

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 30th July, 1997

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

The following Paper was laid on the Table:-

The First Monetary Policy Statement of the Central Bank of Kenya for the period between July, 1997 and June, 1998.

*(By the Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah) on
behalf of the Minister for Finance)*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No. 550

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

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

- (a) whether the Government has a national youth development policy; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, when the Government will enact such a vital policy.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Mr. Oyondi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Government has, since Independence, formulated and implemented various policies whose objectives have been the development of the human resource, particularly the youth of this country.

These policies, which have been translated into various programmes for implementation by respective Ministries are contained in various Sessional papers and policy documents such as: Sessional Paper No.1 of 1973 on Employment, Income and Equity; Sessional Paper No.8 of 1988 on Education Training for the next Decade and beyond; Sessional Paper No.1 of 1992 on Employment and Development; Sessional Paper No.2 of 1992 on Small Scale Enterprises and Jua Kali Development in Kenya; Sessional Paper No.1 of 1994 on Economic Recovery for Sustainable Development and the Policy Framework Paper on Economic Reforms for 1996 to 1998.

The programmes formulated by the Government to promote youth development as a result of various policies include programmes in education such as the Loans Scheme; the National Youth Service designed to provide vocational training and discipline; the Kenya National Programme on Immunization under the Ministry of Health; the Kenya Jua Kali Programme aimed at addressing issues relating to safe working sites, access roads, land allocation and marketing of jua kali products; and lastly, the National Youth Development Programme, aimed at assisting groups of organised youths to venture into profit generating activities.

The Government is satisfied that these programmes, and others which will be formulated as need arises, will go a long way in addressing the issues which hinder youth development such as poverty and disruptive changes brought about by the Structural Adjustment Programmes, which have led to weakening of the family and traditional support system; unemployment---

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister answering a Question or making a policy speech?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Mr. Oyondi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am answering a Question which was asked by hon. Farah.

Lastly, the HIV/AIDS epidemic which threatens to disrupt the social economic set up of most people, including those who are not affected by the disease.

Mr. Farah: What we have here are Sessional Papers on diverse things like employment, income and equity, small scale enterprises, Jua Kali, recovery, health and so on. These are broad things for all the Kenyans, with maybe a small conference for the youth. What I am asking is this: Does the Government have a Sessional Paper on youth development, and if the answer is in the affirmative, what is the name of the Sessional Paper and in which year was it presented?

Mr. Oyondi: The Sessional Papers that I have just mentioned are covering everybody in the country, including the youth.

Mr. Nthenge: The issue is that we have children and old people in Kenya. But there are Kenyans called youth. The question is: What is the policy relating to the young people in Kenya?

Mr. Oyondi: Maybe the hon. Member who has asked the supplementary question needs to know that we do not have a policy for the men, women, children and girls. We have policies for the people of Kenya. I have just enumerated a few of the policies which talk about the youth as well.

Mr. Busolo: Why is it that the youth have no representation in key fora such as the District Development Committees (DDC) through which development policies are formulated? It might be true that they are represented in the Sessional Papers, but they are not represented in the DDCs. Could he consider having a special number of youths to represent the youth in the various DDCs, instead of being represented by old men like him?

Mr. Oyondi: That is an opinion expressed by the hon. Member. But I can tell him that among the people who attend the DDCs are councillors who are very young and they can be considered to be youths.

Mr. Farah: As we sit in this House now, we have got in excess of 50 per cent of our bed capacity in our hospitals occupied by juveniles. We have an explosion of AIDS and unemployment. What I am trying to say is that even after contributing hundreds of millions for the youth, without a Session Paper to give a policy framework, we will be doing nothing. Could the Assistant Minister admit that there is no such thing, and the Government is going to formulate a Sessional Paper now that will guide the development of the youth, and the expenditure of the resources which have been collected from the Kenyans now?

Mr. Oyondi: In our economic reforms on the 1996/98 Policy Framework Paper, paragraph 66---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Oyondi, I wonder why you are wasting more time. The question is so simple. You said that you have no specific policy on the youth, and he is asking you whether you are going to formulate one. The answer is either yes or no! We have already wasted ten minutes on one Question!

Mr. Oyondi: The Kenya Government has policies which talk about the youth. But there is no specific policy for the youth because they are included in all the other policies.

Mr. Farah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Assistant Minister did not answer the latter part of my question. Given that millions of Kenya Shillings have been collected for the purpose of youth development without a policy framework for the development of the youth, how are they going to spend that money? Without a policy framework for the development of the youth like a sessional paper so that we know the areas of emphasis, how are you going to determine the giving out of that money? Why do you not admit that you do not have and say you will make one now?

Mr. Oyondi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a youth development paper which was given out from the Office of the President which should be followed to the letter. In any case, the hon. Member never contributed to the National Youth Development Programme.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Next Question, Mr. Leshore!

Question No.471

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Imana, on behalf of **Mr. Leshore**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) in view of the recent distribution of National Youth Development Fund, whether he could state how much has been allocated to Samburu District; and,

(b) what criteria and standards were used to equitably distribute the same countrywide.

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

(a) Samburu District was allocated Kshs4,983,997.40 from the National Youth Development Fund.

(b) The distribution of the National Youth Development Fund countrywide was based on the district population vis-a-vis the national population. In addition, each district received back the equivalent of their Harambee contribution.

Mr. Imana: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question was based mainly on the Kshs200 million from the Exchequer. What I saw was that, Samburu District was given less than Kshs4 million which includes the District's contribution to the Fund and yet, some areas were given Kshs15 million. Is there a Government policy specifying that certain areas deserve more money than others?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me repeat. The money was distributed according to the district population vis-a-vis the national population. Secondly, it was also based on what a particular district raised. If a district raised, for example, Kshs10,000, it was given back to them. So, they could not get an equal share.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me read the formula again. It goes like this:-

$$\frac{\text{District Population} \times \text{Government Contribution}}{\text{National Population}}$$

Then, there was:-

$$\frac{\text{President's Harambee} \times \text{District Population} \times \text{Its Contribution}}{\text{National Population}}$$

Lastly there was also the interest which was earned. Which was calculated this way:-

$$\frac{\text{Total Interest earned} \times \text{District Share}}{\text{Total Amount Distributed}}$$

That is how it was calculated.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think there would be as many questions over this issue as there are Members in this House. In many districts this money has not come. In fact, the hon. Assistant Minister who is answering this Question knows that in our Friday meeting last week, the hon. Nyachae stated that the money had not come.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, would it not be fair that the Assistant Minister goes back and gives us a comprehensive list of the amounts given to each district and whether the money has been received or not, so that we do not take a lot of time on questions? We are thinking of coming up with questions.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Anyona, be fair to the Assistant Minister. Why do you not ask a question like that?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have to go back. I have a list here of all the districts and how much each got. I would like to say that, as I speak now, every District Commissioner has the money. So, maybe it is the distribution process that has been maybe delayed.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Could you Table the list?

(Mr. Manga laid the list on the Table)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Next Question, Mr. Nthenge!

Question No.355

PROVISION OF RELIEF FOOD IN NAIROBI

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

(a) if he is aware that unemployed people in the City of Nairobi face acute food shortage; and,

(b) if he could consider Nairobi as an area deserving relief food and provide the same to all

deserving cases in the City.

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

(a) I am not aware that the unemployed people in Nairobi face acute food shortage.

(b) Nairobi cannot, therefore, be considered as an area deserving relief food.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, does the Assistant Minister realize that lack of rain in the rural areas causes hunger and that lack of jobs here in Nairobi also causes hunger? In other words, people who live in Nairobi and do not have shambas depend on employment, and if they are unemployed, they have nothing to eat except to beg.

Mr. Manga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I quite realise that.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I clarify that question? There are people in Nairobi who were born in Nairobi and are even as old as myself. They know nowhere else. Others are 50 to 60 years. For example, all my children were born here and they are 50 years of age. I am not talking of my own children, I am talking about the people I represent, like in Majengo and Shauri Moyo, who do not have any other home.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Nthenge, can you ask a question?

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for those people who do not have an alternative home, what other alternative does the Government have of feeding them when they cannot get employment, for example, this time when there is shortage of employment?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those who are here and cannot get jobs [**Mr. Manga**] should go back to their land and cultivate.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Assistant Minister aware that people who live in Nairobi are entitled to live in Nairobi and do not have to be sent out of Nairobi to get their food? If they are hungry, they should be fed here by the Government.

Mr. Manga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that it is not Government policy to feed every hungry person. The Government is helping to feed those people who have been affected by drought and their daily supply in terms of food has been affected. That is the policy on this matter. But it is not to feed the unemployed or anybody who does not want to work.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Next Question, Mr. Nyagah!

Question No.215

DEATH OF MR. BOSCO

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

(a) if he could explain the mysterious disappearance and subsequent death of Mr. John Bosco of Buluk Police Post, who was an administration police officer, in 1995; and,

(b) if he could explain the findings of the post mortem report of the late officer.

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

(a) Administration policeman, John Bosco Loru, disappeared from Buluk Administration Post on 3rd January, 1995. His remains were later found on 14th January, at Bororo area approximately 100 kilometres from Buluk Administration Police Post.

(b) It was not possible to ascertain the cause of death from the remains of the deceased.

Mr. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, two years ago, the bereaved family requested me to ask this Question on their behalf. They have been subjected to a lot of torture; six times they have had to travel to Marsabit in search of details to ascertain what killed their brother. So far there is only a bone that is available. The parents are at a great loss and they specifically requested me to ask you this Question. They would like to rest their mind a bit by being let to have this bone, the fibia, to bury it at their home. Could you as a Government allow this chin to be given to the family for burial.

Mr. Awori: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government would be happy to do so. On the other hand the Government is still investigating to find out the cause of death. But if the family feels very strongly about this, I have no reason to believe that the Government will refuse giving them this chin so that they can bury it and have his spirit rest in peace.

Question No.264

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Mr. R.K. Mungai asked the Minister for Education what he is doing in preparation to take over the School Feeding Programme in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions when the World Food Programme winds up in four (4) years time.

An hon. Member: Why?

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mr. Komora): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply. To prepare for the sustainability of the School Feeding Programme in arid and semi-arid---

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): It has hardly been answered hon. Ndicho!

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know whether you heard what I heard. When the hon. R.K. Mungai said that he is asking Question No.264, the hon. Oyondi asked "why". Is he in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): That is very frivolous!

Mr. Ndicho: He is asking why we ask Questions here. Is that frivolous?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Ndicho, if you have nothing to say, say it out there!

Hon. Members: That is what he said!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Mr. Komora): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

To prepare for the sustainability of the School Feeding Programme in arid and semi-arid districts, and pockets of poverty when the World Bank Food Programme winds up in the year 2001, my Ministry has launched sensitization workshops with a view to creating awareness among communities in these regions on the necessity to incorporate community participation geared towards communities gradually taking over the School Feeding Programme with the support of the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to demonstrate our support for this programme, the Government has already contributed 31.6 per cent towards the cost of the current third phase of the project. In addition, my Ministry is closely following the food provision initiatives of some non-governmental organisations operating in ASAL districts with a view to forming a Government and inter-agency co-ordinating approach under the recommendations contained in the Social Dimensions of Development Programme in Kenya which the Government is in the process of adopting.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, the Assistant Minister has a problem. There is no such thing as the World Bank Food Programme in Kenya. He is talking about World Food Programme which has nothing to do with the World Bank. Secondly, if you look at the development allocation to the School Feeding Programme, the contribution of the Kenya Government is K£500,000 and WFP's contribution is K£13 million. Could he tell us why he chooses to project figures in the Recurrent Estimates which have to do with the maintaining of officers involved and leaves out the miniature contribution by the Government in the Development Estimates?

Mr. Komora: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got the laid out budget forecast for the Ministry's contribution to the year 2001 and my answer is in relation to the Question which covers the period between this year and the year 2001.

Mr. R.K. Mungai: Arising from that answer by the hon. Assistant Minister, could he tell us here, how much is the 31.6 per cent in terms of money? Could he also tell us the target date when this Social Dimensions of Development Programmes is likely to be implemented?

Mr. Komora: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got the table here and I am prepared to lay it on the Table of the House for the hon. Member to see it, and the Social Dimension of Development in Kenya, as a policy paper, is already being implemented by the Government.

Question No.473

IMPOSITION OF AN ILLEGAL COMMISSION BY BANKS

Mr. Maore asked the Minister for Finance:-

(a) whether he is aware that several commercial banks including Standard Chartered Bank and the Kenya Commercial Bank are charging an illegal commission of Kshs200 on every cash cheque drawn by third party contrary to the provisions of Section 2(i) (b) of the cheque Act Cap.35 of the Laws of Kenya;

(b) what legal or other action he has taken against the Standard Chartered Bank, Yaya Centre Branch for illegally deducting Kshs200 from a cash cheque presented by Mr. Kenneth B. Gatobu vide his letter of 15th, November, 1996, which was addressed to the Attorney-General; and,

(c) whether he could institute criminal proceedings to require the banks to forfeit these illegal collections.

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

(a) I am aware that several commercial banks, including the Standard Chartered and Kenya Commercial Bank, are charging a commission of Kshs300 on every cash cheque drawn by third party. But I am not aware that this charge is illegal and that it is contrary to the provisions of Section 2(1)(b) of the Cheques Act Cap.35 of the Laws of Kenya.

(b) The charge complained of, not being against any Law, does not give the Minister for Finance a cause to take any legal action against Standard Chartered Bank, Yaya Centre Branch, or indeed any other bank as Mr. Kenneth B. Gatobu paid for the services of encashment rendered by the bank and endorsed a voucher dated 15th, November, 1996, for such payment.

(c) In view of the above, I cannot, therefore, institute criminal proceedings to require banks to forfeit the proceeds from the commissions because they are not obtained in an illegal manner.

