

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 26th April, 1995

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.162

"TENT" ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF

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

- (a) if he was aware that the security personnel in Tot Division, Marakwet District, are working in an operation area; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above was in the affirmative, why the officers had not been provided with "tent" allowance as required.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) Yes, I am aware.
- (b) There is no provision in the Civil Service Code of Regulations requiring that security personnel working in operation areas be paid "tent" allowance.

Mr. Cheserek: Mr. Speaker, Sir, security officers working in Kerio Valley work under a very difficult situation. They have no houses to live in, no tents and no meals. Can the Minister tell us the difference between the security officers working in the Kerio Valley of Marakwet, the Kerio Valley of West Pokot and the Kerio Valley of East Baringo? What is the difference? Why should officers working in Baringo or West Pokot get hardship allowance while officers in the Kerio Valley of Marakwet District do not get anything? Why should there be this discrimination?

Mr. Kalweo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no difference. Tot Division is not a hardship area.

Mr. Karan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to abuse the ruling party by putting on the badge of KANU upside down?

Mr. Speaker: Well, that is not the business of the House.

Mr. Rotino: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Minister is misleading the House by saying that Tot Division is not a hardship area. Since he has been made aware by the hon. Member that Tot Division falls within the geographical area of West Pokot and East Baringo, can the Minister consider, right, now that security officers working in this area get the hardship allowance?

Mr. Kalweo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are regulations which govern the security forces. If there are problems, we handle them through our channels. So, if there are areas where there are some things missing, we look into this and take the necessary action.

Mr. Cheserek: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is pathetic to hear from the Minister that Tot Division is not a hardship area when we very well know that on the 29th of June, 1991, His Excellency the President had a meeting at Tot, and he asked his Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kimalat to find ways and means of assisting the officers working in that area with those allowances. Can the Minister tell us why he is misleading the House? He is speaking as if he does not know how the Office of the President operates! Tell us, Mr. Minister!

Mr. Kalweo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is the hon. Member who does not understand how we operate. The way we operate is not the way he would like me to answer. I said we have procedures to follow.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Kinyua Mbui!

Question No.055

ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS

Mr. Mbui asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) if he was aware that village plots in Kirinyaga District are registered under Kirinyaga County Council instead of the occupants; and,
- (b) since the occupants have lived in these plots for over 30 years, if he could direct the council to surrender the plots and title deeds to them.

Mr. Speaker: Is anybody here from the Ministry of Local Government? We will move on to the next Question. Mr. Ndilinge!

Question No.035

RELOCATION OF WATER KIOSK

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndilinge is not here? We will come back to his Question later. Next Question, Mr. Shikuku!

Question No.037

POWER FAILURES IN TOWNS

Mr. Shikuku asked the Minister for Energy:-

- (a) if he would explain the reason for frequent power failures in Nairobi, Mombasa and other major towns;
- (b) if he was aware that the said power failures subject residents to a lot of inconveniences and insecurity; and,
- (c) what plans the Ministry has made to arrest the situation.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Marita): Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The frequent power failures in Nairobi, Mombasa and other major towns can be grouped into the following categories: planned power interruptions and power supply interruptions, or failures due to natural causes: Planned power interruptions are controlled by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company operations staff. They are intended to shed off load from the national grid when there is a generation shortfall arising from maintenance of the generating power stations machines. These power interruptions are always announced in the Press to alert consumers on the period during which their power supplies would be interrupted. Power supply interruptions, or failures due to natural causes, are caused to the national grid covering our entire Republic by both accidents and natural causes like lightning, and can occur any time of the day.

(b) Yes, I am aware that the said unplanned power failures subject the residents to a lot of inconveniences and insecurity.

(c) To arrest the situation, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company has drawn up schemed repairs and maintenance schedules to minimize the unplanned power interruptions.

Power supply failure can occur due to natural causes and sometimes even accidents. These failures are of great concern to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company and it is always on the alert to rectify the situation. Their personnel are engaged on a 24 hour basis to attend to such interruptions.

Mr. Shikuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from that reply, I would like to make it clear to the Assistant Minister that I am not talking about planned interruptions to allow repairs *et cetera*, to take place, that are announced on the radio and in the newspapers. I am talking of abrupt interruptions which take place every time; even last week they occurred. This has become the order of the day. What is the Assistant Minister going to do because in some hospitals when they run out of power, drugs that are supposed to be kept cool go bad or sometimes they occur during an operation on a patient? When will the Assistant Minister stop these abrupt interruptions?

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that such abrupt interruptions exist. I have already asked the management of Kenya Power and Lighting Company to be very much on the alert and act swiftly whenever they occur.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the Assistant Minister ever considered getting more power from Uganda whose power is very cheap and permanently on, so that this rationing can be avoided here?

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even at the moment we are getting power from Uganda. But that is not the

problem; the problem is related to the question of generating machines which sometimes break down, thus causing these power failures.

Mr. Rotino: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can the Assistant Minister consider giving areas like West Pokot power? These areas also need power, just like the other areas, and we have requested this several times.

An hon. Member: Sema ndio.

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we take care of the whole nation of Kenya. West Pokot, which is being referred to by the hon. Member, is also under consideration for power installation, but that depends on the availability of funds.

Mr. Shikuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the reply by the Assistant Minister, will he not agree with me that most of these problems, which sometimes he considers natural or accidental, are due to the fact that they are not concentrating on ensuring that repairs are carried out during the day. The Kenya Power and Lighting company technicians carry out these repairs at night. The thieves are aware that power cuts take place at night and so they go looting and killing people. Can he not consider another way of making sure that there are no unnecessary interruptions by installing generators in sensitive places? There are some private hospitals that have generators which automatically turn on immediately power goes off.

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already agreed with the hon. Member on his earlier question, and I still agree with him. I also would like him to reciprocate by agreeing with me that we have no way of knowing when power failure would occur. Power failure can occur any time during the day and also at night. Sometimes the technicians start carrying out repairs during the day but nightfall catches on them before they are through. I can assure the hon. Member that the Kenya Power and Lighting Company will do its best to minimise these power failures.

Question No. 132

REMOVAL OF TRANSFORMER

Mr. Ogeka asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) if he is aware that the transformer which was installed along the power line between Miwani Sugar Company Limited and Masogo Market in Miwani Division, Kisumu District, in 1989, has been removed;

(b) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, where the transformer is; and,

(c) what steps the Ministry is taking to get it installed within the division as part of Rural Electrification Programme.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Marita): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

This Questions has appeared on the Order several times but the Questioner has never been in here to ask it, but today he has appeared here.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) The transformer was vandalised and damaged in 1993 before the water pump it was intended to supply was commissioned, and Kenya Power and Lighting Company had to remove what remained for safe custody.

(c) Another transformer will be installed at the same point when the water project is completed.

Mr. Ogeka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought my absence should have given the Assistant Minister time to prepare adequately. Nevertheless, can he tell this House the name of the particular project for which this transformer was intended and whether it was a community project or an individual one?

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main purpose of the project was to serve that area. Whether it was a personal or community project does not really matter. What matters is the service to the people of that area.

Mr. Karan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is evading the question which is rightly put to him or, in other words, he is evading to give name of the water project that was meant to benefit from this transformer, and whether it was a community or a personal one. Please, answer the question.

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I am concerned, what is required is the service to the community. Whether this was a personal or community project is unnecessary. When Mr. Midika started the project, he had the people of the area in mind. Although the project was intended to serve him, he allowed it to serve the community around.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister has accepted that the project will be provided with a transformer when exactly will the project get this transformer? Is it this financial year or next financial year?

Mr. Marita: We are ready to install the transformer any time, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as soon as the project is completed.

Mr. Ogeka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without defeating the purpose of rural electrification, could the Assistant Minister assure this House that during the next installation of the vandalized transformer, the subject will be presented to the District Development Committee to adequately explore and confirm the utilization of the proposed transformer at a place where it can benefit more people rather than one individual?

Mr. Marita: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the DDC gives this project a priority then we will work on it.

Question No.143

RE-ALLOCATION OF PLOT

Bishop Kimani asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

(a) why the late Mr. Walter Macharia Karanja's land, Plot No.1063, Kiptagich Adjudication Section, Olenguruone, was re-allocated to another person, Mr. Reuben Kipng'etich Mabil, leaving Mr. Karanja's family landless; and,

(b) whether he could ensure that the family of the late Walter Macharia Karanja is re-settled.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that Plot No.1063, Kiptagich Adjudication Section, Olenguruone, was ever allocated to Mr. Walter Macharia Karanja. However, assuming that the plot owner, Mr. Walter Karanja of ID No.3633268/66 is one and the same person as Mr. Walter Macharia Karanja then, the records in my office show that that is the sole proprietor of Plot No.1053 and not 1063, Kiptagich Adjudication Section, Olenguruone Division.

(b) If Mr. Walter Macharia's family has been illegally displaced out of their rightful parcel of land, Plot No.1053, then they can seek the help of the provincial administration for re-settlement.

