economic

progress in this country. It helps us to make sure that we export our goods and it helps to make sure that we import our commodities, not only into the hinterland of this Republic, but also to the neighbouring countries. So, the importance of this road cannot be over-emphasised because it is the lifeline not only of Kenya, but of the many neighbouring countries around us.

Having said so, I note with deep sadness that it is indeed a killer road. It is a killer road because no single day passes without there being a head-on collision along that road. The head-on collision element calls for a number of things; that drivers should be more careful. I take this opportunity to urge all our drivers to be more and more careful.

I also take this opportunity to urge the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to make sure that they instal effective road signs all along this particular road.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree that bumps are not really the answer. We ought to, in this time and age, have effective road warning signs which can be followed by the drivers. I would also like to urge that if any driver violates any of the instructions along the road, he or she should be severely punished. We are at times a little lax in the implementation of our laws and regulations in so far as road safety is concerned. We are talking about a dual carriageway. It is time we had a dual carriageway from Nairobi to Mombasa, but the same spirit should be extended to the portion of the road from Nairobi to Malaba. This will, indeed, enhance the revenue collection in our country. The advantages of having a dual carriageway are many. It will not only reduce the incidences of road accidents, but also it will help our economic development through effective and faster deliveries of our goods, not only for export but also internally, for the purpose of importing what we need in terms of raw materials as well as finished goods.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity not only to support this dual carriageway idea, but also to talk a little about the quality of the workmanship of road construction in this country. We, indeed, dread what happens with some of the services or the road construction work that we experience. No sooner is the tarmacking of a road completed than, within a month or so, it is totally eroded. We must ensure that we improve upon our quality of workmanship in this country. We have professionals such as well qualified engineers. It beats me why such a thing should happen when professional staff abound amongst us. Therefore, this is an excellent Motion in terms of our real need, and enabling us to air a few observations on matters such as the quality of road workmanship. The other point that I would like to mention here is that we would like to have this highway transformed into a dual carriage-way. It should not only be this, but we ought to have a proper programme of tarmacking as many of our roads as is practicable. We should do the same for the road from Namanga, which leads right up to the north eastern part of Kenya. In this way, we can have a complete network of tarmacked roads in addition to the secondary roads. In this respect, I have some complaints to make.

Over the last 30 years, my observation is that we had no new tarmac road in Coast Province. But now, the Malindi-Garissa Road is being tarmacked after 34 years of Independence. This is something that is hurting. Priorities should exist in all the provinces as far as tarmacking of roads is concerned.

I would also request that some of the feeder roads should be tarmacked. For the last 30 years, we have been talking about Mariakani-Kaloleni-Mavueni Road in Kilifi District, which cuts across the district, and takes congestion off Mombasa Island, or the traffic going to the North Coast from Nairobi. We have been fighting for this road to be tarmacked. Plans have been made, but they have not been implemented. I want to call upon the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to ensure that priorities of this nature are duly dealt with. I cannot conclude my contribution to this Motion without emphasising, once again, that it is high time Mariakani-Kaloleni-Mavueni Road was tarmacked.

While, I am still on the Floor, I wish to say that I do appreciate the fact that we have financial constraints. We cannot just talk about tarmacking and making roads dual carriage roads without recognising the financial constraints that we have in the country, and indeed in the Treasury. For this reason, I would like to suggest that among other sources of money for financing tarmacking of our road network, we should, perhaps, bring in an amendment to the law on the Road Maintenance Levy Fund to provide that a portion of that fund can go towards the construction of dual carriage roads, and also the tarmacking of rural as well as feeder roads.

It is important that we begin somewhere, because we will not always be lucky to get funds from the donor community. We know that we are doing our best to attract funds from the European Union, as well as the World Bank and Kuwait Fund. However, it is important that we establish our own home-grown funding sources for this objective. These home-grown financial sources will include, perhaps, the utilization of a portion, on an annual basis, of what we collect for the repairs and maintenance of roads. We need a certain portion of these funds to be set aside and utilised for tarmacking our highways.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know, what I am saying may be somewhat revolutionary, but we have got to begin somewhere. Beginning somewhere is---

QUORUM

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker. There is no quorum in the House!
The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Moiben): Okay. It is true that there is no quorum in the House. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Moiben): Order! Order, hon. Members! Since the House cannot raise the necessary quorum, we will adjourn until, this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m..

The House rose at 10.55 a.m.