Thank you.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an unfortunate answer, given that the Assistant Minister is aware of the law that requires a person to issue a cheque.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Section 2(1)(b) says that:-

"A document issued by a customer of a banker, which is not a Bill of Exchange but is intended to enable a person to obtain payment from the banker of the sum of money specified in the document---" If the Assistant Minister wants to amend the law, let him do it. But as of now, the amount specified in the document to any of the banks he has mentioned is usually issued when it is Kshs300 less. Could he explain under what circumstances he is amending the law without coming to this Parliament?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I categorically deny having amended any law and the law, as it stands, has not been amended, it is as it was and the application of charging commissions by the banks for the service rendered is a normal banking procedure and in this particular case, it is so maintained. The reason why these banks are charging that commission is to try and discourage the frauds that are pertinent these days in respect of encashing cheques by third parties in a bank. The banks are indeed, through the Central Bank as well, encouraging that transactions should be through bank accounts rather than encashing cheques over the counter by third parties.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Maore has read the relevant Section of the Act. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he understands by that Section? It says clearly that no bank can charge that kind of commission on cash cheques. In fact, this is even worse on tea payments, where farmers only earn between Kshs75 and Kshs100 and yet those banks are charging between Kshs150 and Kshs200, which is rendering their payments useless.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my understanding of Section 2(1) of the Cheques Act, which I have read is clear; that the application of the commissions by the banks is not illegal. However, if any hon. Member wishes to contend this, I am sure he is aware that the courts are available for that purpose.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this has become a very serious problem in the rural areas, where farmers have been forced to go to banks to get their payments for their crops. When they go there, they are charged this amount of money. So, in the first place, it amounts to exploitation and also it is discouraging to small scale farmers from using bank services. Could the Assistant Minister now explain how many types of commissions there are? The Act clearly states that the payee and the endorsee are not the same. Once you are given a cheque, you endorse it to get the money that is stated on the cheque. I believe from the Act that the commission is paid by the payee, who is different from the endorsee. Could he explain why these banks are doing that kind of day-light robbery?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sympathetic on the issue of a person being given his tea cheque of Kshs75 which he wishes to draw in cash. Maybe, the way out of that is for the tea company to draw the cash and pay the tea farmers the cash. To me, that is the simplest way. But in respect of the charges, as I have said, there are two reasons why in fact, the banks are discouraging third party encashment of cheques through the counter. The first reason is that they want to discourage the many frauds that are today prevalent in the encashment of cheques. Secondly, it is safer for the customers of the bank to use their bank account for purposes of clearing these cheques.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I still think we are at a loss. The Government's explanation is just a flawed excuse. This is just pure fraud by the banks and there is no limit to it. By the time I was

filing the Question, the commission was Kshs200, and two weeks ago, they increased it to Kshs300. I am sure that in two month's time, now that they can get away with it, they are going to make it Kshs500 or Kshs1,000. Is it some gangsters who are running the Government or the Minister? We cannot have the banks making their own laws and enforcing them. What are the banks using these commissions for? For example, if you go to some banks like the Old Mutual branch of the Standard Bank, you can actually get robbed of your money inside there before you are through with the writings you are doing, by thieves. We expect the banks to be more efficient and ensure that their customers do not get robbed. There is a difference between when you are in a bank and when you are in the streets; like near the Machakos Country Bus. There should be a difference between the two.

Mr. Keah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have liberalised this economy and we have liberalised the banks. Liberalisation means that these commercial institutions set up their own charges for the services that they give. We as a Government cannot now go and tell the banks to charge Kshs50 or Kshs30. That would be like fixing prices which is the old regime of economic management. We cannot have that any more.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister not misleading this House by trying to explain a behaviour out there that is, in fact, being discouraged by law instead of saying he is going to amend the law?

Mr. Keah: No, Sir.

Question No. 039

INSTALLATION OF STD FACILITY AT KAGWE

Mr. Gitonga asked the Minister for Transport and Communications:-

(a) whether he is aware that Kagwe in Lari Constituency has no Subscribers Trunk Dialling telephone services; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what immediate plans he has to install this facility for ease of communications.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unfortunately I have to beg the indulgence of the House that this Question be put on the Order Paper for tomorrow. It is a very regrettable thing. We have a problem in the Ministry, which I must say we have to sort out before we can answer this Question.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Gitonga, I understand the answer is not here.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have the answer here. The problem is that this is the fifth time that the Ministry has asked that this Question should be deferred. I believe it is because--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): You have a written answer?

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a written answer here with me.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Morogo, are you dissatisfied with the contents of the written answer?

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not seen the answer. That is why I am saying we have to sort out one or two things in the Ministry.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): This is a very unusual case. The Questioner has a written answer while the Assistant Minister who is supposed to answer it does not have it.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last week the Question was deferred twice and I had the same answer last week. The Assistant Minister told me that he was not satisfied with the answer. What does he have to say now? I can give it him to read.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Gitonga, can we indulge him to Tuesday? You want an adequate answer? Do you not?

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want an adequate answer, but I know the reasons why, perhaps, they are refusing to answer.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): I will order him to answer your Question on Tuesday afternoon without fail.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): On the same issue?

Mr. Farah: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. But they have been ordered many times before. This is the fifth time you are ordering. So, how, binding will your order be?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Farah! Mr. Morogo, can you ensure you have an answer on Tuesday afternoon?

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as much as I would like to undertake to do so, I have been embarrassed because I was supposed to answer this Question on Tuesday as I had promised earlier. However, I failed to do so because we have some officers in my Ministry who want to frustrate this Ministry and to belittle this Parliament. I will first want to take very serious action on this before I can undertake to answer. But to the hon. Gitonga, I can say I could even answer it tomorrow.

(Applause)

Question No.401

RECONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY TO ESTATES

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) why the Municipal Council of Thika has refused to have electricity re-connected to Starehe, Ofafa and TUD estates in Thika Town; and,
- (b) whether he could order the council to re-connect electricity in these estates since residents have had no electricity for the last six months.

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) (i) The Municipal Council of Thika has not refused to have electricity re-connected to Starehe and Ofafa Estates in Thika Town. The electricity was reconnected immediately it had been disconnected due to financial constraints.

(ii) Electricity in the T.U.D.C. Estate in Thika Municipality had not been disconnected.

(b) I have ordered the Thika Municipal Council to take action.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question has been "answered" or provided by the Town Clerk of Thika Municipal Council and his councillors who have an interest in these three estates of Starehe, Ofafa and TUDC where they want to frustrate the tenants by refusing to connect electricity. Right now, the sewerage system has broken down and the whole area is flooded and the houses have never been repaired for many years. The purpose of them doing so is because they want to frustrate these tenants, and then write a recommendation to the Minister that it is uneconomical to manage these estates since the councillors want to buy those houses. Having furnished the Minister with that information, could he ensure that this electricity supply is not only re-connected, but also that the street lights, sewerage system, and the houses are repaired? The Minister should further ensure that these houses are not sold as the councillors and the Town Clerk are intending to do.

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, no council houses will be sold anywhere be it in Kisumu, Eldoret, Mombasa or Nairobi. They will not be sold.

Two, I have just given an answer that I have even ordered Thika Municipality to re-connect electricity to the area.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister has just stated here that no council houses will be sold in Kenya and yet, we passed a Motion here instructing municipal councils to sell some of their houses to those tenants who have been living in them. Is he in order to contradict the Motion that we passed here?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not remember what Motion he is talking about. I am the one to give orders and not Dr. Lwali-Oyondi!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Next Question!

Mr. Ndicho: But he has not answered my question!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): He has adequately answered your question.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have another question for him.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Ndicho!

Question No.448

COLLECTION OF REVENUE FROM MARKETS

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Kamuiru Gitau is not here? Question dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why do you think I am here?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Ndicho! You have asked your Question and it has been answered.

Mr. Ndicho: But I know what you are after, and you are not going to get it.

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN BUNGOMA PRISON

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that 22 inmates have died in Bungoma Prison since January, 1997?

(b) what have been the prevalent causes of these deaths?

(c) what urgent steps is the Minister taking to avert this problem?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Is there anybody from the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage? Mr. Munyasia, there seems to be no Minister ready to answer your Question.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a curious thing. This Question appeared yesterday on the Order Paper and immediately after Question Time, hon. ole Ntimama appeared. This Question is based on an emergency in Bungoma Prison. The number of deaths that have occurred in that prison have risen to 37 cases from the 22 cases that appears in the Question. Could you---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Munyasia, the only thing I can do to help you is to direct the Clerk's office to list the Question for you tomorrow, hoping that hon. ole Ntimama or any of his Assistant Ministers will be here.

Mr. Rotino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a Question by Private Notice and the Ministry concerned should have realised that this is a Question by Private Notice. So, the Chair or the Clerk's office should do something very urgent because we cannot leave Questions like that---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Rotino, everybody knows that Questions by Private Notice are very urgent and must be answered within the shortest time possible.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! The Chair can do nothing since the Minister is not here.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for us to move a Vote of no confidence in the Government, knowing that we are now more than them today?

An hon. Member: Move it!

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move a vote of no confidence in the Government.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, sometimes it is good to bring some humour to the House.

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

(Mr. Nyagah stood up)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! I have three--- What is it hon. Nyagah?

Mr. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are being humiliated by the Government. Every single day, we have Ministers not turning up to answer Questions. The Speaker, the other day gave a very, very stern warning to the Government and he said and I quote him:

"That it is the duty of a Minister to first come to Parliament and answer Questions and not go to his office."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point of order lies here. Is there a crisis in this country, since the whole Cabinet is not here to answer Questions and yet, the Chair told us that the first order for them to carry out is to come and answer Questions? We have only one Cabinet Minister here who is hon Kosgey.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): The Chair said and we can reiterate that, the principal duty of every Minister is to this House. We have no capacity to frogmarch any Minister here to answer a question. None whatsoever.

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

POINTS OF ORDER

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! I have three points of order. One is from hon. Anyona. The next one is from hon. Maore, and the third one is from hon. John Sambu. I will allocate two minutes for each point of order and I will start with hon. Anyona.

An Hon. Member: And mine!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): You are not on my list.

LACK OF MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:

MALARIA OUTBREAK

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this morning I did raise a question demanding a Ministerial Statement from the Ministry of Health on account of the serious situation of malaria outbreak, and right now, people are dying across the country like flies and yet this Government has gone on holiday. I do not know what has happened. Now, we were promised that there will be an answer this afternoon. When I look around, I do not see anybody and our people are dying. What are we going to do? I think you were in the Chair when we were promised that there will be a Ministerial Statement this afternoon about the falsehoods that we are told here about malaria and apparently now, there is nobody. Is the Chair going to accept that the Government should treat the Chair and the House in this way? Is that the way that we are going to proceed? What should we do?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Anyona, when a Minister promises a Ministerial Statement at a specific time, the principals of honour and dignity alone demand that he should be here on time to give it. If he is not here, there is nothing that I can do.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT:

BANNING OF MIRAA IN GARISSA

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Office of the President regarding the behaviour of the DDC in Garissa, purporting to explain why the District Security Committee had banned the transportation of *miraa* in and out of Garissa District. Using the Chief's Authority Act, they have already imprisoned one young man who was found transporting the commodity. So, we would like to seek a Ministerial Statement to know whether Garissa is not part of this Republic which is governed by the same laws.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hoped that the hon. Member would declare his interest. I would have wanted someone from Garissa to ask that, but the hon. Member, being a grower of *miraa*, should declare his interest.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do represent the people who grow the commodity, but I have not heard him asking anybody from tea or coffee areas to declare their interest over the crops.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Awori, do you have a statement to make now or we give you time?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no statement to make now.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Can you make it next week on Wednesday?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will make it on Thursday next week.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:

MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE ADMISSION

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order with regard to Question No.543

which was answered by the Assistant Minister for Health, regarding the selection and admission to the Medical Training Colleges.

In reply to my Question, the Assistant Minister said that there was no quota for any district. If there were no quota for any district, could they give a categorical statement on how many young Kenyans were admitted from each district in 1996 and 1997 because in his reply, he said that the pre-selection for this year is almost complete?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister did say that he did not receive any list from the Medical Officer of Health, (MOH), Nandi district. Each year in every district, young Kenyans attend selection interviews at the district level and then their names are forwarded to headquarters for the final selection to be admitted to MTCs. He said that there were no names received from Nandi District.

I want a categorical statement as to whether there is any young Kenyan to be selected and taken to MTC this year because I have enquired from the authorities in Kapsabet which is the Nandi district headquarters, but they told me that they sent over 200 applicants of young Kenyans seeking admission for certificate courses and over 150 applicants seeking admission for diploma courses. We want a categorical statement regarding the overall selection of young Kenyans into MTCs. We wish also to know who does the selection because it seems to be a closed process where a few individuals or one individual is involved. I demand a Ministerial Statement on this matter.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Is there anyone from the Ministry of Health? None.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Obwocha! You saw me and said that you wanted to rise on a point of order. I advised you very clearly that the issue of hooligans at Parliament and at the Gates of Parliament was conclusively ruled out by the Speaker. We do not want to open any debate on that any more.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Obwocha! I have always held you in very high regard. You saw me and I advised you that I was not going to give you an opportunity to pursue the issue of hooligans at the Gate. You did understand what I told you and you said that you were satisfied.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! You are out of order by rising on your feet when I am on my feet! You have no opportunity hon. Obwocha. The issue of hooligans was closed. We are not going to open the debate, unless there are new hooligans at the Gates and then, we shall deal with them.

Next Order!

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Hon. Members, you do know, as a matter of courtesy, those of you who have points of order to raise after the Question Time, the normal procedure is that you alert the Chair so that he can allocate you time and an opportunity to do so; just like your colleagues hon. Maore, hon. Anyona and hon. Sambu did. You do not simply shoot up and remain permanently on your feet, even when the Speaker is on his feet. That is improper conduct.

Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment
and Natural Resources

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is composed of three main departments: Forest, mining and natural environment. I am asking this hon. House to approve a sum of K£41,134,437 under the Recurrent Vote and a further sum of K£39,615,377 under Development Vote in order to meet both Recurrent and Development Votes in respect of the general administration of planning, management of forest

plantations, conservation of indigenous forests, mural survey and development and enhancement and protection of environment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, there are three departments and four main Sub-Votes in the Ministry.

Prof. Ouma: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are straining to hear what the Minister is saying because the consultations on the Government side are very loud.

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the hon. Member. I would like to be heard.

There are three main sub-votes: Sub-Vote 211, 212 and 215. I will touch on each Sub-Vote briefly to give their details.

Sub-Vote 211 - General Administration and Planning. The overall administrative services which form the backbone of the Ministry's operations are provided under this Sub-Vote. The Ministry headquarters co-ordinates administrative services, finance, planning, supply, accounts, personnel and the functions of the three departments mentioned above.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been paying very high rents amounting to Kshs53,389 per month for the Ministry Headquarters at KENCOM House over a number of years, with a figure of K£125,000 being service charge. It has been felt that the Ministry should have its headquarters in a building of its own. Six years ago, this House did approve some money for the building of Mazingira House at Karura and six years later after the start, the project stalled due to lack of funds. However, this year, we are requesting the House for a budgeted provision of K£3,750,000 reflected in the Printed Estimates to assist in reviving this project and building the Mazingira House. The foundation of the Mazingira House has been laid, basement floors have been built and I am sure this amount, although not adequate, will see at least a few floors off the ground. Possibly next year, this House will be generous enough to give me some more money to complete the building. Therefore, I am asking the House for a sum of K£3,750,000 for development and building of Mazingira House. A further sum of K£4,831,261 for the Recurrent Vote in order to meet salaries and personal emoluments, telephones and so forth in the service of the Ministry headquarters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Forest Department which is the main department in the Ministry requires K£41 million. This department is charged with the protection of the forest resources against destruction by man, fire and diseases. We did experience this year during the drought season, very serious fires all over the country, starting from the coast, all the way to Mount Elgon and we lost quite a lot of our vegetation. We are now trying to re-plant but we have not been able to catch up with the tree planting programme. We do hope that with the amount of seedlings that we have raised this year, we will be able to bridge the gap in 1998. The department is also charged with the conservation and management of forests, particularly indigenous forests within important catchment areas like Mount Kenya, the Abardares, Mau Narok, Cherang'any Hills and so forth. These are natural habitats with abundant wildlife and bio-diversity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a presidential ban on the cutting of indigenous trees. We still have many Kenyans stealing and cutting or conniving to steal indigenous trees, particularly camphor trees in Mount Kenya area. I would appeal to hon. Members to help in educating and protecting our indigenous trees.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not need any information because I am moving a Vote!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Were you giving him information? You do not have to move to the Dispatch Box just like that. That amounts to intimidating the Minister. You should simply stand up and say, "On a point of information!"

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to emphasize this point on indigenous trees. They are supposed to be protected and there should be no cutting. Anybody found cutting indigenous trees is contravening the law.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Forest Department is also charged with development and promotion of farms-forestry. Trees can earn money just like Maize, wheat or cheese. One can earn money by growing trees. Farms-forestry is a thing of the future. Through sustained public education, we are trying to encourage Kenyan rural farmers to grow trees for domestic use, for fuel wood and local timber which can be sawed using little power saws or manual saws to produce timber which can be used for domestic use.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is also charged with the agro-forestry in ASAL areas. As it is known, three quarters of our country is semi-arid and trees can be grown in those areas. They can be grown in those areas because those areas require fuel wood. Unless we can raise fuel wood in these areas, they will gradually become deserts. So, we have a programme called agro-forestry programme to grow trees which are suitable in certain

particular areas, so that they can be used for domestic use and also timber. While addressing these issues, we will take into consideration our past problems in forest management. The ever increasing human population in Kenya is placing great pressures on forest areas. It will require a concerted effort of all of us to protect our forests. There is a notion in Kenya that land is an unlimited resource. We do not have enough land. Those of us who studied geography and chemistry know that the area of this country is 225,000 Sq. miles. Therefore, the land available for human settlement is limited. Our population is rising. At Independence we were just 9 million but now, we are almost 30 million. People should stop thinking of land. We should get away from this land mentality and thinking that forest land is available for settlement. We get a lot of pressure and this must stop and it is upto each and every Kenyan to work together with us to educate wananchi to know that forest land is not available for settlement. On very many occasions, hon. Members have requested the Government to alienate certain sections of the forest for settlement.

This is not good. We do not have a lot of forest land, to alienate part of it. We have only 3.4 per cent of our land-mass covered by forest. This is a very tiny proportion indeed. Other countries boast of 50 per cent of their land mass being covered by forest. So, it is upon each one of us to protect these forests.

To this end, all the existing laws governing the protection of water catchment areas and soil conservation will be even more stringently enforced, so as to make them more effective. To achieve this, we will liaise with all the relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development, Ministry of Energy as well as statutory bodies such as the Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation, the various NGOs that are dealing with agro-forestry and other Government Ministries, so that we can have management by participation. By so doing, we shall all contribute to make sure that our forests are well protected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a forest master plan. This master plan is a sort of a blue print to show how we intend to protect our forests and maintain them for sustainable development now and in the future. Arising from this plan, numerous development programmes requiring substantial funding from Government and donor agencies are outlined in this plan. In this connection a sum of K£32,734,175 under Recurrent Expenditure, and a sum of K£29,330,282 under Development Expenditure have been provided. I am requesting the House to approve these sums.

I will highlight in brief what that money for the Forest Department is being requested for. We have assistance to forestry activities through the World Food Programme for which a sum of K£1,920,000 will be required. Two, in the afforestation of Lake Victoria catchment area a sum of K£5,335 will be required to protect the slopes surrounding the Lake. A lot of soil is being washed into the Lake by rivers from Nandi, Kakamega, Kericho and Kisii areas. We want to afforest these slopes and conserve the soil, so that the Lake does not continue receiving this soil which at the moment is being swept into it.

The Forest Sector Support Programme involves Forest Department institutional support. There is a farm forestry activity and indigenous forest conservation pilot programmes in both Nandi and Kakamega forests. Kakamega Forest is a unique one, and has a lot of bio-diversity, which we want to conserve. Although we have a lot of encroachment in that forest we want to make sure that we can preserve it for posterity. A sum of K£6,841,949 will be required in this connection.

We also have factory-based resource planning and management in the three semi-arid districts of Kitui, Mwingi and Kajiado. A sum of K£610,000 will be required for this. We also have Arid and Semi-arid Lands Environmental Project, involving environmental conservation and agro-forestry programmes, where a sum of K£73,050 will be spent.

The Kenya Forest Development Programme (KFDP) is meant to deal with industrial forest plantations, mainly in the Rift Valley Province and the eastern slopes of the Aberdares area. This programme is meant to service saw millers' factories and so on. A sum of K£12,287,811 will be required under this programme. This is a very important element of our development. We believe in sustainable development. The millers who will cut down trees will replant them. At the moment, we are emphasising that for every hectare of trees cut down by the millers we should be able to plant two hectares with trees. Cypress and pine trees, which at the moment we harvest for saw milling and also pulp wood manufacture require a minimum of 20 years before they are harvested for such purposes.

The Social Dimensions of Development Programme under the agro-forestry activities will require a sum of K£720,489. The Aberdares Natural Resource Development Project will require a sum of K£950,000. The Aberdares Forest was dealt a heavy blow by fire this year and we hope to replant some of the trees which we lost, including the bamboo trees. Arid and Semi-arid Lands Forestry Development Programme will require a sum of K£71,700. During the last financial year, we did earn through royalties a sum of K£9 million. We do hope to have a better revenue collection this year from the sale of trees to millers and pulp wood. Ni bora tuongeze sehemu za misitu nchini ili tuwe na hali ya anga nzuri itakayotuwezesha kuendeleza uchumi wetu unaotokana na kilimo. To rehabilitate Madini House, a sum of K£197,791 will be required. To rehabilitate misused mines and quarries, a sum of K£90,000 will be

required. To carry out geological survey, a sum of K£70,000 will be required. To continue the formulation of the minerals and mines laws - we are revising the Mining Act and soon, we will be bringing it to this House for amendments - a sum of K£50,000 will be required. To purchase plant and equipment for drilling - we need a small drilling unit, so that we can do geological survey - a sum of K£70,000 will be required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, geophysical investigations relating to mineral exploration, geological mapping and engineering will continue as well as investigations relating to environmental hazards such as landslides. The Department will continue to carry out the assessment of mineral deposits in order to generate and disseminate reliable technical data for future and to stimulate the interest of the private sector. Priority will be given to disseminating information on particular industrial minerals assessed and creating awareness to the importance of such minerals in the development of the country. Investigations will continue to include assessment of deposits of gypsum, clays, and iron-ores for use in the manufacture of cement. Mineral exploration programmes need plants and equipment for drilling. The department will, therefore, purchase drilling units which I mentioned. Laboratory processing and analysis is the centre of all Mineral Exploration Programme. Most of the equipment is in dire need of repair and, therefore, rehabilitation of this equipment will be required.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) left the Chair]*

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

We also provide technical expertise with respect to the Law of the Sea whose responsibility is to examine applications of pioneer investors for exploration of mineral resources on the sea bed whether in the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone or in the international area.

The last department in my Ministry is that of the National Environmental Secretariat which was formed in 1974, to specifically respond to a number of challenges in the field of environment. The main mandate of the department has been to coordinate all matters that pertain to the environment within the Government, Non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector. Special focus is integration of environmental policies, plans, programmes, projects and activities. In order to accomplish these broad objectives, the National Environment Secretariat, will require for the Recurrent Expenditure, a sum of £1,792,885 and for Development Expenditure K£5,712,304. Admittedly, the amount requested under the Recurrent and Development Votes are far below the requirements of functions of the Secretariat. As you are aware, environmental issues are far reaching. They do not just affect my Ministry, but every sector of our lives. I would like to mention various programmes under my Ministry which we are going to pay attention to. One, is Lake Victoria Environment Management Programme which will require a sum of K£1,248,225. The Lake Victoria Project is a five year regional programme involving the three East African states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Its primary aim is to strengthen regional co-operation and coordination in the management and rehabilitation of the lake's eco-system and resources for the benefit of the catchment area population and, indeed, the three countries as a whole. The main objective is to maximize a sustainable benefit within the Lake Basin with a view to generating food, employment, income and safe waters; to conserve biodiversity and genetic resources for the benefit of the global environment and to harmonise the national management programmes in the area towards reversal of the environmental degradation. With that, global environmental facility is providing grant money to the three countries for protection of the lake area. A sum of K£871,800 will be required for the National Environment Action Plan.

Institutional strengthening projects for the phase out of the ozone depleting substances will require a sum of K£123,304. Follow up and coordination of convention on environment will require a sum of K£7,000. Reduction on loss of biodiversity will require a sum of K£2,000,000.

I will go back to the question of Lake Victoria. We hope that further action will be taken on the water hyacinth. We hope that the beetles which have been introduced in various places will do something.

An hon. Member: They have been eaten up!

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kosgey): The hon. Member says that they have been eaten up. They have not been eaten up. They are alive and active and soon, you will see the effect of the beetles. I just wanted to mention that, we will introduce a mechanical harvester during this financial year to try and open up the fishing points so that fishermen can resume their economic activity in the lake. The fifth project is that of reduction of biodiversity and reduction of ozone depleting substances. We notice that we had a very serious drought this year as a result of what the scientists call climate change. It has been brought about by various factors, one of them being the gases in the atmosphere which deplete the ozone layer. We are a signatory to the various conventions on

climate change and also on the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer.

In summary, to carry out the various functions which I have mentioned in detail, a sum of K£41,134,437 under Recurrent Vote and a further sum of K£39,615,337 under Development Expenditure, making a grand total of K£80,749,815 for the Ministry, will be required for the whole year.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I rise to second this Motion that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment be granted the sums they are seeking; Recurrent Expenditure - K£41.1 million and Development Expenditure - K£39.6 million.

In supporting that this House approves these sums, I would like to observe that this Ministry has a very great responsibility in ensuring that the Kenya environment is well protected and, indeed, conserved for the future generations. I would also like to note with concern the depletion of certain species of trees or forests, encroachment into the forests, the encroachment of the desert and many other undesirable aspects that are befalling our environment. It is this Ministry which is charged with the responsibility of making sure that our God-given natural resources and environment are preserved for our children and posterity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has three major departments for which the Minister has so ably articulated the sums he is seeking in each of the departments, as, indeed, in each of the sections. I have no particular qualms on the decision of the amounts to the various categories of expenses, but suffices it for me to say that there are obviously financial constraints. As he has said, he would have liked more money to be allocated to this Vote, but he knows very well that the Government must operate within the financial ceilings that we have.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to concentrate the rest of my contribution on three or four major points. One is the Forest Department. Here we have the issue of conservation. We are very much concerned that our forests are being depleted with all the rich and unparallel biodiversity being destroyed not only by fire, but also sometimes carelessness in the utilisation of these forests. For example, the felling of trees for charcoal which is a necessary activity in order to sustain life has got its adverse environmental effect. If we want to stop the local people from felling trees for charcoal, we ought to provide them with alternative sources of fuel. The provision of this alternative is really the responsibility of this Ministry. So, I would like to challenge the Ministry to come up with alternative sources of fuel. It is not correct for the Ministry to ban charcoal burning without giving these people an alternative. They need to survive. How else do they survive?

So, please, think of ways and means of making sure that those kaya and mangroves forests are conserved and protected, but alternative means of survival must be provided. Some of the areas have nothing to turn to, but to those forests and they have survived on them for a long time. I am talking for the silent majority who depend on charcoal burning.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the mineral issue, I want to make this observation, that this country, particularly the Coast, has abundant minerals. But we have been experiencing a lot of bias on who should be issued with prospecting licenses to exploit these minerals. I am concerned that this bias has led to licenses being given to people other than the local indigenous people. This is unfair. Let us all share in the exploitation of these minerals, but the locals should be given a fair deal when it comes to licensing.