Bishop Kimani: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the answer given by the Assistant Minister, I believe he has been totally misled by his officers. I have the allotment letter here which says that Walter Macharia Karanja, ID No.3633268/66 was allocated Plot No.1063, Kiptagich Adjudication Section, Olenguruone. This was in 1987. On 26th October, 1993, this land was transferred from the late Walter Macharia to Mr. Mabil. Mr. Mabil is the late Macharia's neighbour. During the clashes, Macharia's family was displaced. I was expecting the Assistant Minister to tell me whether they have re-allocated the land to the family of the deceased, who are living with me in Bahati near the CPK church building there. Could the Assistant Minister tell me what is happening? This man has already threatened the life of this widow. He says that if they go back there, they will die.

Mr. Speaker: Ask your question, Bishop Kimani!

Bishop Kimani: Could the Assistant Minister tell this House whether that is a new parcel of land? This is because according to the allotment letter---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Bishop Kimani! You are taking rather too long to put your question.

Bishop Kimani: I will now put my question, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House whether this parcel of land, No.1053, is a new allocation which has been given to this family?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the records in my office show that Plot No.1063 is registered under Reuben Mabil and Plot No.1053 is registered under Walter Karanja. If the hon. Member is doubting this information he can come to my office and check these records.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that very many people who were displaced during the clashes have similarly lost their plots in places like Lugari, Olenguruone, Kitale and Mau Narok? Is he aware that some people who are not owners of those shambas are already cultivating them now?

Mr. Khaniri: I am not aware, Mr. Speaker, Sir, but if the hon. Member has got specific cases let him bring them up so that we can sort them out.

Bishop Kimani: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that the green cards for the Olenguruone plots which were owned by Kikuyus are missing and that they are now being replaced with Kalenjins names? All those who were displaced cannot go back. Their land has been transferred to Kalenjins.

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very specific Question and I have told him that if he has any doubts about the information I have given to the House he can come to my office and we will sort out the issue. I am not aware of what he is saying about Kalenjins and other people.

Question No.59

SURGICAL EQUIPMENT FOR HOSPITAL

Mr. Ojode asked the Minister for Health:-

(a) whether he is aware that for the last two years, 1993 and 1994, Ndhiwa Sub-District Hospital

has been operating without surgical equipment and essential drugs; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what action he is taking to ensure that drugs and surgical equipment are provided.

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

I know that this same Question was asked by the hon. Member under Question No.830 during the Third Session of this Parliament. The situation has not changed much as the plan to upgrade the health centre to a sub-district hospital has not been implemented. When this is done, the institution will be provided with drugs, medical supplies and equipment as appropriate, depending on availability and enhanced status.

My Ministry is trying its best to supply drugs and medical supplies and equipment to all our health centres and institutions despite inadequate budgeting provisions. All health institutions have been given their share. Ndhiwa Health Centre received two supplies of kits in November, 1994, and in March, 1995.

Mr. Ogur: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that what he is saying is out of context? This is because the promise to provide all these things was conditional; only if Tom Obondo was returned to Parliament on a KANU ticket failure of which the promise was not going to be fulfilled. The project was abandoned after Tom Obondo was defeated. Is that not true?

Mr. Criticos: It is not true, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is right in saying that the Question had already been asked before but we never got the reply because the House was on recess. The Assistant Minister's reply also suggests that the essential drugs and surgical equipment will only be supplied after the upgrading has been effected. It seems as if the Assistant Minister wants to curtail the population of Ndhiwa Constituency. Since this is the only health institution which serves even Nyatike Constituency--- Nyatike Division has no hospital and people from that area come to Ndhiwa for treatment. I am requesting the Assistant Minister to see to it that the supply of essential drugs is effected. If you get involved in an accident, you will not be treated in Ndhiwa Health Centre because there are no surgical equipment; you will obviously die. I am, therefore, requesting the Assistant Minister to supply essential drugs and surgical equipment to that health centre because recently there was an outbreak of dysentery which killed a number of people. He also knows that we have a problem of malaria in that area. Could he tell the House when he is going to send another kit there? The kit he is talking about is history. The area has a population of 200,000 people.

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sympathetic with the hon. Member and I will check with my Ministry to see whether the equipment will be supplied. However, the surgical treatment is not undertaken here because this is a health centre and not a Hospital, but I will investigate with my people in the Ministry to see what I can do for his constituency.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the answer given by the Assistant Minister, is he further aware that the problems which are facing the people of Ndhiwa in this dispensary are a common phenomenon throughout the country whereby you find there are no drugs and other related supplies in many, many areas, and all these hon. Members will bear witness to me? What urgent measures is your Ministry taking to make sure that these dispensaries and hospitals are fully equipped with drugs and kits for operations and whatever, so that, at least, we may be able to cut the death rate which is now rising up into a very high level throughout the country?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry is having a financial constraint, and I hope that in the June 1995, Budget, this august House will give us the funds that we need, and which were inadequate in the last Budget, to keep our Ministry and our health centres going.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that one of the reasons why we have shortage of essential drugs in the hospitals is because of thefts by hospital workers? Could he also say what the Ministry is going to do to try and stop these thefts?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue about thefts of drugs has come before this House on numerous occasions. We have requested various Members of Parliament if they can give us proof that these drugs are being stolen. My people have been investigating. Even yesterday, there was a Question before this House. We have been investigating but we have not found any culprits. There have been a few occasions, however, where people have been arrested, prosecuted and charged.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister confirm that the problem in the Ministry is not financial constraint. The Ministry of Health is unhealthy. It is sick. This problem is prevalent all over the country. Let the Assistant Minister tell this House what grand plan he has to revitalise all health centres in the country.

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Health is very healthy. The only problem is on the financial side. Once we have the money we can do miracles in this Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Mr. Kinyua Mbu's Question for the second time.

Question No. 055

ISSUANCE OF WATER KIOSK

Mr. Kinyua Mbui asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that village plots in Kirinyaga District are registered under Kirinyaga County Council, instead of the occupants; and,
- (b) since the occupants have lived in these plots for over 30 years, whether he could direct the council to surrender the plots and title deeds to them.

Mr. Speaker: Is there anybody from the Ministry of Local Government who could answer? There is nobody, and so the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndilinge's Question for the second time.

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask the Question I would like to apologise to the House for coming late.

Question No. 035

RELOCATION OF TITLE DEEDS

Mr. Ndilinge asked the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development since the public water kiosk at Salama Market in Kilome Division is situated in a most inconvenient spot, whether he could direct the council to relocate it to a safer site.

Mr. Speaker: Is there anybody here from the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development? I am sorry they are not here. The Question will be deferred.

(Question deferred)

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ATTACK OF FORD(K) DELEGATES

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister inform the House as to how many members of a gang that attacked delegates of FORD(K) National Executive Council meeting at Amani Catholic Church off Thika Road on 13th April, 1995, have been arrested and charged in a court of law?

(b) What are their names?

Mr. Speaker: Is there anybody from the Office of the President? There is nobody and, therefore, the Question is deferred to tomorrow afternoon.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next order.

MOTIONS

HARMONIZATION OF MAIZE FARMING

THAT, in view of the liberalization of the agricultural sector, and considering further the importance of maize farming to the economy and food security to this nation, this House urges the Government to:-

- (a) harmonize fertilizer and other agro-chemical importation with a view to ensuring that only the right type of inputs get to the farmers.
- (b) ensure maize importation is well co-ordinated so as not to unnecessarily flood the local market, thereby demotivating local maize farmers;
- (c) expand and promptly avail sufficient credit facilities to the farmers; and,
- (d) improve tractor hire service.

(Mr. arap Kirwa on 19.4.95)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 19.4.95)

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor yesterday?

A hon. Member: The Question had just been proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. We will have Mr. Shikuku.

Mr. Shikuku: Bwa. Spika, mimi ningependa kuunga Hoja hii ambayo iko mbele ya Bunge hili mkono kwa moyo wangu wote. Pia ningependa, na ningefurahi, kama Waziri wa Kilimo, Ustawishaji wa Mifugo na Uzazi, angekuwa hapa lakini inaonekana hayuko - isipokuwa yule msaidizi wake. Mimi sina tashwishi kwamba Serikali hii itakubali Hoja hii vile ilivyo. Kwa nini? Ni wajibu wa Serikali hii, tukufu, au Serikali yeyote katika ulimwengu huu ambao Mungu ameumba, kazi yake ni kuona kwamba watu wake wanapata vitu vitatu. Kitu cha kwanza ni chakula. Kitu cha pili ni kuona kwamba wako na nyumba au wanapata mahali pa kulala, wao na watoto wao. Jambo la tatu ni kuona kwamba afya yao, au maisha yao yanalindwa. Hiyo ndiyo kazi ya Serikali. Lakini Serikali ambayo haifanyi hayo mambo matatu, sio Serikali, mbali ni Serikali kwa jina.

Bw. Spika, mimi sitaki kusema Serikali hii iko hapa kwa jina, lakini wakisema kwamba hawawezi kuona Hoja hii ina maana, basi itakuwa ni Serikali kwa jina, na sio Serikali ya watu.

Bw. Spika, Hoja hii inauliza mambo manne ambayo ni ya maana. Jambo la kwanza, inataka kwamba zile watu wanaita kwa kingereza "agricultural inputs", yaani fatalaiza, mbegu, na vile vitu vyote vinavyosikana na uzalishaji wa chakula, viwe ni vitu vya kweli. Hii ni kwa sababu fataliza mwaka ule mwingine tuliletewa chokaa kutoka ng'ambo kwa magunia. Wananchi waliiweka kwa shamba na hakuna chochote kilichotoka kwa mashamba. Hapa, kama vile tulielezwa na aliyewakilisha Hoja hii, kuna ile Kenya Bureau of Standards. Wanakula mshahara kwa kuangalia mambo ya standard ya kila kitu kinacholetwa kutoka ng'ambo kuja nchi hii. Walikuwa wapi? Jibu ni hili. Walikuwako lakini mambo yalienda kombo shauri ya ufisadi. Wale wanaoleta mali hii wanawapa kitu, nao wanapitisha, na wanaua nchi hii. Wakishaua nchi hii, hawa wakubwa wenyewe wanaanza kuleta mali kutoka nje; mahindi na sukari huletwa hapa na hali watu wetu ambao wanaweza kupanda mahindi na sukari wanapanda na bei inarudi chini.

Bw. Spika, ni lazima Serikali hii ifahamu kwamba wananchi si wapumbavu na kwa hivyo, wanafahamu wazi kwamba Serikali hii ndiyo inaagiza mahindi na sukari kutoka nchi nyingine. Wanajua kwamba kazi hii mbaya haifanywi na watu wadogo.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Mimi siipendi hata kidogo lugha mhe. Shikuku anayotumia. Yeye amekuwa katika Bunge hili kwa muda wa miaka 30 na anafahamu kwamba mhe. Mbunge yeyote anaposema jambo katika Bunge hili, ni lazima athibitisha jambo hilo. Yeye anasema kwamba Serikali hii ndiyo inaagiza sukari na mahindi kutoka nchi za kigeni. Je, anaweza kusema ni akina nani katika Serikali hii wanafanya mambo hayo?

Mr. Shikuku: Bw. Spika, mhe. Nassir anafahamu wazi jambo ninalosema. Yeye anatoka kule Mombasa na kwa hivyo---

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Nassir! Mr. Shikuku is responding to your point of order. Can you let him say what he wants to say?

Mr. Shikuku: Bw. Spika, ni lazima mhe. Nassir afahamu kwamba Bunge hili si Mwembe-Tayari ambao hakuna nidhamu ya kusema mambo. Ningependa kusema kwamba kwa muda huo wote ambapo tumekuwa na mhe. Nassir katika Bunge hili, anafahamu wazi kwamba Mbunge wa Butere, hasemi jambo lolote ambalo hawezi kuthibitisha. Yeye anajua kwamba tunapozunguma katika Bunge hili leo, kuna meli mbili kule Mombasa ambazo ziliingia kule, moja ikibeba mahindi na nyingine ikibeba sukari. Yeye anaweza kunieleza ni mtu gani kutoka Butere ambaye anaweza kuleta meli inayobeba mahindi au sukari kule Mombasa? Ajabu ni kujua kwamba, ingawa mhe. Waziri wa Kilimo juzi alitoa tangazo la kukomesha agizo la sukari na mahindi kutoka nchi za kigeni kwa muda wa miezi sita, tangazo hili lilitolewa wakati sukari pamoja na mahindi yalikuwa tayari yameingizwa katika Kenya. Kama

Bw. Nassir anataka kumjua aliyeleta sukari hii kule Mombasa, jina lake ni Bw. Bawazir.

Bw. Spika, jambo linaloniudhi ni kwamba ninapozungumza hapa, sukari inajaa kwa maghala kule Mumias---

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Kwanza, ningependa kumweleza mhe. Shikuku kwamba bandari ya Kilindini iko katika sehemu yangu. Jambo la pili ni kwamba ikiwa kuna mtu yeyote ambaye anaagiza sukari au mahindi bila kibali cha Serikali, basi ni lazima hatua ichukuliwe. Lakini kwa sababu mhe. Shikuku ananichukia mimi, ana---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Nassir! That is not a point of order and you know it.

Mr. Shikuku: Mimi nakubaliana na mhe. Nassir kwamba hakuna mtu yeyote aliye na ruhusu ya kuagiza mahindi au sukari katika nchi hii bila idhini ya Serikali hii. Hii ndiyo sababu ninasema kwamba Serikali hii ndio inatoa kibali cha kuagiza vyakula katika nchi hii. Kwa hivyo, Serikali hii ndio inawaua wakulima katika nchi hii. Nasema hivyo kwa sababu wanakubali sukari iletwe hapa nchini wakati sukari imejaa kwa maghala kule Mumias. Watu wa Butere sasa hawawezi kukata miwa kwa sababu hawana pahali pa kupeleka hiyo miwa. Wao sasa wanakaa bure bila kazi ya kufanya na yale mapanga walivyokuwa wakitumia kukata miwa, wanayatumia kwa kukata watu nayo.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Mhe. Shikuku amekuwa katika Bunge hili kwa miaka 30 na anafahamu wazi kwamba sukari haiwezi kuagizwa ikiwa hakuna ukosefu wa sukari. Kwa hivyo---

Mr. Speaker: Order Mr. Nassir. This is a timed debate and I just hope that you understand that if you really have to take Mr. Shikuku's time, it must be on genuine point of order. I do not believe that you have at any one time risen on a genuine point of order.

Mr. Shikuku: Mhe. Nassir ni lazima afahamu kwamba ninaposimama kuzungumza, ninazungumza juu ya yale mambo ninayofahamu wazi kabisa. Hii ndio sababu ninasema kwamba kule Butere na Mumias, wale wanaokata miwa hawana kazi ya kufanya na wanapokosa kazi, huwaingilia watu na panga kama wanavyofanya kule Msumbiji na Angola. Lakini hawa watu wanapozidi kukata miwa, wanapata pesa za kununua vyakula na hatuwezi kuwa na hali ya ukosefu wa amani katika sehemu hii. Mimi naudhika sana kwa sababu sukari inayoletwa haina maana kwa sababu hakuna upungufu wa sukari hapa nchini kwa sababu maghala ya sukari kule Mumias yanajaa sukari. Isitoshe, bei ya sukari imeongezwa! Sijui tutaendelea kuvumilia mpaka wakati gani kuwaona wakubwa wakiagiza sukari na mahindi na kuwaua wakulima katika nchi hii. Hatuwezi kukimya milele na kunyamaza. Ni lazima tuseme maneno haya wazi. Ikiwa Mawaziri na makampuni yao wataendelea kuagiza sukari na mahindi katika nchi hii, wananchi watachoka na hawa Mawaziri jinsi walivyochoka na wabeberu. Wananchi wataendelea kujitetea kwa vyovyote ili kuimaliza ukoloni mpya.

Bw. Spika, mwenye Hoja hii anaiomba Serikali ihakikishe kwamba ni lazima agizo la sukari na mahindi likomeshwe kabisa na kama kuna haja ya kufanya hivyo, ni lazima jambo hilo lifanywe kwa mpango maalum. Ikiwa kwa kusema kweli kuna upungufu wa sukari au mahindi, basi wako na haki yakuagiza vitu hivyo, lakini ikiwa maghala yetu yanajaa mahindi, basi hakuna haja ya kuagiza mahindi. Kwa wakati huu, maghala ya mahindi yamejaa na wakulima hawajalipwa mahindi ambayo wamepeleka kwa Cereal Board. Hivyo ni kusema wakulima hawawezi kupanda mahindi kwa sababu hata hakuna mbegu kwa sababu ya Serikali hii ambayo inajiita tukufu. Wakati umefika kwa Wabunge katika nchi hii kuiambia Serikali hii hatuwezi kuwaangalia tu wanapoiuza nchi hii ili watajirike, ili wapate pesa za kununua wananchi wakati wa kupiga kura.

Jambo lingine ambalo Hoja hii inasema ni kwamba inataka wakulima wawe wakipatiwa mikopo ili kuweza kukuza vyakula zaidi. Kwa maoni yangu, Serikali ingechukua wajibu wa kuhakikisha kwamba wakulima wanapatiwa misaada ya pesa ili waweze kukuza chakula cha kuyatosheleza mahitaji ya nchi hii, na kingine cha kuuza ng'ambo. Lakini hatutaki jambo la kuagiza chakula ili kuwaumiza wakulima. Wakiendelea kufanya hivyo, ni lazima wafahamu kwamba wanaketi juu ya bomu ambalo litaturusha mbali sana hata kama wataendelea kuimba wimbo wa amani na mapenzi.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

Mr. Rotino: First of all, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member for Cheranganyi for having brought this Motion at a most appropriate time. I speak with a lot of concern because three-quarters of the people who elected us to this House are farmers. Today, it appears to me that there is something very wrong going on in this country with regard to the importation of food into this country. Those of us who are farmers know that the ordinary farmer in this country is being deprived of his rights. This is why I am saying saying that we, as the representatives of farmers, should feel extremely concerned about what is happening in the field of agriculture. As we all know, agriculture is the backbone of this economy and we all depend on it in this country. However, it is unfortunate to note that the agricultural industry is not being taken care of by this Government. Nobody appears to be concerned about the problems affecting farmers in this country today. As I speak now, the Agricultural Finance Corporation has not given loans to farmers to enable them to plant this season, for reasons better know to them. In West Pokot, for example, there is not a single farmer who was given a loan by the AFC. to assist him in planting a new

crop. As if that is not enough, the Cereals board has not paid the farmers for the produce they have already delivered to the Board. Under those circumstances, what does this Government want the farmers to do? We are sitting on a time bomb, as the hon. Shikuku said. In India, you will remember that farmers rioted in the streets and the Government had to come out to address itself to their problems. This Government must address itself to the problem of farmers in this country because people have to eat to live. The Government, therefore, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has to address itself to this problem very seriously.