I would like to urge the Minister and, indeed, the Ministry to ensure that there is a policy which ensures that the locals have a share in the minerals we have at the Coast, particularly in Kwale and Kilifi, and in other places. Indeed, recently, we heard of vast quantities of titanium at the Coast. I am looking forward for a share in this wealth. I want to ask the Minister, together with the Commissioner, to deliberately go out of their way, I trust that the new Commissioner will be fairer than other Commissioners have been in the distribution of these licenses, to ensure that the indigenous people also have a share in that titanium. I know the Canadians have prospected and they would have a lion share, but certainly the Giriama and Mijikenda must also benefit from this wealth. I am not saying it because it is an election year, but that is the truth. We must share these local resources with the locals. I hope the Minister, the Commissioners and officials from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) have heard that message. Let me move on to the environmental protection. I am glad to note that we have, indeed, signed all those necessary conventions, including the climate change conventions, the biological diversity and desertification, Montreal Protocol as well as the global environment facility. I happen to be a member of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, and in this regard, I want to thank them for making a provision of \$US35 million to the three East African countries surrounding the Lake Victoria region. The \$US35 million will, in fact, go for that period for the three countries over a period of time. I know the funds are not sufficient, but as long as I am a member of the Council, we can always ask for more.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the National Environmental Secretariat and the National Environment Action Plan to prepare qualified and bankable projects which should be available for forwarding to the Global Environment Facility for financing. A lot of the time, we seem to lack the capacity to prepare projects

and, perhaps, the Minister ought to ask for more money within this budget, if possible, to have a team which specialises on writing proposals that are bankable and within the requirements of the various funding agencies. This is where other countries have had an advantage over us, particularly when we have grant money, like the Global Environment Facility. I would like to add here that the water hyacinth has been a real concern for all of us, but it is a world problem. Maybe ways and means should be found in that "mechanical harvesting" that the Minister has advocated and which I support. Perhaps, we should seek ways of getting those mechanical equipment free of duty because that is the only way we can accelerate the process. If that means declaring that aspect a national disaster, it is upon the Minister to effect the necessary action. Finally, I would like to urge that these funds provided by Parliament are by no means sufficient to the Ministry. But I would want to urge this Ministry, and, indeed, all other Ministries, to use these funds for the purposes intended for. I am glad the entire Ministry team is here and they should heed these words. We do not funds to be utilised for purposes for which they were not intended.

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

(Question Proposed)

Prof. Ouma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened to the Minister very attentively. May I say that, at least, the Minister has attempted to give us some of the guidelines on the policies he is going to pursue in that Ministry. But in the same vein, he talks very critically of what he is going to do. May I also be allowed to talk critically on what he should do.

Just as we said yesterday when we were speaking about education, our education is suffering from general malnutrition. On a general platform I would say from the onset that this Ministry has some of the best technocrats we have seen. I have got the privilege of seeing the management of environment of very many countries in this continent.

I think we have got the making of a team that can manage the environment of this country very well. But something is wrong. In the past, I think this Ministry has suffered from what I call illiteracy and lethargy. Lethargy in the sense that things which would have been done very early are being thought of now. Illiteracy in the sense that, the environment is everybody's business, just like living is everybody's business. But largely, this Ministry has left the nation illiterate of its environmental responsibilities. We, of all the nations in the world should be the ones to lead at the vanguard of environmental literacy campaign. The Minister has spoken very well. I have spoken to the Minister in private and I know he is well meaning. But we need more than well meaning. We need a galvanised team of workers who will bring the environmental movement in this country to a critical stage of development. We have lost steam as a nation. We are housing a United Nations Agency whose duty is to see that the environment is managed and protected, so that development is sustainable. But we are lethargic. We do not have energy, because we deal with things haphazardly and we do not place them systematically.

I would urge the Minister, if he is going to be differed from the previous Ministers, that the first thing he needs is a comprehensive environmental protection Act. As far as I know, this country does not have a comprehensive environmental protection act. From my counting, there are various bits and pieces that mention the environment in 66 different sections. It needs a computer's head to be able to know which one to refer to, if they are in 66 different sections. The environment is so important to this country. If we are dreaming at all of industrialising, then we must first of all ensure that there is environmental protection and management.

So, those are my preliminary statements, and may I now say the main problems of this country. The biggest problem that this country has is desertification and aridity. It is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, working under the Desertification Convention, which may educate and sensitise this country to be able to work at the right thing so that desertification does not eat us alive. There shall be no sustainable development in this country if desertification is allowed to go on. We have got a wrong Ministry dealing with reclamation. But so far, the reclamation that they have done is very minimal. Desertification is a problem and we are signatories to the Desertification Convention of 1994. I am sure that with the speed and energy that this particular Minister has brought in, we may see new light. But by the way we have been going on, the Ministry charged with reclamation did not do what they ought to do. They did not have that co-action which they should have with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. About 78 per cent of this country is arid or semi-arid, and this will increase. We need a systematic environmental management if we are to stabilise that percentage which is currently at 78 per cent, and to increase the productivity of the remainder.

The next problem is the lakes. All the lakes have a problem and it is not only Lake Victoria. Lake Nakuru has a man made problem. As I was saying to the Minister for Local Government yesterday, we mismanage waste disposal. Lake Nakuru had been polluted with human waste until recently when we had assistance from another country. There is proper management now. But virtually, all the water bodies within this country are receptacles for human waste. I call it human waste because I do not want to call it in worse words. It is this Ministry which can

sensitise the other Ministries, through a system that I am going to suggest here. This will enable proper management of our waste which will ensure that our water bodies do not become septic tanks. The coast line along Mombasa is a septic tank. All you need to do is to go to Kipevu, Kibingo and Tudor creek and see. All the septic tanks are sucked and the sludge from the septic tanks is emptied into the sea in areas like the Tudor creek, Port Reitz and other places. Go just behind Mlango wa Papa in the Old Town and see what is happening with the sewerage. It is this Ministry which can sensitise the other Ministries.

Let me go back to Lake Victoria. It has been used as a septic tank of all the industries in East Africa. I am glad the Minister has stressed that it is the co-operation of the three countries which will help. But the hyacinth is not the only problem. We have got all the other industries around and the municipalities. We have got not only the municipalities and the industries, but also the agricultural system. We have to think afresh on how to use the whole of the Lake Victoria basin to save it. It is not only the water hyacinth. By the way, the water hyacinth is a big problem and that area should be declared a disaster zone.

Hon. Anyona has said many times that malaria is a problem. I challenge the Minister to go and check and confirm that the present wave of malaria is partly caused by the hyacinth. This is because it has added a huge belt of stagnant water in which the mosquitoes breed. When there is a lake breeze or the winds which blow daily, particularly when they blow inland, this brings the mosquitoes inland and thus we have malaria. We will not eradicate malaria from Nyanza, Western Province and parts of Rift Valley until we deal with the water hyacinth.

The time is going very fast, but what I am trying to say is, let us have an environmental protection Act. Secondly, let us have a systematic introduction of environmental education in schools. We have talked to hon. Kamotho many times on this. I hope that hon. Kosgey will try to educate Kenyans on the meaning of environment. So long as we keep turning out school leavers who are environmentally illiterate, we shall not systematically manage this country. We shall not have systematic and sustainable development because the environment will kill us. We hope that the Minister will have a general chat with his colleagues so that we can have environmental education.

I am also trying to suggest to the Minister, that we should follow the way I have seen other countries manage their environment, because the environment is everybody's business. They should have an environmental council on which all the Ministers sit at least once every six months, chaired by the President or the Vice-President. There should be a council in which they do a review of the nation's progress in environmental management and protection. They should have an environmental committee on which the Permanent Secretaries meet once a month. They should have an environmental desk and somebody responsible for the environment in every Ministry. In this way, you have a way in which you can know what is going on in all the other Ministries.

On minerals, we are lethargic. Why should we not do a systematic survey of at least areas which have shown promise like Western Kenya? We have uranium, fields of hematite and magnetite. We have many things here. Why is it not done? Even if the politics is wrong, the minerals are okay in Western Kenya.

Finally, I want to talk about hazard prevention. Why is it that we cannot manage hazards systematically and prevent them? The Geological Department can help us.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Thank you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this important Ministry's Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is, indeed, a very important one. In fact, it touches on all activities in all other Ministries, whereby, the Minister could conveniently and legally intervene and probably make his mark on any Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is a bit unfortunate that the Minister has inherited a Ministry almost without natural or un-natural resources. So, it is for him now to begin rebuilding whatever he finds in a mess.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the colonial days, there was a day in a year which was known as the Abba day. During this day, each child in every school was supposed to plant a tree. We did not have the exotic trees by then. We carried the indigenous tress to plant at school. Each child looked after his or her own tree and saw it growing. If it died, he replaced it. We now have a very well established Ministry with departments. In this respect, I want to first of all talk about the Forestry Department where hardly anybody knows what he is doing apart from occasionally seeing forests being cut down and no replacement being done. On a number of occasions and even recently, His Excellency the President has taken the lead in mobilising wananchi to plant trees. But after those trees have been planted, I do not think any officer in the field has ever bothered to go and find out how those trees or seedlings are fairing on. In most cases, you will find that probably 80 per cent of what was planted has withered, died or been destroyed by animals and nobody has bothered about replacement. I do not know what the field officers in the Department of Forestry are doing, especially in areas like Busia. Even when one wants to plant, to get the seedlings is a problem. As I was looking through the Budget, I noticed there was money being allotted for buying seedlings, for conservation as well as planting those seedlings. I do not know why the Department cannot be able to develop its own

system of getting the seedlings instead of having to buy them. The Ministry should find a way of producing the seedlings of various types of trees, after developing their seeds and also allocating these trees to the areas where they can suitably grow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have quite a number of areas especially in Western Kenya and more so, the western-most part of Kenya where we hardly see any afforestation at all. All the natural forests that existed have been destroyed and not replaced and nobody seems to be caring on how to replace them. We know farmers have destroyed all the trees along rivers where we used to have big trees, forests and so on. While we sometimes think that it is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing that should be responsible for this, I think the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources should intervene, so that we have this curtailed to reduce soil erosion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was happy to hear the Minister talk about special attention being given to Lake Victoria. We definitely have a problem brought about by water hyacinth which is depriving local wananchi of fish along the lake, while we need the fish for food and commercial purposes. We hope the beatles that were released to the lake are doing a job, although I heard some of my colleagues saying that they are being eaten up by birds. I think the Ministry should verify that so that, we do not assume they are there while in reality, they are not.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think Kshs10 million has been provided for the development of the Lake area in general, for the conservation of forests and so on. But, again looking at Lake Victoria, I do not see any forests being conserved along Lake Victoria. I live next to the Lake and as I travel from Majanje which is the nearest port on Uganda side right down to Homa Bay, I do not see any forests along the Lake shores at all. So, I do not know what this money is being used for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not have pollution not only in towns, but also in small markets in the country side. This is as a result of garbage not being collected, allowing pollution of rivers, for example, River Nzoia, River Yala and a few other rivers which are already polluted. These rivers are becoming a health hazard to wananchi who are living next to them. I am sure the Minister has ways and means of exerting his authority by law, to at least keep the country safer for wananchi who are living along those rivers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention something about minerals. As Prof. Muga said, Western Kenya has a lot of minerals and we know this. Our grand-fathers knew this and they used minerals to make their own implements. On Busia Hills we have iron ore and we still have iron mongers getting it through their own crude way. On Amukura Hills we know that there is cement, because next to those hills, we have Tororo Hill which is a continuation of the Amukura Hills on the Uganda side and there is cement being produced there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Kakamega we also have gold. Oil has also been prospected in this country as far back as the time when Dr. Omamo was the Minister for this Ministry. He used to surprise us in the newspapers with big headlines that oil had been found in Kenya. We have waited since that time and we do not know whether it is true that oil was found and somebody is just sitting on it or not.

We have waited since that time and we do not know whether somebody is sitting on it or not. Many of these minerals may not be commercially viable by Western standards. But I am sure that they are very commercially viable by the local standards, even if it means prospecting and getting a half or one kilogram of gold, at least, mwananchi will have made some money and, therefore, it is economically viable for him to earn a living.

If we can get a bit of iron ore from Samia Hills, I am sure wananchi there, will benefit by making spears and so on. If got a bit of gypsum---

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Some people think that the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is a junior Ministry, but it is probably one of the most important Ministries anywhere in the world now because the environment is what sustains us. We are on earth here because the environment is suitable for our living. We cannot live on Mars because the environment is not suitable to live in. We have to look after our environment very, very keenly because the population is now increasing and, therefore, should we play around with it, we can as well face extinction.

There are so many things that one can talk about with regard to this Ministry but because of time, I would quickly just say a word or so on various aspects of this Ministry. I would also like to briefly touch on minerals that are found in this place. Also, I would like to say that, wananchi should be allowed to do prospecting without a licence. When they become established then we can require them to have licences or ask them to pay money for prospecting. That is the only way we can be able to absorb the unemployed people who have qualified from various universities and others who are learned enough to understand what is going on. They should be given a chance so that they can occupy themselves. There are too many people who are unemployed and if somebody went round collecting stones here and there and selling them to whoever is interested in them, I think that is good enough in alleviating the unemployment problem in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I would like to talk a little about pollution of our rivers by industrial waste.

We have talked enough about the Webuye Factory which produces large amount of pollutants in the Western part of Kenya and I think the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources should do something to make sure that the effluence from that particular factory is not directly emptied into the river. There should be some sort of stage-wise filtration of the effluence from Webuye Factory. At the moment, it is being emptied directly into River Nzoia, which of course empties its water into Lake Victoria and soon or later, Lake Victoria is going to be a dead sea.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Ministry to what is happening in Yala Swamp. I have said before that people talk of Yala Swamp as being a place which should be reclaimed so that we can have nice crops growing around the region. The problem is that Yala Swamp was a natural filter to Lake Victoria and that is why Lake Victoria has been having fairly clean water and it has also not been silted. The Yala Swamp has been a sort of a filter. It has been detoxifying whatever had been emptied into the river and therefore, should get rid of the Swamp, we are in danger of, first of all, putting a lot of poison into Lake Victoria. Secondly, we are in danger of silting Lake Victoria by having a lot of soil going through it. Therefore, those who are trying to develop this particular area should be very careful about it and make sure that this Swamp does the work which God made it to do.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to consider, particularly in towns, bringing in petrol that is lead free. Everybody in the world is now going for lead free petrol and we are having a lot of lead around and this is going to affect the health of our people very much. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources should make sure that motor cars that are going to be brought in should be as modern as possible. We should not let this place to be a dumping ground for cars and the type of technology that has been rejected by the industrialised countries. Many of us drive on the road and there is a time that you cannot even overtake certain lorries because of thick smoke that is emitted by lorries that are not well serviced. I think it is the duty of this Ministry to make sure that the police are educated enough to stop such lorries that are emitting a lot of thick smoke because of inadequate service.

We should also consider the usage of gas. At the moment, there are efforts to develop cars that will use gas instead of the normal petrol. They are now being fitted up in Egypt and so on. The Ministry should sit down and consider making use of such cars, leave alone the introduction of gas in use as fuel.

Also the Ministry should consider more usage of alcohol. When alcohol burns, the by-product is only carbon dioxide and water. That is bit more environment friendly than the normal petrol.

As regards the refrigeration gases, advanced countries are now getting rid of refrigerators which use gases that are ozone depleting. It is possible that people are going to dump the machinery and various equipments and even these gases whose use has been rejected in certain countries and we may not able to sell things like refrigerators which are now being made in Nakuru Town, my constituency. We may not be able to export them anywhere and, therefore, it is the duty of this Ministry to alert the various manufacturers that they have to use modern gases which are not going to deplete the ozone layer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this also applies to aerosols like, doom, Jonson IT and so on. Some of them use gases that are ozone depleting. Therefore, they may not be allowed to be exported anywhere. Therefore, I think it is the duty of this Ministry to alert the manufactures that they have to make use of the gases that will not deplete the ozone layer.

The enemy of the forest is actually the foresters because many of the foresters have become sellers of wood. They sell wood, and they are busy depleting the forests and not planing any more trees. For example Ndongori forest was cleared about ten years ago and nothing is being grown now. A long time ago, we had people who resided in the forests and who planted their crops as soon as the forests were burnt out or cut down. They planted their crops for one year or so, and later on, they planted trees and they put their crops in between the trees. This is not going on now and that is why we have no forests now. Webuye Paper Mills is making use of a lot of forest trees and very little is being planted. Webuye Paper Mills should also be involved in tree planting.

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

Mr. Wetangula: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important Ministry.

Environment management in this country is something that deserves a lot of attention from each and every person in this country. The rate at which our environment is deteriorating is both absurd and worrying. It is absurd and worrying because we are wasting away some natural resources that may be very difficult to recover. It is high time this Ministry liaised with the Ministry of Education and started an environmental education curriculum in schools so that the responsibility of managing our environment is inculcated in the minds of our children as they grow. A very simple example, if you drive on the Kenyan roads, be it in Nairobi, Mombasa - but the worst hit is the road between Naivasha and Nakuru - every third car has some object flying out through the window, especially people who buy milk from Delamere Dairies in Naivasha. The entire road is littered with tetrapacks. As soon as somebody finishes consuming the product, he tosses out the wrapper through the window. Here in Nairobi, people who buy packed food simply eat, finish and toss out the wrappers through the window. This is a very basic concept of environmental

degradation.

But the more disastrous level is in the management of our water resources. We are watching one of our most important resources waste away in the name of Lake Victoria. Those of us who come from around the Lake region, have depended on that Lake for survival from time immemorial. People like hon. Osogo and his constituents will literally die if the Lake dies. Yet, we are watching Lake Victoria die away. There is a weed that is spreading at such an alarming rate that whatever the Ministry is doing or has been saying it is doing, is hardly adequate and scientifically untenable to control that weed. We have been told that they have released beetles to eat away the weed. Recently, I was in Brussels and I was consulting with some Environmental Experts on something to do with Environmental Management in the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. I asked them about the management of this weed.

It is not the first time this weed has appeared anywhere. In fact, there is technology to physically mine out that weed from the Lake and destroy it. This idea of releasing beetles to eat up the weed is welcome but one wonders how many millions of beetles we are going to release in the Lake. If these beetles are eating vegetation, what are they going to eat after exhausting the weed? If you go to the Lake, there is absolutely no impact from these beetles. If anything, the weed is spreading far and wide. The gulf in Kisumu between the main town and the airport has been completely filled up. It now looks like a football field or a wheat farm, and the weed is spreading far and wide. I would want the Minister to tell this House and this country what urgent and concrete steps his Ministry is taking to save this all important resource.

Lake Victoria has been a provider of fish and clean water. It is capable of irrigating the whole of Kenya and still have enough water left to go to Egypt, yet we are not simply bothered about protecting this Lake. Hundreds of fishermen, whose livelihood depend on this Lake have hung up their nets and kept away their boats because they cannot wade through the weed into the Lake. We are told this weed has got such a voracious cover on the Lake that there is no oxygen flow below it, which means the aquatic life also perishes in its advance. If we are looking into the future of this country, we must look at it with Lake Victoria in mind. If you go out there, countries with very small water resources, hardly a hundredth of Lake Victoria, look after these resources like a goldmine. Yet, we are not doing that to our own. Not to mention the pollution of the rivers that flow into this vast Lake. All the industries up-stream on River Nzoia, River Yala, Sondu Miriu, Gucha and many others are releasing effluent into the rivers that flow into the Lake. One time we were told in Kisii Town that the Municipality was releasing raw sewerage into a big river that passes through the Town and which empties into the Lake. What kind of environmental management is this? The management of our water catchment areas is another issue of environment that needs to be talked about. I have said here before that the principal beneficiary of the waters of Lake Victoria is the Government and the people of Egypt. Seventy per cent of the waters of Lake Victoria come from Kenya. Through bilateral protocol, Egypt must be made to bear some of the costs of the management of the environment that sustains Lake Victoria, and this, the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation should look into and ask the Egyptian Government to help us sustain our water catchment areas by planting forests, maintaining forests and ensuring that we supply them with clean water. So much for Lake Victoria.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing that we need to address in this country when we are talking of environment is the issue of environmental-friendly tourism. Kenya is so excited about the idea of getting tourists to come to this country. But we do not care about the quality of tourists that we get to the extent where we have been told that Mount Kenya is rotting away because tourists just go there and do whatever they want and leave all the litter there. At least, I read in some publication about some elephants that died and when postmortem was done, results showed that they had swallowed some waste materials including condoms which had been thrown all over by tourists. We need to have a policy of not just having tourists, to ensure that we have tourists who are also conscious of the environment. If our environment is properly kept intact, the tourists will come today, tomorrow and in future. But if we destroy the environment, the much-talked about tourists will go elsewhere after ruining us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife must ensure that while we love to have tourists because of the money they bring, the concept of preserving our environment has to be taken into account. As a matter of fact, our game parks are now saturated with game lodges and hotels to the extent where we are even affecting the very animals that we want to protect for the tourists to come and see. If you go to Maasai Mara where we were recently with hon. Obwocha, you will find that a lion is surrounded by ten tourists' cars. How can animals survive under such an environment? Something has to be done on this issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can see that my time is running out. There is something that I want to mention in connection with the collection of garbage in urban areas. It is a terrible environmental hazard and something has to be done about it.

With those few remarks, I support.

Mr. Mathenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution on this Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now, our country has very many qualified geologists and other experts in matters connected with environment and natural resources. If you look before us, you will see those two groups of officials over there and on this side of the House. I presume the three gentlemen and the lady are from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. What I wonder about is whether these high-powered officers are adequately equipped with the tools of their trade. I do not know whether they get what they want in order to carry out their professional duties as they should.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, any visitors coming to Kenya from developing countries must be looking at us and wondering whether the Kenyans are so idle or so ignorant that they cannot make use of their natural resources.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Ndotto) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) resumed the Chair]*

We have heard that minerals abound in Western Kenya and elsewhere yet looking at the annual statistics, you see only very little wealth coming from the minerals in this country. Again, looking at the forests, you wonder why forests are not properly protected. At times we hear of power rationing allegedly because some rivers have run dry and, therefore, there is not enough water in the dams. Now, all these things do happen, I believe, because when the Government comes to determine its priorities for development, projects that matter are sometimes overshadowed by projects which do not create any wealth for this country.

I think the time has come for us to ask ourselves whether we are going to continuously be engaging or spending our money on prestigious projects at the expense of projects that are likely to create wealth and employment for our people. If the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was supported adequately by the Government and proper money allocated to the Ministry, this Ministry could create more wealth for the enjoyment of our people and for further expansion of development. But as it is now, owing to inadequate financing, this Ministry just remains there by name and very little is seen happening on the ground. Take for instance, the forests. You can use the forests to produce more food and employment for the people of this country. You could get more people to work in the forests, clear unwanted areas, plant food crops and plant trees as well as they used to do during the *wabeberu* times. If you could get more people into the forests, clearing the forests and growing foods for themselves as well as for people who live in the urban areas, you would not need to import foods into this country.

(Loud consultations)

Gentlemen, please, will you give me time to talk because you are consulting very loudly under the chairmanship of my old friend. Please give us a chance! You are shouting instead of consulting.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally--- Sorry for that digression. The consultation going on is unnecessary because it distracts ones mind.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Mathenge, you should be able to think, whether you are in a noisy environment or not. Carry on.

Mr. Mathenge: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes it becomes too much to bear. We have heard a lot about fishing. In the olden days when I was a boy, I used to see *wazungus* coming to fish in the rivers around Mt. Kenya and they paid for licences to fish trouts in those areas. There used to be fishing camps around Mt. Kenya and a lot of revenue was collected and passed over to the local authority. Today, there are no such camps and the rich tourists do not go there to fish and, therefore, the camps disappeared, the trout disappeared and, therefore, the loss of revenue arose in. That is another area where we could develop.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is another area where we could develop fishing for wealthy tourists, but at the moment, nobody seems to worry about that. We would rather import fish from abroad than export our fish from our rivers. If you go to Mombasa town you will see Japanese or Korean ships bringing in fish from the oceans, yet our Government does not support our local fishermen with better boats, fishing gear and so on, so that our fishermen can bring in ocean fish for our home consumers and export the surplus to earn foreign exchange.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Government does not seem to be very mindful of the welfare of its own people. We keep on shouting that we love our people. We forget our motto there: "For the Welfare of Society and Just Government of Men." That is only a slogan or a motto that is not put into practice. If that was put into practice, most of our people would not today be complaining of unemployment or being poor. But because of

misplacement of Government priorities, poverty continues to bite and the Government continues to watch unmindful of peoples' plights.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the river banks of this country have been cultivated resulting into erosion. Most of our rivers looks red in colour. If you look at rivers around Mount Kenya, the water is not clear at all, it is filled with soil. That soil forms the silt in the dams which have been constructed at a great cost. We wonder whether officials of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources ever care about protection of river banks. There are laws for controlling the damaging of river banks, but the officers who are supposed to enforce these laws do not appear to enforce them, either because they are immobile and, thereafter, or they cannot move from their offices to the river banks or they are idle. They wake up wearing their suits and are afraid of walking along the river banks to inspect and see how the river banks are.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since my time is up. Thank you for allowing me to contribute, but the Government must place its priorities right.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, asante sana kwa kunipa nafasi hii ili nizingumze machache juu ya Voti ya Wizara ya Mazingira na Maliasili.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninaungana na wenzangu wote ambao walizungumza na kueleza umuhimu wa Wizara hii.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, huu ndio wakati wa kutekeleza maazio na mapendekezo ya viongozi hapa na kwingineko. Wizara ya Mazingira na Maliasili ni Wizara ambayo inagusa maisha ya kila mmoja wetu. Ni Wizara ambayo inagusa Wizara zingine zote. Kwa mfano, uchumi wa nchi yetu unategemea kilimo. Kilimo ndio nguzo ya nchi hii. Kilimo hufaulu ikiwa kuna hali ya anga nzuri au hali ya anga ambayo itaweza kuhifadhi na kusaidia kilimo. Pia kilimo kinahitaji mvua ya kutosha na jua kiasi. Kwa jumla, kilimo kinahitaji kuwa na hali ya anga nzuri. Haya yote yatawezekana tu, ikiwa mazingira yetu ni mazuri.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, misitu inachukua sehemu kubwa ya Wizara hii. Misitu hufanya hali ya anga kuwa nzuri, huleta mvua na kadhalika. Lakini wakati huu tuko hatarini ya kupoteza misitu yetu. Nitakanusha maoni ya mwenzangu hapa kwamba ni bora kama wananchi wetu watukubaliwa kutumia sehemu ya misitu katika shughuli za kilimo. Hii ni hatari kubwa kwa sababu wananchi wakikubaliwa kukaa katika misitu na kupanda mimea, basi watalazimika kukata miti bila kujali madhara yake. Wanaweza kufanya biashara zingine kama vile kuchoma makaa ambayo watayauza ili wapate faida. Tusiwakubalie wananchi kukaa katika misitu yetu. Tumewahi kusema hapa mara nyingi kwamba si lazima kila mwananchi kuwa na shamba lake. Ikiwa tunataka nchi yetu iendelee na kufikia nchi ya viwanda mwaka 2020, ni lazima tuanze kuwahimiza wananchi waishi mijini. Ni lazima misitu ibaki jinsi ilivyo. Misitu si miti ya kigeni pekee, bali tuna miti ya kiasili.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nchi yetu ina milima mingi. Milima hii zamani ilikuwa na miti mingi, lakini kwa sababu ya kutojali, idadi ya miti imepungua kwa kiwango kikubwa sana. Wananchi wanaochoma misitu sio miti tu ambayo wanachoma bali mbegu na rutuba inayowezesha miti hiyo kukua. Miti ambayo huchukua miaka 40 kukua inachukua muda wa dadika kumi tu kuteketea. Ikiwa imechomeka, tunaanza kuwa na jangwa.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tuko hatarini kwa sababu kuna sehemu za Misitu ambazo zinaanza kutosajiliwa. Tusifanye hivyo hata kidogo. Ni bora tuongeze sehemu za misitu nchini ili tuwe na hali ya anga nzuri itakayotuwzesha kuendelea uchumi wetu unaotokana na kilimo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, sote tunasafiri na tunajua, kwa mfano, nchi ndogo kama Swaziland iko na misitu ambayo inachukua maili nyingi sana. Walikubali kujinyima na kuhifadhi hiyo misitu kwa sababu itawasaidia kwa njia nyingi. Tumelezwa kwamba mazingira bora, ambayo yanapendeza yanatuletea watalii katika nchi yetu. Tunajua watalii wanatuletea pesa za kigeni ambazo tunazitaka, ili tuweze kuendelea. Vile vile, wafadhili kwa wakati huu wanapendelea mambo mawili. Ya kwanza ni mambo ya akina mama na ya pili ni mazingira. Ikiwa tuko na uhaba wa pesa katika mifuko yetu, kwa kweli, tukienda kutafuta pesa za kuhifadhi mazingira kutoka kwa wathamini, hatutakuwa na shida sana kuwa na mazingira mema yanayoleta afya bora kwa sababu hewa inakuwa safi. Hatuna mvuke mchafu ambao tunakuta katika nchi zinazoendelea ambazo ziko na viwanda vingi sana. Inatakikana tuwe na sera ya Serikali ya kusema kwamba viwanda vyetu sasa, vikiwa vinatoa mvuke, usiwe ni mvuke wa kuchafua mazingira. Tunatakikana vile vile kuangalia kwamba magari yanayobeba abiria yakisafiri katika nchi yetu, yasiwe yakitooa mivuke ambayo inachafua mazingira.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tumeelezwa pia habari ya mito. Tunataka vile viwanda ambavyo vinamwaga uchafu katika bahari au katika mito visimamishwe kabisa kwa sababu hii ndiyo inaharibu maisha ya viumbe katika bahari, kama vile samaki na kadhalika.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa muda, hii Wizara ndiyo inaangalia migodi. Kule magharibi mwa Kenya, katika sehemu ya Ikolomani kulikuwa na migodi mingi sana na tulikuwa tunapata dhahabu thahabu. Wakati huu, imewachiwa wachache ambao wanatafuta dhahabu katika migodi ambayo sasa inachukua maisha ya watu. Inaangukia watu na wanafariki wakiwa wazima. Hii inafanyika katika sehemu ya Shinyalu, Kakamega na kwingineko. Ningeuliza