I want to say that as far as the fertilizer is concerned, the Asians are ripping this country of a lot of money because they are the ones importing fertilizer; they are the ones deciding on the price of fertilizer and our farmers in the rural areas are suffering. We want the Ministry to intervene and ensure that farmers get the right type of fertilizer and the kind of inputs that are required. When it comes to seeds, I got surprised when somebody from the Kenya Seed Company said that seeds are being exported through West Pokot to a neighbouring country.

First of all, West Pokot got very little seeds. Our farmers up to now are replanting using their local maize seeds and when we ask the Kenya Seed Company, who are our neighbours in Kitale, they say that they have given out enough seeds. They keep on saying that West Pokot is exporting seeds to a neighbouring country. We border the Karamojong and they do not plant maize. So, how can we take maize to Uganda? If you talked of Trans Nzoia or Mt. Elgon, it may be the case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have parastatals like Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA). When I talk about parastatals, I refer to tractor hire services. KVDA should be able to provide tractor hire services to farmers countrywide. However, since KVDA commenced in 1979, they have never given farmers their rights. In fact, they have never provided services to farmers along the valley while knowing very well that those farmers do not have tractor hire services facilities. KVDA, through the Ministry of Energy, should encourage farmers in the valley to plant cash crops like cotton and groundnuts or crops that can thrive in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to touch on the extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing. We, in the valley, do not get those services and if those officers are there, they should be able to provide services to farmers. We have a lot of graduates from our diploma colleges and those officers are not seen in the valley. This is where we have all the time the recurrent problem of drought, and those are the people who require a lot of services and advice along the riverbanks so that they are able to grow crops that are drought resistant. They can grow crops that are indigenous and which can build their systems like proteins, carbohydrates and so on. We need those services and the Ministry should strengthen that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about liberalisation. When we talk of liberalisation, it is a good idea, but we have local industries and factories that we need to protect. We do not have to go full-blast on liberalisation. We do not have to liberalise by killing our local industries. When we talk of investments, we want the Government to invest and encourage other foreign investors to come and invest here in this country. The Government should do the business of providing infrastructure and to create facilities. For example, they should provide electricity to West Pokot and Sigor Constituency, in particular, so that we are able to build up industries and factories to do various things.

The Government has no business running some parastatals which are uneconomical. The Government should be in the business of creating infrastructure and facilities to encourage investors. Right now, even if there is an investor who wants to open a small canning industry in Sigor, he cannot do so due to lack of electricity, while on the other hand, in Sigor and West Pokot, we produce power. Turkwel is in West Pokot and yet those who neighbour that power station are not even getting a single kilowatt of that power. What a shame! How can you keep a cow and yet you do not drink the milk? This is very surprising and the Ministry should take it very seriously. We have asked several questions on this matter and the Ministry seems to be giving a deaf ear while they are getting millions of shillings every month through the Turkwel Power Station.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of mangoes in the valley and there are no roads to transport those mangoes to the markets. The nearest markets we have are Kitale and Eldoret, but you cannot transport those mangoes to those markets because there are no roads. The road from Marit Pass to Birech is not there. Then how do you expect the farmers in those areas to educate their children? The Ministry of Education gave us very little bursary and yet they know we rely on famine relief. When we ask for more money, it is taken to Murang'a and Kiambu.

So, we want to request the Ministries to look at those marginalised areas and make them viable. With those few remarks, Sir, I want to support the Motion fully.

Mr. Mbui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Let me stand here to support this Motion in total.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we all know that the farming industry or agriculture is the backbone of this nation. Anybody who tries to mess up with the farming industry does not know what he is doing and should not be in such a portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the value of the dollar has come down and we also expected the value of imported fertilizer to come down too. But to my surprise, this is not happening and the reason is very simple. The Government is not

very serious about its own farmers since it has left the duty of importation of fertilizer and other inputs to foreigners who have no mercy at all on our farmers, who are the majority of this nation. There is no way we can control the price of maize when we are overcharged on fertilizer and other inputs. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing should do a thorough research and see why the price of fertilizer is not coming down. Most of this importation does not go through without a very "big power" behind such a racket. Anywhere where there is money, there is always a big person behind such business. The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, who shouts loudest, is himself a miller, a baker and so on, yet he is in that portfolio of agriculture. How can he control himself not to import? When he has got enough for himself, then he bans the importation so as to create an artificial shortage. In fact, he should resign forthwith!

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, imported sugar prices are lower than those of the locally produced sugar. One wonders how sugar is transported all the way from Brazil, through shipment, and then is sold at a cheaper price here in Kenya. There must be something happening at the Port of Mombasa. There must be something in the Department of Customs and Excise. Either these people are not paying duty, and if they are paying it, then there it is a wonder because there is no way imported sugar or imported maize can compete with any product that is produced in Kenya. It is the Government which is killing its own farmers. The Government realises a lot of tax from these farmers. It is not protecting its farmers and when you ask them about this, they talk of liberalization. We will not be worried of liberalization if they have strict controls as far as importation is concerned because Kenya should not be turned into a dumping field. Really, the Kenya Bureau of Standards is doing nothing because if it was really working properly, we could not be having these substandard inputs imported to this country. It is not a wonder that everyone wants to get rich quickly.

On the side of ploughing with tractors, the Government can control the cost of land preparation by not overcharging on diesel or putting taxes on diesel. When tax is put on diesel, the cost of ploughing land will go up and the farmer will have no alternative but probably, to try to hike the price of his products, and the products will not get buyers because already the market is flooded with imported substandard products. People will choose to buy the substandard maize because they cannot afford the high prices. I am requesting the Government to abolish any tax on diesel so that farmers can get diesel easily. In addition, the Government should abolish taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT) on tractors and spare parts so that our farmers can get easy access to tractors, spare parts and diesel. In this way, the cost of production will go down. Otherwise, unless we do that, we shall be singing the song of liberalization while this liberalization is actually not helping the local farmer. The Government wants to enjoy that liberalization and then blame the whole thing on the Opposition.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, talking on loans, our farmers actually require to be assisted seriously if we have to save this nation because we do not want to be rushing here and there every time trying to beg for money to feed our people. It seems to be a very good thing for some people; when there is drought, they start campaigning for donation here and there. This is very bad and it is very stupid for anybody to think that he can campaign to get money.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The word "stupid" is unparliamentary.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Yes, I think you are right, hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi. Hon. Mbui, that word you have used "stupid" is not proper. Can you withdraw it, please?

Mr. Mbui: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. When you go begging for food and you know that this nation can produce food, really how do those people view us and yet we have rains and land? It turns out to be something else. They call it the name I have uttered although it is not parliamentary and I beg to withdraw it. We have got problems; problems of our own making here. We have got farmers who are producing a lot of milk but they cannot get their money because some other people have been given the leeway to misuse the farmers' money and they are left free because they are so big. These are the 'big stones' that cannot be turned. Rather than removing these people from manning this area, they promote and appoint them without the mandate of the farmers. That is very bad. Our farmers are aware of this. We have the tea industry. Farmers are crying because their money has been misused and the Minister cannot do anything. He only introduces other rules; rules that are punitive to

the farmers. This is very bad. We are demanding that tea farmers should be paid adequately. There is also a problem on liberalization of tea marketing. We want the farmers themselves to market their own tea and then they exchange their own dollars. We do not want somebody to sit here in Nairobi by the name of a managing director and start messing about with farmers' money because he is protected by a certain Minister.

We also need full liberalization of the coffee sector. If we have liberalized maize, petroleum and so on, why not coffee? It is said that the European Union gave this nation a lot of money for compensation on losses of coffee. Today, somebody must be sitting on that money. It is over KShs 4.2 billion and the farmers need to be paid this money now. We should say this. It is we, the Government, that is punishing our own farmers for our own selfish ends and this must stop; otherwise, we will ask the farmers to throw these people out come 1997 General Elections because they have really wronged them.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Wetangula: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this important Motion. I will start by congratulating the hon. Kirwa for being far-sighted in bringing such an important Motion. I hope the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing will not attempt to amend it to dilute it, because it is such an important Motion.

Farming is the bedrock of our economy in this country and every effort has to be made to encourage the farmer, to boost farming, to protect the farmer and to make sure that at every level, the farmer feels that he is as important as he ought to be in the mainstream of our economy in this country.

The question of fertilizer and agro-chemical importation is a matter that has been hitting the farmer most. We have abandoned importation and distribution of fertilizer to unscrupulous businessmen, mainly of Asian origin, who bring very sub-standard chemicals and their prime interest is the profit margin. They are not interested in the farmer or quality. All they need to do is to cut corners and make money. It is important, and it is necessary, for the Ministry of Co-operative Development to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing and see how to support the numerous co-operative societies run by farmers themselves that we have all over the country, so that they can be assisted with credit facilities to import fertilizers, other farm inputs, chemicals and so on and so forth. They will, in the process, be able to sell these commodities to the farmers at less profit than the unscrupulous businessmen who are controlling the farming sector in this country.

We also have something very important that hon. Kirwa has raised in his Motion, and this is credit facilities to farmers. We have various organs which ought to be giving credit to farmers. We have Agricultural Finance Company (AFC), Kenya Commercial Bank, the new project of IFAD, but these facilities are not properly co-ordinated. I know a farmer who has now spent more than five years attempting to get a loan from AFC. One wonders who AFC supports. Who does AFC give credit? How does AFC function if they are not extending credit facilities to the farmers? If organs like the AFC which have been set up to support farmers have turned into an elitist organisation where farmers queue day in, day out, and hours in hours-out trying to get credit, then how do we support the farmer? It is important that the Minister concerned with agriculture tells the House and the nation how they are going to streamline the functions of the AFC so that the farmer can benefit to the maximum level by way of credit. They should also improve the collection of loans that they have advanced to farmers so that this money can be recycled back to improve the farming sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have this important issue of tractor hire services. This project was introduced way back, I think, in the 60s or 70s, but it is no longer felt anywhere. We have areas with high farming potential like Western Province, parts of the Rift Valley Province and Central Province where land has been fragmented to the level where the usual ox-ploughing technics can no longer be viable because there is no land to graze these oxen. The only way the farmer can be assisted is by availing tractor hire services at strategic centres where farmers can go and hire tractors, plough their land and improve their farming. I will expect the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing when he replies to this Motion, to tell this House in very clear terms what their policy on tractor hire services in this country is, and where the services have collapsed, like in Bungoma, what efforts are being made to revive them.

We have also some small-scale co-operatives. I have in mind Kitinda Dairy in Bungoma. This dairy co-operative society started as a very important project. As I speak, I must, within the rules of the House, declare my interest in it, because I am one of the small scale farmers who have lost in this small dairy co-operative society. What is the Ministry doing to assist farmers who deliver milk every day to co-operative societies like this one and at the end of the month, after the milk has been sold, no payment is made to them? Yet, every time we ask Questions here, we are told that these societies are under proper management and that they have no problem, even though the farmer is suffering. Is it the problem with the Ministry? Is it a problem with the management, or where is the problem? This demoralisation of farmers is not going to help this country.

Now, every time the farmer is demoralised we have certain people in this country who are waiting in the

wings to import massive cereals and sugar to flood the market and demoralise the farmer even more. We also have the issue of cane farming and sugar production. Some two or three weeks ago, a certain hon. Member from Kisumu, I think it was hon. Omino, suggested on the Floor of this House that it is high time the Ministry gave sugar production in this country as much importance as it gives to tea and coffee production. Sugar production is very important for thousands and thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on it. Every time, we hear the Ministry talking about tea and sugar. Nobody mentions about sugar! What are we going to do about sugar farming and enormous importation of sugar? I am happy that last week we learned that importation of sugar had been suspended. But six months suspension is not enough. We want a clear policy on who should import sugar, when it should be imported, and how it should be imported, so that sugar factories can give data on specific periods when there would be a shortfall of sugar. Then importations can be done, probably, through the Kenya Sugar Authority or the factories themselves. If a third party is to import sugar, we want the process to be accountable and transparent, so that we do not have businessmen hovering on the high seas with sugar, waiting for an artificial shortage so as to rush in and flood the market. This kind of process is demoralising the farmer and killing the sugar industry in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have other important crops like cotton. God knows when the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing ever introduced or supported quality control in seed production and cotton! What now happens is that after harvesting his cotton, the farmer takes out the seed and then takes it back to the farm to plant. We cannot encourage the industry by leaving the farmer to suffer like that. To make it worse, now the cotton industry is being overrun by Indians who have moved into Nyanza and Western Provinces and are busy buying out all the ginneries, yet all these ginneries were previously owned and run by local farmers on co-operative basis. What is the Minister for Co-operative Development doing to support the co-operator to revamp the cotton co-operatives societies? We cannot surrender the economy of this country to people who are not patriotic to this country! This is because they will hold us at ransom when the hour of need comes. We need to have the economy of this country in the hands of our own people.

Maize importation is another nightmare in this country. This country ought to, and must, be a net exporter of maize. I do not understand why we have businessmen flooding our market with maize to the extent where this last harvest season, any farmer who produced maize cannot possibly make any cent out of it because the market is flooded with imported maize. To produce a bag of maize you spend an average of Kshs.1,000, while the market price for maize now is just about Kshs.500 to Kshs.600 a bag. How does the farmer grow maize, sell it to make money and grow maize again the following season? Something must be done. The Ministry concerned with Agriculture, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, must, if they want to adhere to the rules of liberalisation, make sure that anybody importing goods that are produced locally is charged duty to the extent where that commodity must be more expensive than what we produce locally, so as to support the farmer and make revenue for the Government. Unless we do this, our farming industry is steadily on the decline and this is a danger to this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important Motion. I want to tackle the issue of seed production in this country, which is the genesis of maize production. The Kenya Seed Company, which is the sole producer of seed in the country, is a very important organisation. Unfortunately, it has been thrown to the dogs! First its head, Mr. Tum, seems not to know what he is doing. He does not seem to know how much this country needs in terms of seed. He does not seem to know even where the seed goes and keeps on giving us false stories in the newspapers. There has been shortage of seed but nobody knows where seeds went. Suddenly, on 19.4.95 he announced reserve seeds had just arisen from somewhere!

I am not very sure why somebody should reserve seeds. Seeds were meant to be planted this year and there was no need of reserving any seeds. If anything more than enough seeds should be produced so that they can be used the following year. After all, maize seed does not go bad - you can keep it for up to four years without it going bad.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our problem is with the Managing Director of the Kenya Seed Company who also happens to be the chairman of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). This particular institute, that is KARI, is supposed to oversee how Kenya Seed Company produces seed. If the chairman of KARI is also the Managing Director of Kenya Seed Company, then who will check on who? How can you check on yourself? It is no wonder that because of the dual posts he has, the seeds that have been produced have been of the worst quality, especially in 1993, when maize production was very poor, because of seed that was of unknown origin. Because of this, I would request the Minister to liberalise production of seed. Kenya Seed Company does not perform any miracle other than collecting the mother-seed from KARI and then propagating it and, eventually, selling it. Secondly, there was a nucleus farm in Kitale where seed was carefully produced by KARI. These farms have been divided and given to the politically right people. This is self-mutilation and I wonder why the Government allows that sort of thing to happen.

I imagine that the present shortage of seed is due to people wanting to create an artificial shortage so that they

can import maize. This may be the reason why Mr. Tum and his Kenya Seed Company are not producing enough seeds. The farmers are suspecting that this seed that was announced as having been reserved somewhere and suddenly produced is just ordinary maize that somebody has come up with and bagged up as seed. Let us wait and see whether that seed will perform well. The reason for the suspicion is that when the farmers open the bags, they find that some maize has been crushed. Normally, seed is shelled by hand to make sure that the maize on the edges of the cob is not included in the seed and, therefore, there is no way the maize could be crushed. Since the farmers are finding crushed maize within the new seed that has been supplied, it means that somebody was using a maize sheller and he must have been shelling ordinary maize. I would not be surprised if this year's crop will be a failure due to poor seed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be liberalisation of seed production because other companies can go to KARI, plant seed as best as they can and sell it instead of leaving it to this organisation which is already a failure. The question of the seed getting to Uganda, as it has been alleged, is being done with the complicity of very big people who do not exclude the Managing Director of the Kenya Seed Company. The seed has to be taken to Uganda through very well organised groups. Later on, they import the maize from Uganda. Ugandans do not eat maize; they eat *matoke*. Therefore, they are given seed, they plant the maize and these big men go and take it and then bring it back to Kenya at a cheap price and flood the market. The reason, as you know, is this money mania, where people want to have a lot of money in order to buy others. I am calling upon Kenyans to shun any money given by any politician, including me. We call upon Kenyans not to accept people who buy others. Unfortunately, I am reliably informed that this practice has come even into this Parliament. Members of Parliament are induced to vote against certain Motions, like the amendment we had by hon. Michuki. I understand from very reliable sources that money changed hands. This is the beginning of sorrows. We shall buy ourselves to hell.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue which has been talked about is that of fertiliser. We ought to vet every fertiliser that comes into the country. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) ought to have a way of verifying that the amount of calcium, nitrogen and so on that are specified on those bags are actually contained in the fertiliser. Some people are importing even chalk and selling it to farmers as fertiliser. This results in very poor crops. Sometime back, farmers received chalk as fertiliser for their coffee farms and their coffee trees ended up drying up. I am glad that both KANU and Opposition Members are now fighting for the farmers, and I hope we keep this up.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mimi ninafurahi kuja hapa kutoa maoni yangu juu ya Hoja hii ambayo inatakiwa katika Kenya ya leo kwa sababu inazungumza juu ya habari ya chakula, kazi na namna watu watakavyolima. Wakati wa siasa ulimalizika na sasa tushughulike na taabu za wanadamu tulizonazo, nazo ni za sukari, mchele na hata mashamba. Mungu ambariki mhe. Mbunge aliyelea Hoja hii kwa sababu leo ninafurahi kuwa ndani ya Bunge na kuzungumza juu ya yale maneno ambayo wale walionichagua kupitia kura wanataka. Ninashukuru tena kwa sababu hata Wabunge wa Upinzani wameongea mambo ambayo wale waliotupigia kura wanataka kusikia, si ya siasa tu. Leo tunazungumza juu ya chakula, kazi, maji na hata namna ya kuleta chakula.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nafurahia yale Serikali inayofanya; mambo ya sukari yamesimama, na ninajua kwamba tumekutana mara nyingi huko Ramisi, Pwani, na Butere, Kakamega, kuzungumzia mambo ya sukari. Sisi watu wa Pwani tungetaka kujua ni kwa nini mtambo wetu wa sukari ulifungwa.