Wizara isaidie kufanya utafiti na kutafuta madini katika sehemu ya Samia kule Busia ambako zamani, tulikuwa na mchanga uliokuwa na chuma ya kutengeneza mikuki, majembe na kadhalika. Tukiweza kufanya hivyo, na ikiwa kuna shida ya pesa ningemuliza Waziri---

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We can hardly hear the Assistant Minister. The consultation there is too loud.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Ningeuliza Waziri asijenge ile Madini House lakini atumie hizo pesa kwa kutafuta yale madini kule Samia kwanza, halafu wakati tutakapokuwa tumetajirika sana, tutakuja kujenga hiyo nyumba.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda jambo lingine linahusu mto wa Nairobi, ambao ni wa maana sana. Tusiwache kwamba hiyo iwe ni habari ya jiji la Nairobi. Tungeuliza Wizara hii iangalie kama inaweza kukarabatisha huo mto wa Nairobi ili tuweze kuutumia hata kwa starehe. Tukisafiri katika nchi za kigeni, tunakuta mito mikubwa ambayo inapita katikati ya miji na kuna mashua na mambo ambayo yanaweza kuleta starehe katika nchi hizo. Tungetaka kuutumia mto wa Nairobi namna hiyo.

La mwisho, tunataka nidhamu kutoka kwa wananchi. Sisi ni wachafu kwa sababu tunatupa takataka jinsi tutakavyo, kama vile mhe. moja amesema hapa.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono.

Mr. Farah: Thank you very much Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is supposed to do a lot for this country. The problem we have here is determining our priorities for development. We have a Ministry here because we want to protect our environment to the best we can and at the same time, to exploit our mineral resources. But the priorities in determining the criteria for the investment of the Government into the different parts of the country is always warped. It is always determined by other reasons than what should actually merit it. We know that we have what can be classified as a semi-desert and it is virtually close to being a desert in this country. That is the whole of North Eastern Province, parts of Eastern Province, the districts of Marsabit and Moyale and Turkana. When we look at the Government's appropriation for development in those areas, we will realise that it is not for the protection of the environment. Some other criteria has been used because the most arid areas cannot have money invested in them to try and stop the encroachment of desertification in the country or harness the natural resources of that desert. Deserts can also be a blessing in that some of the richest countries in the world right now, like in the Middle East, are pure deserts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will realise that we have got everything wrong here. Maybe it is the technocrats and the powerful people in the system who decide where these things should go to, because they want to develop their own areas. I want to know what merit is there in spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in development Appropriation for Nairobi area for example, and at the same time we have only K£15,000 each in the 1997/98 Financial Year for Garissa and Wajir districts. We also have K£10,000 for Mandera and K£15,000 each for Moyale and Marsabit districts. But when we look at Malava/Lugari where our hon. Minister for Finance comes from, we have K£204,000. Koibatek, which is also a very well connected district has K£213,000 of Appropriation. The ASAL areas have been lumped up together. This is one way of trying to give the impression to Kenyans that it is a big area which we are handling. But the money does not go to the arid areas. It just goes to the semi-arid areas. In this Appropriation also, we have taken money to places like Tana River, Taita Taveta and Kilifi which essentially is not an arid area. It would even be difficult to classify it as a semi-arid area. Compared to Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and North Horr, Kilifi is a heaven. This is supposed to be another Kericho for them. So, what is the logic of appropriating funds for afforestation in these areas and you do not do the same or anything close to that for the very arid areas?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information we have right now, is that there are a lot of mineral deposits in Northern Kenya. There was a time when the Government went on record and said that there were massive oil deposits in North Eastern. We had hoped that we were going to be another Kuwait. But nothing has come out of it. Rumour has it that, that was used as a dumping site for toxic and nuclear waste. We expect the Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, to take a professional exercise and allay the fears of Kenyans that a place called Arbajan in Wajir District has been used for toxic waste dumping. Mr.

Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have titanium, gold, gypsum and other minerals in North Eastern Province. In Mandera, there is information to suggest that there is gold there. We have a lot of gypsum in Garissa and there is also talk of titanium. We do not see anything in the Estimates to suggest that the Government is interested in exploiting these minerals. You can see this from the appropriations. When you go to the refugee camps in my constituency--- Because the refugees came from Somalia, the presumption of the Government is that we are first Somalis and, maybe, secondly Kenyans. So, the problems of the Somali refugees should be given to Somalis in Kenya. We have no

problem with that. But we had a Motion in this House which urged the Government to liaise with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) so as to try and arrest the absolute degradation of the environment in the areas with refugee camps. We have been let down in this respect by our own Government. Our own Government is not prepared to go into a hard bargain with the United Nations to get them to finance a project for a massive re-afforestation to replace indigenous trees that were cut down by refugees, so as to restore the environment to its original status or something close to that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue has been tossed between the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage, which is supposed to be in charge of refugees, and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. However, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the right one to handle the matter. We passed that Motion in this House and, I think, the Minister should take up the matter with the United Nations (UN) and ensure that it does not avoid its responsibility. The UN spends millions of pounds on fat salaries for European experts and consultants, chartered flights and so on. The Kenya Government should bargain hard and avoid tossing the issue between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the District Office in charge of environment and the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage. We have to have a clear view of who is responsible for this matter.

The other matter which is shared between the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources and Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development is loss of a lot of our top soil. There are no efforts by the Government to aggressively try to create water catchment areas in a place like Garissa District. In Garissa District, it rains cats and dogs, but the water runs for 100 kilometres to the north of Garissa District and washes the top soil into the River Tana. The Ministry has to try and take up its responsibility. We lose both the top soil and the water, which can be harvested and used on small integrated agricultural projects and livestock. Due to lack of water, animals tend to congregate around the few water points and thereby create a degradation of the environment in the areas concerned.

The gypsum I have talked about is abundant in Garissa. I have asked a Question in the House about illegal exploitation of this resource by a certain Kenyan and yet the local authority concerned is not making anything out of the undertaking because they do not understand what is happening. Alternatively, there could be collusion between the people who are exploiting that vital resource and some councillors. We tried to take up the issue with the Provincial Administration but found out that this matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Administration. The Ministry should take up this matter and give professional advice to the local authority as to what kind of levy to charge, how to monitor the quantity of the resource being exploited. In a way, the local people can also be sensitised on the possibility of going into the exploitation of the resource. They could get information as to where they can do the excavation.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Vote I would like to say that one of the ironies that I see is that the UN claims to put a lot of emphasis throughout the world on the protection of the environment. One of the most serious issues being dealt with throughout the world today have something to do with environmental protection. One hears about the protection of the ozone layer, the top soil and indigenous vegetation, of the fauna and flora. But the irony of it is that the UN does not appear to be giving Kenya that much money to protect the environment.

I know of no substantial projects for the protection of the environment here in Kenya that are globally sponsored. I know that there may be something to be done in areas devastated by refugees. I think prevention is always better than cure. Where is this money which the UN is supposed to give to countries that are supposed to protect their environment? It is an irony that throughout the world, we are paying lip service to this matter. People have met in Rio de Janeiro and other world capitals to discuss about the environment. But what is actually happening on the ground?

You see, River Nile starts from East Africa, but it does not benefit East Africa as much as it benefits Egypt or Ethiopia or Sudan. If you want to protect the waters of the Nile you must be able to protect the source of the river. We have the problem of hyacinth in Lake Victoria. I think Kenya alone should not be told to handle the problem of hyacinth in Lake Victoria. Those who benefit from the Nile down stream, namely Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, should help in the protection of its source because they are the beneficiaries of its waters. Coming back home, I would like to say that coming from a constituency that relies heavily on wildlife for its income, especially for its local authority, I think it is time our experts turned their attention to the protection of the ecosystem in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. I know very recently we asked South Africa to give us rhinos in order to create a balance in the ecosystem of Maasai Mara Game Reserve. However, certain people, who want to sabotage the good exhibition we have there, have started killing the wildlife. I think the wildlife in Maasai Mara Game Reserve is more important than politics. I do not think it is very good for those who bear a grudge against some people to start killing the animals in Maasai Mara Game Reserve just to prove a political point.

This is a heritage for the whole country. This heritage has something to do with our environment. It is very

important that the ecosystem of Maasai Mara Game Reserve is maintained. A lot of grass has been burned in the game reserve. The grass will grow again, but the rest of the things have been destroyed. Will things which live under and on top of the grass ever come back like the grass itself? It is important for our communities that live in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve to be educated to keep the environment clear and nice. The Mara should not be overdeveloped and anyone who does that should not be allowed to do so. There must be a clause in our Environmental Act that forbids the overdevelopment of the Mara because we know that it brings a lot of money. If you keep on putting up one camp after another, you are destroying the permanent features of the Mara. Right now, if you fly over the Mara you will see so many in-roads. Most of them are brought about by air balloons. When a balloon flies, there is normally a vehicle that follows it and the balloon flies according to the wind. If we allow balloons in the Mara, it is very dangerous to our environment. Those who are already licensed to operate the balloons in the Mara are enough. Nobody else should be licensed to operate air balloons because we are making Mara a network of so many tiny roads.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a phenomena that is rising in pastoralist areas. Because of overgrazing, a new breed of grass called the Wire Grass has started coming up. Wire Grass is inedible by the animals. It changes the entire geography of the place because it is a very hostile grass to any other type of vegetation. I know that KARI has carried out a research on how to destroy it. Just to show you how our researchers have become mediocre, in one leaders' meeting in Trans Mara, they reported that after five years' research they have found that the way to destroy Wire Grass is by ploughing. I do not think that problem needed five years of research. Where are we going to get tractors to plough the Wire Grass? Again, we do not want to plough the land, but we want the Wire Grass to go away so that our animals can feed. Our animals will not feed on turned-up soil. Our animals will feed on grass. Let the researchers tell us how we can destroy Wire Grass because we cannot do it that way. We cannot destroy it by burning because it encourages further growth of the grass and we cannot plough because we do not have the resources to do so. We do not have the patience. Our animals will not be patient enough for six months when the whole of Trans Mara will be under plough in order to destroy Wire Grass. In order for the environment to revert to normal, it is very important that the researchers are told to go there and do something about it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you were with me in Australia. You saw that eucalyptus is the indigenous tree of countries like Australia that were once under water. In countries like Kenya where water is scarce, can the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources come up with a better idea on how we can satisfy our timber needs as well as to protect our water from species that deplete our water resources? Everywhere along the Kisii area, the best thing that a man can do is to plant eucalyptus. Can the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources not say that, that is not the right thing to do? I understand that one eucalyptus tree takes 15 drums of water. If it takes this amount of water and the population is rising everywhere, it is not going to augur well for the future of our country.

In areas where the environment is being destroyed due to lack of fuel, I think the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the civil servants should be able to come up with a good idea. They should advise the Minister on how to ensure that in future we satisfy our fuel need without cutting down our indigenous trees.