Kwa hivyo, sasa ingefaa watu wengi waende kulima kwa sababu idadi ya watu wetu imekuwa nyingi. Ni lazima tupate nafasi ya kuilima ardhi tulionayo ndani ya Kenya. Kwa sasa tunatumia theluthi moja ya ardhi yetu, na theluthi mbili hazijatumiwa. Hapo ndipo simba, ndovu na wanyama wengine huishi. Wakati umefika sasa ambapo ni lazima Wizara iwagawie watu wetu ardhi hiyo na pia ianzishe mipango ya kunyunyizia ardhi hiyo maji yaliyoko nchini badala ya kwenda kule baharini.

Mambo kama hayo, ndiyo watu wakiyasoma magazetini au wakiyasikia kwa radio, kwamba tunawatafutia chakula na kazi, ndiyo wanayoyataka. Maneno ya siasa nyingi, uhodari mwingi, kujua kwingi, wakati watu wetu wako na jaa na taabu, hayafai. Ni heri tulete mambo kama hayo.

Mr. Raila: His time is over!

An hon. Member: No, he has only had three minutes.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): No, no. I have not allowed you, hon. Raila. Continue, Mr. Nassir

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Anasema nini? Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mambo mazuri yakizungumziwa wafuasi wa Bw. Raila, watafurahi hasa kwa sababu wanakuza miwa zaidi. Wajaluo hufanya kazi nyingi mashambani na ni vizuri watafutuwe matingatinga.

Mr. Raila: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, sitaki kumkatiza rafiki yangu lakini nataka kumwambia kwamba

Wajaluo wanalima miwa kwa wingi zaidi. Lakini ukosefu unatokea kwa sababu ya sukari inayoingizwa nchini kutoka nje na marafiki zake, kama Bw. Bawazir na Bw. Divani. Hiyo sukari inawafanya Wajaluo wasiweze kupata soko la kuuza ile sukari ambayo wanapata.

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, sitaki kuwa wakili wa Bw. Bawazir, kwa sababu yeye alileta sukari wakati kulipokuwa na upungufu wa sukari ndani ya Kenya. Wakati huo hatukuwa na unga na vitu vingine na tulikuwa tukivinunua kutoka mahali pengine.

Mr. Shikuku: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ni haki kwa Mhe. Nassir kulipotosha Bunge hili kwamba Bw. Bawazir alileta sukari wakati tulipokuwa na shida ya kupata unga? Ukweli ni kwamba ameleta sukari wakati ambao sukari imejaa kule Mumias. Ingawa hakuna upungufu wa sukari, Bw. Bawazir ameleta sukari na mahindi kwa sababu anataka kuwauwa wakulima katika nchi hii. Mhe. Nassir ana haki kuja hapa kumtetea huyo Bw. Bawazir?

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mambo kama haya yalizungumzwa na Serikali ya KANU, na Mtukufu Rais mwenyewe akazuia importation of sugar. Toka wakati huo mpaka sasa hakujaletwa sukari tena. Kwa hivyo, hatuwaruhusu watu kufanya mambo kinyume cha sheria. Ikiwa kuna upungufu wa sukari, Mtukufu Rais hukimbia Ulaya kwenda kutafuta unga.

An hon. Member: Hakuna unga Ulaya!

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Kwa sababu kulikuwa na upungufu wa mahindi, alikwenda kuleta mahindi. Rais alifanya hisani wakati ule wa taabu kweli kweli. Na kwa hivyo, naomba, tukiwa hapa Bungeni tufanye kazi ya kuwatafutia chakula wale wenye taabu. Sisi, tuna magari na pia wengine wetu wana swimming pools nyumbani, na mabibi wawili. Lakini wale wanaotupatia kura katika Kenya, hawataki tena siasa. Ninataka tuwatafutie kazi na mambo ya kunyunyizia mashamba yao maji. Ninampongeza yule mhe. Mbunge ambaye alileta Hoja hii hapa. Pia ningetaka Wabunge wa Upinzani waleta Hoja kama hizi ili tuziunge mkono ile tuweze kuwasaidia wananchi.

Wananchi wana taabu. Furaha yetu ni kilio cha wananchi. Sisi tumekuwa wale watoto wa shule ambao huwatumia vyura mawe. Wanasema kwamba wanawaua vyura kwa kuwatupia mawe na sisi tunateta. Hii siasa yetu nyingi katika Kenya haitamsaidia Mwanakenya. Sisi katika Bunge hili ni lazima tutafute njia ya kuwasaidia hawa watu. Mtambo wa sukari wa Ramisi ulifungwa. Ningetaka marafiki zangu kama mhe. Shikuku na mhe. Raila waulize ni kwa nini huko Pwani mtambo wa sukari umefungwa. Pia ningetaka watu wengine wafanye kama hivyo.

Ahsante, Bw. Naibu Spika Wa Muda.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Maundu): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make a number of comments on matters raised by hon. Members in this House. This Motion is very important and the Government has looked at it in totality and agrees that it is a Motion that should be supported.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issues that have been raised by various hon. Members who have contributed to this Motion are pertinent to agricultural promotion in this country, and I would like to address just a few areas where Members have raised a lot of concern.

I know, perhaps, you would have wished to see the Minister make his comments on this Motion from a high profile point of view, but I will tell you that the points that I am going to make will go some way to satisfy some of the issues that hon. Members have raised. We have considered the system with regard to the procurement of fertilizers and farm inputs and we have found that there are areas that need strengthening. There are areas that have been left at the mercy of profiteers or people who have no interest of the farmers at heart and, therefore, the Ministry has undertaken as its duty to strengthen technical bodies that vet inputs and products that are imported into this country so that these products are in agreement with our local requirements and go a long way to enhance agricultural production in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the bodies that is charged with the vetting the checking of standards of goods is the Kenya Bureau of Standard. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing in conjunction with the Kenya Bureau of Standards is now in the forefront to make sure that products that are sub-standard are not allowed in the country. We are more vigilant than ever before, in view of the fact that hon. Members, and Kenyans at large, have complained bitterly about sub-standard products in this country. Therefore, the Ministry, together with the other bodies, like, as I have said, the Kenya Bureau of Standard, the Pesticide Control

Board and the Customs Department, are working very closely to make sure that any loopholes that were there are filled to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned, farmers and Kenyans at large.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a big problem with regard to inputs that are needed by the farmers because, first and foremost, we must create a situation where the consumers or the users of those inputs are well informed of what the requirements are, and the role of the Ministry in this area would be to look into this area to make sure that imports, particularly the fertilizers and chemicals that are brought into this country are properly vetted and they would be used to the greater good of the farmers. Related to this area, there has been the issue of pricing which was raised by one of the hon. Member here. Pricing of inputs, fertilizers, chemicals and machinery has been slightly a problem but the Government is looking at this issue to make sure that this problem is solved once and for all.

To do this, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has considered a number of options. One of them is, of course, to create greater consumer awareness; to encourage consumers to participate in the importation of their own inputs; to encourage farmers to participate in the overall system and to create a pool where farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing and other related Ministries could sit down and work out a formula of how they are going to tackle the issue.

Most of the inputs have been coming into this country through co-operative societies. The Ministry is looking into that area to strengthen co-operative societies. We have even looked into a situation where, if farmers feel that a limited company is more viable than a co-operative society, they can move into that area and pull their resources together if they have the capacity to import their own inputs without having middlemen and bureaucracy that will hinder the procurement of these products.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will realise that because of the liberalisation process, we had not put in place sufficient infrastructure to enable the farmer to participate fully within a liberalised market. Currently, we are holding various seminars with farmers and other people involved in the agricultural sector, to inform them of the developments that the Ministry is undertaking to make sure that they get the best out of farming.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to touch on a very sensitive issue over which hon. Members have raised a lot of concern. This is the question of the co-ordination of the importation of maize into this country. This issue has been raised in many ways by way of Questions and Motions, and Members have commented very strongly on the importation of maize in this country. I know, and the Ministry is also aware, that this issue has raised a lot of concern, more particularly, to farmers especially at this time when we are going to have a bumper harvest. That is why the Ministry took immediate action to forestall any further importation of maize into this country to make sure that we are not going to have a situation where we are going to have excess maize importation into this country. The Ministry has, therefore, taken a number of steps to make sure that importations are at the minimum levels. There have been some controversial importations of goods into this country but now the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, are working very closely to make sure that any goods that are imported into this country are properly taxed. The anti-dumping tax, together with the variable duty will be applied very strictly to make sure that no goods will come to this country by way of dumping to destroy what our people have produced. I know that we have had problems with the application of the anti-dumping tax, and we going to ensure that this area is looked into in greater detail. A select committee has now been put in place to make sure that all goods that come into this country are properly taxed, so as to make sure that they do not become competitors with locally produced goods, and more particularly maize.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also vetting Non-Governmental Organizations that import some of these commodities. We are encouraging them to buy most of these commodities in the country so that we do not have a problem of excess capacity which is imported, and which also will be a potential competitor with the locally produced maize. So, NGOs in this area have been asked, as far as possible, to make sure that they procure some of their requirements locally.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have set up an early monitoring to advise farmers well in advance about either excess capacity locally or inadequate capacity locally so that if there any importations to be made they will be made in a co-ordinated manner.

We have also set up a system within the National Cereals and Produce Board so that where we have an excess importation of famine relief it is allowed to re-exported or where NGOs have brought excess capacity, we can allow re-exportation of this excess capacity so that it does not become a potential competitor with the production within the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that the issue of credit to farmers has been a big problem. Farmers in this country, as hon. Members have stated, have not had adequate facilities to finance their agricultural requirements. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing has taken certain measures to make sure that agriculture in this country is well financed. We have encouraged banks to increase their capacity to 20 per cent to support the agricultural sector. We have talked to non-banking institutions or finance houses to increase

their capacity from 10 to 15 per cent to the agricultural sector and we think that this is going to assist the farmers in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other very sensitive issue relates to the Agricultural Finance Corporation which has been the main supporter of the farming industry in this country. This organization is now being streamlined to make sure that we establish an Agricultural Development Bank for the farmers, so that its policies are co-ordinated for the benefit of the farmers. Todate, I regret to say that financing to the farmers has dropped from 80 per cent per hectare to about 35 per cent per hectare. Therefore, you will find that farmers are now resorting to means that are not altogether within the agricultural purpose. We are saying that this particular capacity must be filled in. That is why we are encouraging banks and financial institutions to fill in this particular big gap that has been left.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead the House by saying that banks can play a significant role in the lending of money to farmers when he knows very well that the bank rates are very high and that since farmers are unable to sell their produce, they cannot dare to get money from the bank? Is he in order to mislead the House?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Maundu): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member seems to be the only odd man out who does not know what is happening within the banking sector. You have read in the newspapers that the banking rates are coming down, and I think they will be available to farmers. We are encouraging the banks to participate a lot more and to consider the agricultural sector for financing.

Mr. Omino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister seems to be persistent in his endeavours to mislead this House. The basic rates have gone down but the lending rates are, in fact, at the high 20s and no farmer in this country can afford to borrow at those rates.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Maundu): We agree that the basic rates have come down but it is on the basis of appraisal. If a farmer is viable enough, he will get a good rate. Of course, farming as an industry must be taken seriously. There are farmers who cannot afford to borrow at those rates but I also know that my hon. friend, Mr. Omino, will be able to procure lending from the banks because he is a viable person. He has not problem with that. He is a fish farmer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, There have been questions as to whether circumstances are difficult for the farmers. They could be cushioned in certain ways by establishing a loan guarantee system where the farmer, in the event that he cannot produce because of adverse weather or any other circumstances, is well catered for, to make sure that he does not run into any big losses

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the restructuring of AFC is at a very advanced stage. As I have mentioned, we are soon going to have a subsidiary bank so that farmers can borrow money. We will minimise the bureaucracy within the AFC. We will also make sure that the AFC and its lending policies are clear. It is not on the basis of who is who, or it is not politically motivated to make sure that certain farmers do not get credit from the AFC. We would also like to see the AFC having its own autonomy so that there is a clear policy between the Government and AFC so that AFC in its lending and performance to the farmer, so that it has its own autonomy and is not influenced more by involvement or there is no bureaucracy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like now to come to the improvement of the Tractor Hire Services. This is an area that I must say regret has not performed to its expectation. The matters raised by the hon. Members are genuine. I am sorry to say that agricultural machinery services have been deteriorating, and we have not had any particular improvement todate. Nevertheless, the Government is considering establishing and equipping the Agricultural Mechanisation Service Stations (AMSS) that we have all over the country to make sure that now they are viable. There are areas like Bungoma which hon. Wetangula has mentioned. Areas of high potential will be considered for priority and they will be given such support as is necessary. In a liberalised economy like we have now, we cannot guarantee that the agricultural machinery Services will be extended in over the country. We are encouraging farmers, individuals and business people to chip in because we consider this as a multi-viable area within the agricultural sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had problems of staffing within the AMSS in the country and the Government is doing what it can to make sure that the staffing within these areas is improved. We are also trying to encourage good farming within the arid and semi arid land areas and here we have a case, particularly in Taita-Taveta, areas in Eastern Province and North Eastern where we intend to establish AMSS so that farmers in those areas could also benefit from this particular service.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned, we are encouraging people to make use of these facilities. We are establishing a Revolving Fund for the AMSS so that we do not have to come all the way to Nairobi, or even to the Province, to procure the services of this machinery. We want these services to be available at the local

stations. We will even continue to establish sub-stations where farmers can acquire this equipment. The Ministry is considering equipping most of the stations with tractors, but I can assure you that this is not going to be sufficient, and the Ministry considers that farmers should organise themselves, as I have mentioned before, by way of forming viable companies or co-operative societies that can borrow money from the AFC or from banks, as I have mentioned, to establish their own machinery centres for their own purposes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I would like to say that the contributions that hon. Members have made today will go a long way to streamline the system in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing. We have aired a few comments that almost sounded personal to the person of the Minister, and I would like to say that every effort is being made, to make sure that all the services, particularly to the farmers, are given the highest priority. The Ministry is doing everything. We know this issue is sensitive because agriculture is the backbone of this economy, and all hon. Members here are basically agricultural people, and they represent ordinary citizens who are farmers, and your concerns are most genuine, much as I have noticed that some of the criticisms seem to have gone over-board. We have done quite a lot to make sure that the Ministry is fully sensitised to the needs of Kenyans, and I can assure you that the Ministry is going to do its best to make sure that Kenyans are satisfied at all levels, and that come 1997, they will consider that KANU is the most viable Government that, of course, can deliver to the people.

One of the issues that was raised by one of the hon. Members, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi is the one on seeds. This issue of seeds is becoming a bit sensitive. It was raised in this House by way of a Question last week, and it was answered, but we are doing everything to make sure that there is control; that we have sufficient seeds in the country, and that the sort of situation where, of course, there has been exploitation or siphoning of seeds out of this country, which is unauthorised, does not happen any more.

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

Mr. Kirwa: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me this opportunity to reply to this particular Motion. In my reply, I wish to thank all the hon. Members who have contributed to this Motion, and for the able manner in which they delivered the information to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing. I would also like to thank the Ministry for having looked at the Motion with a more serious mind, and thereby allowing it to go as it is. It is not a Motion that raises concern only to the farmers, but to the entire economy of this nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, once I have said that, I would like the Ministry, in as much as it is trying to exonerate itself from the many evils that have been levelled against it by the society as far as agriculture is concerned, to take up its responsibility, knowing very well that the responsibility bestowed upon it is done on behalf of all Kenyans, and desist from their policy of hand-to-mouth. What I mean by this particular policy is that the Ministry should not just be suspending importation of various commodities at a particular period without giving a long-term solution to the issue of importation, *vis-a-vis* the production of that commodity in this nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very clear that the Ministry, for the last two years, has been giving assurance to farmers - both maize and wheat farmers and also sugarcane growers- that they are going to make everything possible to ensure that importation does not cripple internal production. While they have said this all along, it has not been the practice in this particular Ministry, because it has only been acting on various levels of crisis. It is only at the time that there is a crisis that the Minister will come out and say, "We have suspended sugar importation or maize importation for the next six months, and we have suspended wheat importation for the next six months". That is not the solution to this issue. The solution is to have long-term policies, where we are saying importation is only going to be allowed to take care of a deficit that has been created because of lack of production to the levels of consumption. That is the issue. It is not the issue of monitoring and after a very short period, you say you are suspending production, and later on you start lifting suspension of the same. This is not the issue. The issue is for us to have a long term policy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second point that I would like to make is that there is total failure of institutions that are supposed to take care of farmers. We may lay blame on the AFC or the various money lending institutions to farmers, but the issue from the word "go" is that there is failure of the Kenya Bureau of Standards. What is the responsibility of this institution if it cannot make sure that the standard of goods manufactured in this country tallies with the standard of the same goods manufactured in other countries? What is the responsibility of lending institutions? Why does the Government have to set up other institutions if the existing ones are doing nothing to assist the farmers? If these institutions do not live to the expectations of farmers, the question of setting up other institutions should not arise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, the co-operative unions have failed to deliver the goods and services to the farmers, and setting up other co-operative unions is not going to assist the farmers. The Government should ask itself why the AFC cannot provide the services required by the farmers instead of telling us that they want to start a farmers'

bank. What is going to be the difference if the same man in the AFC is going to man the new farmers' bank? Will this not be a matter of shifting the office and giving it a new name? If the same conditions are going to prevail, what really is going to be the difference? The Minister has told us that the banks have been asked to lower interests on borrowed money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we are talking now, the AFC, which is supposed to be the cheapest lending institution, is still lending money at a rate of 20 per cent which is too high an interest to a farmer if he happens to be lucky to get the money in the first place.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Marketing and Development (Mr. Maundu): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Perhaps the hon. Member did not hear what I said. I said that the Government will consider giving funds to the AFC to give loans to the farmers at a subsidized interest rate. That, of course, will assist the farmers.