Lastly, I want to talk about agriculture. As we develop our agriculture, it is going to be impossible in future to get so many people to work on the farm. Maybe, it will become necessary to do what other countries are doing, that is, to use chemicals in our agriculture. That, of course, is going to have an impact on our environment. Coming from a country like ours where the natural ways of doing things are still possible, is it not possible at this early stage to develop chemicals that are not harsh to our environment and those that will ensure that proper methods of farming are followed? How are we going to ensure that in Trans Mara a man can plant 50 acres and does not need to worry about weeds and does not have to use the chemicals that will destroy the environment? I think we can force ourselves out of this situation by thinking bigger and deeper so that we can be able to do things that are friendly to the environment. I hope that the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources can start realising that many of their civil servants are not working. I know that there are some districts where, if you transfer the man in charge of environment, it will take a year for the people of that district to know that the man has been transferred. Can we continue paying civil servants who are just warming their seats and doing nothing? I think everybody should earn his bread.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Nthenge: Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Leo nitaongea kwa Kiswahili kwa sababu watu wengi wanasema kwamba hapa katika Bunge tuna lugha mbili lakini tunatumia moja tu.

Kwanza, ningependa kusema kwamba miti ni kipaji kutoka kwa Mungu lakini tunaitumia vibaya. Kazi yetu ni kukata miti tu bila kupanda na mwishowe, tutakuja kugundua kwamba hatuna miti. Ningependa kupitishwe sheria kwamba ukikata mti mmoja, unapanda mitatu, la si hivyo, unashitakiwa. Jambo hili litazuia upungufu wa miti yetu. Inafaa tufahamu kwamba miti huzuia mmomonyoko wa udongo. Hata mvua ikinyesha kwa wingi kiasi gani, udongo wetu unabaki chini kwa sababu ya miti yetu. Miti pia husafisha hewa. Miti hutupa moto ambao tunapikia. Miti hujenga. Hivi sasa ukitazama Bunge hili, utaona kwamba kuna miti mingi sana. Mbao hizi zote ambazo zimetumiwa kujengea viti ni miti. Kwa hivyo, sina haja ya kutoa maoni yangu kuhusu uzuri wa miti kwa sababu kila mmoja wetu

anafahamu jambo hili. Muda wangu ni mchache sana na kwa hivyo, siwezi kusema mengi kuhusu uzuri wa miti.

Ninatoka katika sehemu ya Machakos. Sehemu moja ya shamba letu imechukuliwa na Idara inayohusika na misitu kwa minajili ya kupanda miti. Ninaishi karibu na misitu. Idara inayohusika na misitu katika sehemu hii iko nyumbani kwetu. Kulipopandwa miti huonekana maridadi sana. Ukienda katika Mlima wa Muwa utapata kwamba hakuna miti. Kwa nini tusipande miti katika mlima huu? Nina hakika kwamba ukipanda mti kwa Prof. Saitoti, mhe. Nthenge ama mtu yeyote ule na umwambie kwamba huo mti ni wake, atashukuru sana.

Nia yangu ni kwamba ili tuwe na hewa safi, itabidi tuwahimize watu wapande miti. Pia tutakuwa tumezuia mmomonyoko wa udongo. Ninataka kumuuliza Waziri pamoja na maofisa wa Serikali wanaomsaidia watunze mazingira yetu kwa kuwahimiza wananchi wapande miti kwa vizazi vijavyo. Mimi nina watoto 17 na mwingine ana watoto kadhaa. Watoto hawa nao watazaa wengine na wote watakozaliwa ni Wakenya. Kwa nini tuwaharibie nchi kwa sababu tunakaribia kufa? Tunatakiwa kuwatengenezea nchi iwe nzuri badala ya kuiharibu.

Ninamhimiza Waziri atumie mbinu zozote kuona kwamba miti imepandwa kwa wingi, hata kama ni kutumia propaganda kuwapembeleza watu wetu. Wakati Baraza la Jiji lilikuwa likichukua ardhi kutoka kwa wananchi kadhaa, walipanda miti kwa lazima na baada ya miti hiyo kukua, walisema ni yao. Miti hiyo itasaidia raia kuleta hewa safi. Ninataka tutfute njia ya kupanda miti mingi katika Kenya.

Pia ningependa kuzungumzia juu ya samaki. Samaki ni kipaji kutoka kwa Mwenyezi Mungu na ni juu yetu kutunza vipaji hivi. Ikiwa nitakupa zawadi na huwezi kuitunza vizuri, nitakasirika. Vile vile Mungu anaweza kukasirika na kutunyang'anya zawadi hizi kama hatuzitunzi vizuri. Ninataka samaki watunzwe vizuri na watu waache kulima mpaka kwa mito. Hapa Kenya kuna sheria ya kutunza mito, lakini haitumiki kwa sababu maofisa wa Serikali wanaogopa kuchukua hatua inayostahili. Wakati tulipokuwa tukipambana na mkoloni miaka ya 1950, tulikumbwa na shida nyingi, lakini tulivumilia na watu weusi walianza kuchaguliwa mwaka wa 1957 kuingia Legco. Mwaka wa 1959, nilikuwa mwenyekiti wa Wilaya za Makueni na Machakos. Watu wamevunja sheria zote kwa kulima hadi kando kando mwa mito, maji yameharibika na mmomonyoko wa udongo umezidi.

Ninataka Wizara hii irudie mambo yale mazuri na maofisa wa Serikali wafanye kazi zao bila woga. Ikiwa unamlazimisha mtoto aoge au aende shule, mwisho wake hatakuja kusema ulimkosea, lakini atakuja kukushukuru. Kwa hivyo, tufanye mambo haya kwa kutumia propaganda ili watu wetu watunze mito.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninataka kuongea juu ya wanyama. Wanyama pia ni zawadi kutoka kwa Mungu na ikiwa tunaacha miti na nyasi iharibike ovyo, itakuwa vibaya. Juzi nilipoenda Namanga, nilistaajabu kuona jinsi eneo hilo lilivyo athiriwa na mmomonyoko wa udongo kana kwamba hatuna Serikali. Kwa nini tunaruhusu mmomonyoko wa udongo kuendelea? Tunatakiwa tupande miti na nyasi katika sehemu hizo ili kuzuia mmomonyoko wa udongo. Vile vile tunatakiwa kupiga marufuku kulisha mifugo katika sehemu hizo. Kwa nini tunaogopa watu? Viongozi kama Makamu wa Rais, mhe. Prof. Saitoti, amesoma na anaweza kuwaeleza Wamaasai na Wakalenjini umuhimu wa kufuga ng'ombe wachache. Halafu hakutakuwa na mmomonyoko wa udongo.

Maofisa wa Wizara ya Kilimo na Wizara ya Mazingira na Maliasili wana ujuzi, lakini hawautumii, wanaogopa. Je, wanaogopa kitu gani? Mwanamke huzaa hata ingawa kuzaa kuna uchungu sana. Kwa nini anavumilia? Kwa sababu anajua kuwa na watoto ni kitu kizuri na ninyi ninawaambia mvumilie, mtakuja kuona matunda yenu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninataka kuzungumzia juu ya madini. Tuna madini mengi hapa nchini, lakini yanafichwa fichwa. Pia watoto wetu walioelimika wakati mwingine huonekana hawataki kuingilia mambo haya kwa sababu kazi ya madini ni chafu. Madini haya yanafichwa na Mwingireza, usimchezee! Tusipochimba mafuta yale tuliyo nayo, watu wa Kuwait watachimba kisima kirefu na watachukua mafuta yetu. Kwa nini tusichimbe mafuta haya? Nchi ya Misri inatumia maji kutoka Ziwa Viktoria. Ikiwa sisi hatutumii mafuta yetu, yatachukuliwa na Kuwait na watatuuzia. Ni heri tuchimbe mafuta yetu nao watoe yao. Ni mito ya chini iliyo na mafuta na pia madini. Ikiwa ni dhahabu inaenea mahali pote hata kuvuka mipaka. Sasa ninafikiri wanakuja kuchukua mafuta hapa kwetu na kutuuzia baadaye.

Tunataka Waziri afanye bidii ili aone kwamba nasi tumechimba mafuta yetu.

Kwa hayo machache, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninaunga mkono.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Osogo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. The young Minister, hon. Kosgey, should have made that Ministry assert itself in so far as environmental protection is concerned.

There is no Act that is protecting the environment. For example, there was an alien in my Constituency who had several donkeys. One night, one of his donkeys died and this person hired people who carried the carcass and threw it into River Nzoia. We arrested the person and took him to court, but the magistrate released him because he could not establish under which law to charge him. I think the Minister should bring an Act of Parliament that can assist him to protect the environment.

I would like to touch on the question of disposal of effluent. My District has got three major rivers flowing

into lake Victoria, Rivers Sio, Nzoia, and Yala. The last two rivers flow into the lake through my Constituency. I have got a lot of difficulties to maintain the cleanness of the lake because these rivers bring in a lot of effluent from the various small towns which are built along these rivers, right from Mt. Elgon and Nandi Hills up to the Lake. So, there must be a way to ensure that these rivers can flow into the Lake bringing in clean water, not effluent.

The other point is the question of planting trees. I would like the Minister to take this as a very serious point.

In our district, there are a lot of ants. We try to plant trees but ants damage these trees. We try to use several insecticides to kill these ants and stop them from destroying our young trees, but we have not succeeded. Can the Ministry, through scientific means, introduce into this country some insecticides that can kill ants, so that they do not destroy the young trees that we plant? I have suffered a great deal from these ants. I love trees and my home is full of them. But it becomes very difficult to nurse the tree up to maturity.

I would like to advise the Minister to co-ordinate with the Ministry of Education and the Office of the President. I remember that when I was a headmaster in one of our schools, I told each pupil to plant a tree in each year. I was there for only two years. We managed to save quite a number of trees. When I visit that school now, and is over 40 years since I left that school, the trees that I planted are the only trees that are there now. I would like to advise the Minister to co-ordinate with the Ministry of Education, so that schools, through their headteachers, could be asked to make sure that each child plants a tree each year. I mean that a child plants one seedling in each year and takes care of it. In this way, we will have a lot of trees in the schools and they will bring a lot of shade.

The Minister should also co-ordinate with the Office of the President so that chiefs could be asked to use the Chiefs Act before it is removed, so that every able-bodied person in each home could plant trees on the hedges of the home compound. At the hedges of every home, there should be trees around, including the pastoral people who live in manyattas. They could be planting trees and as they move, they leave trees behind to grow. We would have a lot of trees. The Minister could co-ordinate with the Office of the President which could make sure that chiefs supervise each able-bodied person to plant a tree and take care of it.

It looks as if this Ministry is lucky. If we look at all the Printed Estimates, it is the one which is getting a lot of aid from donors. At the end of the A-in-A, there is a lot of money. In fact, the only money that the Minister will get from the Treasury is about K£26,000. But the rest of this Vote, particularly in Head 672, most of the money which he is going to use there will come from A-in-A. Then, there is Item No. 151, which deals with forestry activities. It has got a lot of money to the tune of K£1.9 million, to be used. But which activities are these? I do presume that this will cover empty hills like the bear hills in Busia district, which do not have trees. They need trees to be grown on them so that they can improve the environment in those areas. He has also got nearly K£4.2 million on item 261 for conservation of indigenous forests. When he will be replying, I will be waiting for him to tell us where these forests are, when in Karura Forest, the Ministry has allowed people to take a few acreage and clear the forests from there. I request the Minister that, with all that money on item 261 for conservation of indigenous forests, he should look at the possibility of planting indigenous trees or starting up a nursery of indigenous trees, so that we can also plant them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, people have spoken much about Lake Victoria. I am requesting the Minister that all the shoreline of Lake Victoria should be cleared of human inhabitants. The Land Act is there and it has got what they call the riparian area. The Minister should use that law to clear all human habitation along the lake shores, so that at least, we can start clearing the lake of effluent discharge from homes and villages that are around the lake.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as concerns the water hyacinth, the Minister talked of beatles. Let me assure him that beatles have failed on Lake Naivasha and yet, they have been there for more than five years. This programme on Lake Victoria is only five years old. Let him use mechanical means of removing the water hyacinth. He brought a few beatles and said that they were not eaten, but I know they were all eaten by birds. It is only that the Ministry did not want to pronounce itself over it, because we had been opposing that, those beatles would not succeed in removing the water hyacinth. But birds were also clever; they heard our cry and came and ate all the beatles. So, the Minister cannot argue that the beatles were not eaten. We know they were all eaten and the birds are still there waiting for more beatles to come. With all that money that he has got, let him set aside some of it, so that we can harvest the water hyacinth using hands.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to say something about the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to begin with, in Kenya, we have heard the chorus of preserving our forests and planting trees, but this has only been a song being sang and not being practised. I say so because, when we talk about afforestation and preserving our forests, one wonders whether the Ministry wants to tell Kenyans that we are preserving what has already grown, naturally, as our indigenous forests in those areas where such forests can grow or

they are telling us to preserve our exotic plantations or what are they really telling us about preservation of forests?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when they also tell us that we must continue planting trees, we also wonder whether they are telling us to plant trees where we have Government forests or they mean that we can plant trees anywhere in this country, so that we can afforest our country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the Ministry to look at our environment right from the Coast all the way to Lake Victoria. If you look through this corridor, there is nothing other than the shrubs that grow in those areas naturally. But the question is: What are our research officers doing? Have they not been able to research enough and establish seedlings or trees that can grow through that corridor all the way to the Coast? Have they not established anything that can grow even in North Eastern Province, so that they can afforest our country?

For the last 33 years, we have been having this Research Department in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, but the question which still remains to be answered is, what have they done to establish afforestation programmes with seedlings that are capable of growing in our arid and semi-arid areas?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite an example of Naivasha. Sometime around 1987, some acacia trees were cut down in Naivasha and the Government was not happy with whoever felled those trees. The matter was so sensitive that it scared the people of Naivasha. The leaders of Naivasha that time decided to take upon themselves the burden of making sure that they replaced the acacia trees that had been felled with anything that could grow into a tree in that place. Today, in less than 10 years, along the Naivasha road, and in the town those trees were planted less than 10 years ago. The present Minister for Environment and Natural Resources was in this House with us and can bear me witness. Although he comes from Nandi, he has to travel from Nandi through Naivasha to come to Nairobi. He saw those trees being planted in that place and now they are there. The big worry is that, all this has been an experience which all of us have observed. Why has the Minister not taken trouble with his officers to make sure that such an example is carried elsewhere in this country? That is the question we should be asking ourselves. Otherwise, we talk too much but do too little. We are not being practical in our talking.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also wish to urge the Ministry to look at what is happening in our forests. Our forests today are being turned into settlement areas and yet we have national tree planting days where a whole day is spent persuading Kenyans to plant trees, preserve our forests and do anything to make sure that we have sufficient trees in this country. With these demarcations, our forests are being turned into settlement areas. Are we really doing what we are supposed to be doing or the opposite?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the Minister to educate our people on how to plant private forests. This is because the Government forests are soon coming to an end. I am saying so, not forgetting to cite my own constituency of Molo. If you look at Molo Constituency, on many occasions, I have had to consult with the Minister about many of our forests which have now been turned into settlement areas. I will name a number of forests for the information of the Minister, although I know that he knows them. I have names of more than 10 forests, one being Sururu Forest. Much of that forest has now been demarcated for private settlement. Others are: Likia Forest, Longman Forest, Teret Forest, Nesuit Forest, Elburgon Forest and, if you go further into the Rift-Valley, Kaptagat Forest near Burnt Forest and Lessos, near the Minister's home, is also being demarcated and being turned into a settlement area. We have begun to get worried about the Government's stand on the preservation of our forests when, at the same time, they are making the change of user. Instead of retaining them as forests to earn Kenya revenue through exotic plantations, they are now being turned into private settlements. That is why I am calling upon the Minister to try and encourage our people to establish private forests, if the Government has been unable to maintain these forests and that is the only way we shall be able to save our country.

I want to urge the Minister, in the same spirit, that he should not extend further than what he has not demarcated and degazetted. For Heaven's sake, he not extend further than that because what will he do with the timber investors? They have borrowed so much and they have heavy investments. I wish the Minister tours that area, which I know he does, to see what kind of investments we have there on the timber industry. What will happen to these investors with all the loans they have taken? How are they going to pay back these loans if these forests are going to be turned into private settlements? A more serious question - and if you are not aware - people are being allocated that land plus the trees that are there. Instead of the trees being sold by Government to earn the much needed revenue, these trees are given to private people. That is enriching that person, first, with land and, secondly, with Government revenue. I just wonder why such authority was not sought from this House. The Minister should have brought that issue into this House so that we debate the question of turning our forests into settlements. At the same time, I urge this House to approve that those trees that are supposed to earn revenue for the Government be given to people freely, instead of giving them to a selected few, I do not know for what favour.

That is very disappointing and it is bringing a lot of concern, especially to the investors. The investors have been involved in developing some of these plantations through nursery funding. A lot of saw millers have been funding the nurseries that are run by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. After they have put in all

that much money, they see those trees being given to somebody freely, yet they paid for them. This is being very unfair, and I am urging the hon. Minister that this matter be taken very seriously. Do not risk the future Government trying to acquire back that land and your forests in order to re-settle these people in other areas. That can happen. If we shall have no private forests, and we need timber in this country, then the possibility is, in future, anybody will question the logic behind turning our forests into settlements and giving people trees freely. Obviously, this will leave the future Government with no alternative, but to acquire back that land and afforest that area. The country cannot risk losing this useful resource, just because a few individuals have to be favoured.

The Minister has been talking so much about our river banks, but look at even our urban areas where the rivers flow. We find that such portions of land are now being given to private developers to construct buildings near the rivers, to put up tourist attractions and sceneries for some individuals to be pleased. Why should that happen?

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

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Dr. Manduku): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute towards this very important Ministry.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the one which is supposed to keep our environment clean in order to enable us to get the rains and the rest. We should request the Ministry to look after a lot of environmental conditions, particularly, the forests. As other speakers have also said, the forests are being extinguished, in fact, they have almost disappeared. Although we know very well that Kenya has got a very small proportion of arable land, but all the same, we need to keep our forests intact because, with the forests, we can also get rain to keep our land productive. As we extinguish our forests, we are turning our country into a desert.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the North Eastern part of Kenya is turning into a desert. The desert is gradually encroaching down into the tropics and, therefore, I think we should look after our forests. This is because when we look at the rate at which we are clearing the forests, particularly the natural old forests without replacing them you see that it is very, very, high. There was the rule that if one cuts down one tree, he needs to plant another four trees. I do not know where that is happening because some of us who drive from Nairobi to the Western parts of Kenya, some years ago, we used to see thick forests. We now see very bare land. During the dry season when there is drought, a lot of our forest is wasted by fire. The fire clears a lot of forests and we do not come back to replace the burned down forests. So, we should request the Ministry concerned to look into that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some very small forests and I will give an example of one small forest that we have got in Kisii. Although we do not have land in Kisii but, of course, we have got a piece of forest at Mtangweta and this Nyangweta Forest has got very, very, mature trees like cypress and the rest which needs to be turned into timber and then we replant that forest. But what has happened for some strange reasons, when we went through it recently, these trees have been so mature until now they are growing old. They are falling off and at the end of the day, they will become firewood. Maybe one time, they may not become firewood because they will rot off and become a waste. I, therefore, would request the Ministry to give a recommendation on how to use these remaining few trees. At the same time, in the areas where they have cleared some of these trees, they have not been able to do any replanting. Therefore, that area is also becoming bare and the people may now start encroaching on it and when they start doing so, squatters will abound and people will not own that land and, consequently, there will be no benefit from that kind of land. So, we are requesting that a recommendation be taken to that small forest that we are proud of so that it can be re-planted and we will, at least, get something from it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, apart from that, we have a shortage of timber in this country because even our timber manufacturers are not able to get the good quality timber and if they do get it, then they get it at very exorbitant prices. As regards some of the timber that we get from the Congo Forest and other countries, by the time it arrives in Kenya, it is very expensive. At least, we should get a technology of re-planting that kind of timber which we are having in those parts of the country. A timber called cedar is a very beautiful timber, but I think, it is disappearing from this country. I do not know if the Ministry is doing anything to replace it because, at the end of the day, we are not going to have any cedar here. The only timber that we are proud of, I think, is Elgon teak or Meru oak which are also disappearing. In another 10 to 15 years, Kenya will not be going to have timber if we are not going to do something. So, we would request the Ministry to look into that so that we can continue preserving our timber and bringing in some other more profitable timber also to reduce the cost of importing timber into this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, other countries in the world have got natural resources. Some countries are lucky that God has given them a lot of oil underneath. Other countries have got all sorts of minerals and Kenyans are unlucky because we do not have any big deposits of minerals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have some gold and iron deposits in this country. We would like to ask our experts in the Ministry to look into this, and particularly gold. We know that during the colonial days, the colonialists used to extract a lot of gold from this country. There are areas like Macalder in South Nyanza, areas

around Rongo where recently some people started cultivating and were getting small pieces of gold. There are gold deposits around Kakamega, Turkana District and so on. What is required is more expertise kind of investigation to know where we have gold in this country. Maybe, I do not know because I am not an expert in this field, but our people are trying to get the superficial deposits of gold. Maybe if we excavate deeper, we can get some layers of gold.

If there were some gold superficially during the colonial days, then they are still there and we can get them. In advanced countries, miners use a lot of technology, some even use satellites to locate deposits of gold. Maybe, there are also diamonds in Kenya because, if there are diamonds in Tanzania, why not Kenya? We need to get our experts to research on this because we are not going to depend on all the time getting our foreign exchange earnings from agriculture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of our people is increasing tremendously. The land will not be enough to accommodate it and, therefore, we cannot continue depending on earning foreign exchange from agricultural activities. We should explore other sources of income in this country like minerals and so on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people around Lake Victoria are lucky because God gave them a big lake with fish. This is a natural source for their income. Some of us who are neighbouring them had started eating fish because it was very easy to get and cheap kind of food. But of late, there is a big problem that fish in Lake Victoria is diminishing because our environment around the lake has been polluted by hyacinth. We do not know what the Ministry is doing about it. Recently, we said people of Nyanza are a little blessed because there was somebody who was making a lot of noise about the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria. He was saying that he was going to clear the hyacinth from the lake. That was nothing, but noise. Unfortunately, he has been transferred to Nairobi where I am sure there is no water hyacinth and we will not continue hearing this noise any more. We want serious people to go to Kisumu to clear the lake!

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to appeal to the Government because Lake Victoria is disappearing. There seems to be a very beautiful arable land around the lake, but it is part of the lake that has been covered by hyacinth. Naturally, there is no creature that can live under the hyacinth because there is no oxygen. So, fish cannot reproduce in the lake because it reproduces closer to the shore. Therefore, our friends around the lake should make more noise than I am making because they know the benefits of this lake.

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

Mr. Ogeka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Ministry which should be a source of pride to Kenyans since it houses the headquarters of the UNEP. I believe and feel very strongly that this Ministry deserves even more than the K£80 million allocated under Vote 21. We should establish situations where we can address the needs and areas of concern of the Ministry. In my contribution, I will restrict myself to the environmental factors. Currently, the world is looking ahead and as I said, Kenya should be proud to host UNEP. It should equally be seen to be moving ahead in matters relating to the environment. I challenge the Ministry to provide the lead and enhance projects that would programme adequately, matters relating to environmental control, putting within the framework of the DOD(?) programmes in the rivers, aerial and other related projects on the environment. With particular emphasis to today's discussion, I want to treat the problems in my constituency, arising from River Nyando.

River Nyando seems to be nursing six major industries: Three sugar industries, one, of food and chemical and another one for cement, leave alone the rice mill. The DOD in River Nyando is unrelievable. As we move down the River Nyando, there is no life. There is not even fish. Actually, the consumers of River Nyando who have not managed to get borehole water or any treated water, can no longer depend on the river. The best that has been done has been to take these companies to court and the fine levied on them is peanuts. Year in, year out, as we raise the matter in the DDC and the Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, there is always a ready answer from the administration. But I wish to object to that role, because they have no responsibility on the Ministry's activities and the Ministry should command its areas of service to wananchi. The administration will say: We have an inter-Ministerial Committee looking into the environmental factors. They have made the issue more of a commercial deal, and more often, you will find that those are administrators locked up with these companies, negotiating an issue about the environment and they have never come up with anything. When one goes to Miwani Sugar Factory, the environment is stinking so much, and the sugar they are producing is not commensurate with the damage they are doing to the environment. The management gets away with it and tells us to our face: "You have nothing to do to us." This is insulting not only to the authorities in that region, but to the entire republic because the future of the people is taken for granted. The Agro-Chemical and Food Company had started an effluent treatment plant and I think the Ministry has to pester them harder. In 1992, this plant was hardly costing Kshs50 million and now it is going to cost Kshs150 million and it is not going anywhere near completion, and the DOD is over 5,000 instead of the

25 to an average of what should have been 200. It is a total damage.

When one goes to Muhoroni Sugar Company, the first thing one encounters is a terrible stink and a repellant smell. It is terrible. I believe that has nothing to do with the Provincial Administration. I challenge my colleague who is a neighbour by constituency to take the bull by the horns. Give no chance to the Provincial Administration to speak on the Ministry you are running or set up what you are intending to achieve at a given period. We have too many people talking on environment. I believe that you, Mr. Minister, and your staff who are seated, here are competent enough to devise a proper programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, projects on environmental improvement will attract a lot of funding from the United Nations (UN) and other donors. There should be no time when the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources gives room to the Ministry of Energy to dilly-dally with unleaded petroleum products. It is internationally accepted that lead is no longer a requirement for a clean environment. There are many airborne diseases in this country, which are costing us much economically, in terms of health and human resources.

I long to see a concrete programme from the Ministry to get rid of lead. If the Ministry leaves the matter in the hands of petroleum dealers nothing will happen because they are busy minting money. Minting money is their priority: The Kenya citizen does not matter to them. You and me keep on coughing, sneezing, rubbing eyes and wondering what the hell there is in Nairobi.

If this Ministry comes up with a programme, gets it approved by the Kenya Bureau of Standards and sets out what it expects to achieve by the year 2000, I believe that a lot of work will be done, and Kenyans will start to see its seriousness. Unless much acumen, concern and professionalism exist, this is not a very easy Ministry to run. In the past the order of the day has been to loot the natural resources of the country, and unless the Ministry puts a stop to this, it will not meet the expectation of the majority of Kenyans, whose future heavily depends on those responsible for improvement of the environment.

My concluding remarks are going to be on minerals. This Ministry has to provide a resource centre, where we can go and seek advice on how to tap our natural resources. We have coral rocks which should produce abundant cement for our construction industry. The Ministry should lead the way in this area. We have over 250 million tonnes of cement material which was discovered in Homa Lime way back in 1938. I tried to encourage the exploitation of that resource, but there was no resource centre to give me the right data. We only have a white man in that area who says that rock cannot provide good cement because it has sulphur. I tell you that we can extract the sulphur and use it in our agro-based industries.

Since this white man is greedy and knows that if the Kenya Government manages to exploit this resource that will interfere with his personal interests, he has made it very difficult for us to penetrate and invest in the cement industry in the whole of Western Kenya. Cement is a heavy commodity which is expensive to transport. Therefore, the nearer it is to the user the better. Who can lead us in the exploitation of this resource? I submit that it is this particular Ministry. It needs to give this country a lot of guidance to enable it go ahead. I strongly support this Vote and wish the Ministry could even get more money to start many more activities for the benefit our future. Many people have not addressed themselves seriously to this Ministry's activities, but we should support it because it is in charge of most of the activities in which the UN is involved.

Thank you, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Hon. Members, it is time for us to adjourn. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 31st July, 1997, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 pm.