Mr. Kirwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of establishing a farmers bank has been in the news for the last two years since the Assistant Minister was appointed in that Ministry. If it is now going to be in the news that money is available at the AFC and that the AFC is going to lend that money to farmers at a subsidized interest rate, and the debate will continue for another two years; by the time the money reaches the farmers, then the entire agricultural sector will have collapsed. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am complaining about is the high interest rate at which the AFC is lending money to those farmers who are lucky enough to get it. As we are talking now, planting season is coming to a close, and yet no farmers in my district have been given loans by the AFC for planting. I appreciate that the AFC may not be to blame. I am saying this because the mistake lies with the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing. Last year, they made a pledge to the AFC to give land purchase and development money to farmers to take care of the crisis that had been created. On that understanding, AFC lent a lot of money to the farmers to the tune of Kshs.1 billion, only for the Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing and Finance to fail to reimburse the AFC that money. Worse still, the Cereals Board has not paid farmers money for the maize they have delivered and, therefore, farmers have no money to repay their loans with AFC, and this is why they cannot get any more credit from the AFC.

While all this is happening, the Assistant Minister stands here and gives us assurances which he cannot fulfil. I doubt whether he is sure of what he is saying.

Having said that, I would like to say that we should not, as a Government, look only at the domestic market but, instead, we should also gear our minds towards the external market. The best way in which to do this is to think of reduction measures towards the cost of production. One way of doing this is for the Government to consider, as a matter of priority, reducing tax on diesel fuel. I am saying this because the major problem that hiked the prices of petroleum products in this country is the tax component. For every litre of diesel one buys, more than 52 per cent of the money raised, goes into tax. If the Government really wants to assist the farmers, they must think of reducing the price of diesel by reducing the tax component to something like 30 per cent. So, the lowering of the tax will go a long way in lowering the price of diesel, something which would benefit the farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other point that is very important is for the Minister to implement as a matter of urgency, what he has pledged to this House. He has talked about encouraging co-operatives, but he should vigorously pursue a policy where various co-operative movements are going to be given credit facilities and bank guarantees for them to be able to import fertilizers from various organizations abroad. Due to the discount offered in bulk importation, this is going to assist farmers because it is going to be translated into reduction of unit areas of production. As we are talking now, it is not possible for Kenyans to export their maize because the world price of maize is still Kshs.630 per bag without considering the cost of exportation. Today, we know that the cost of production of one bag of maize ranges between Kshs.800 to Kshs.900. Therefore, if you are going to export maize at a cost of Kshs.630 per bag, you are going to lose from Kshs.270 to Kshs.370 per bag of maize that you export. So, it is not possible for our farmers to export maize until we consider all the components of production.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

QUORUM

Mr. Obure: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We do not have a quorum in the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): It is true we do not have a quorum in the House. Would you, please, ring the Division Bell?

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order! We have a quorum now. Can you move your Motion, hon. Anyona?

COMPLETION OF ROAD C21

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:- THAT, in view of the importance of the Kisii-Ting'a-Kebirigo-Ikonge-Chemosit Road (C21) to the development of agriculture and business in Kisii, Nyamira and Kericho Districts, and since the road has stalled for a long time since 1965 due to shortage of funds, this House urges the Government to allocate sufficient funds in the 1995/96 Financial Year for the completion of the road.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a sense of gratitude for being here to move this Motion today because among other things that are of historical significance about this Motion is that it is on a similar Motion - in fact, exactly the same Motion - worded in Kiswahili that I ended my political career on 29th April, 1977. On that day, I had arisen to move this Motion, but there was an orchestrated campaign not to have a quorum in the House because a decision had been made that I would be detained in the following week. So, in fact, as soon as I stood to move the Motion, someone was organised to stand up and say there was no quorum. So, after there was no quorum, the House was adjourned and that was the last time I was ever in this House. I am grateful that after 18 years, I am able to come back to this House and move exactly the same Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is important to give hon. Members and the House some background about this particular project, the Kisii-Chemosit road. This road surpasses Kisii-Nyamira and Kericho Districts. The road is 66.6 km between Kisii town and Chemosit in Kericho District. The road serves other neighbouring areas like Bomet, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kuria and so on. Those are all very important areas in very potential agricultural enterprises.

The greater part of this road goes through Nyamira District which does not have a single inch of tarmac road. This is one of the most potentially important agricultural districts in this country and yet it does not have a single tarmac road. The road has one main bridge which was built in 1908 by the colonial settlers and it has not been maintained for many years. In fact, it is a great hazard at the moment to the travelling public.

The agricultural potential of this area includes a wide range of agricultural activities, including crop and livestock farming. The major agricultural activities include food and cash crops like beans, bananas, millet, and so on.

The cash crops include coffee, tea, pyrethrum, passion fruits and so on. There is also great potential in this area for the production of groundnuts, sugarcane, wheat and so on. The livestock farming industry includes fish, dairy farming, poultry, goats, bees and so on. In this area, there are three major tea factories, six coffee societies, 18 coffee factories and 36 pyrethrum societies that are served by this particular road.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, 97 per cent of the land is arable. So, you can see there is great potential of production. Out of that, 833 square kilometres constitute of small-scale sectors. Now, this is where the bulk of Kenyans are, and so this is an area that is predominantly concerned about the ordinary Kenyans. The distribution of activities in this area is as follows: coffee occupies 30 per cent; pyrethrum 30 per cent; bananas 50 per cent and tea 75 per cent. Now, in the business/commerce sector, we have many market centres which are important for retail and wholesale of farm produce. There is also a very big sector of Jua Kali enterprise which also requires the services of good roads. There are also cottage industries that are coming up. There is an active collection and distribution network of goods in the area. There is a vibrant matatu business and transport service in the area. The area is at the moment totally without any banking or insurance facilities and business cannot move into that area because there is no roads communication.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the socio-economic infrastructure includes education facilities and health facilities which cannot be served due to lack of efficient road network. Now, the road network in the area consists of 473 km, and out of that there is not a single tarmac road in the whole area. The classified roads in the area are in poor condition and are even impassable during the rainy seasons. The access roads which go to buying centres, co-operative societies, coffee factories, market centres and so on are poor and impassable.

Now, Sir, having given the background to this particular project, let me now give the House the history. This road (C21) has been on the drawing board since 1960. That is when it was supposed to be constructed and completed.

Some official records in Government show that the road is actually tarmacked and completed. What a fallacy! The first phase of this roads started in the 60s. People gave their land for which they were never compensated to allow this road to be constructed. That phase stalled. The second phase started in the early 70s and it started from Kisii town to Kebirigo, which is in Nyamira District. It was constructed up to ground level, but it stalled once more.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a third phase of this project started in 1986 and at that time the road started from Kisii town towards Chemosit and had gone as far as Kebirigo. Now, for some strange reason, it was changed so that the third phase started from Chemosit rather than from Kisii town. Now, the history is very simple. The political map had changed and the Minister in charge of that particular Ministry came from that part of the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if he can deny that I cannot understand why. In any case, the important thing is that the road either way should be completed. Now, what is very strange is that the contract was awarded to Solel Boneh International against professional advice and no wonder the contract was supposed to cost Kshs 146 million at that time. No wonder the cost of the contract was irregularly granted. The project stalled in 1987 but all the same, the contractor, in spite of the fact that he had failed to complete the project, was paid Kshs 26 million for work not done. After that, the fourth phase started in 1988. This time again, against professional advice, the tender, which was awarded to Zakhem International, was not the lowest. The lowest bidder was a company called Putt Sarajevo and the difference between the lowest bidder and Zakem was Kshs 50 million. So, the country lost Kshs.50 million because of irregularities in the award of tenders and no wonder, therefore, that the project has been stalling. Once more, the project stalled in January, 1992, after completion of only about 20 kilometers between Chemosit and Ikonge Market. Now, it stalled because the contractor did not have adequate equipment and plan. Now, again this contractor was paid Kshs.46 million without doing any work at all, or having done very little work. So, you can see, as I have been saying here, there is a persistent conspiracy by certain forces. I do happen to know, and it did happen, that in the latter case, it was the then District Commissioner (DC) of Kisii at that time, who was interested in this contract. He was the one who manipulated the tender and that is how this person got this particular award. If the Minister is interested in the name of the DC, he was called Mbaria Maina.

There have been many broken promises made by the Ministry in this House and outside. Now, I know that there is this rule in this House that an hon. Member other than a Minister is not allowed to use a statement by the President to argue their case but the fact of the matter is that this Government, leave alone the previous one, even as recently as when the President visited Nyamira last year, did direct that this project be completed. Nothing has happened so far. We from that part of the country are wondering whether this is a lip service. After all these many years, why should it expect any persuasion to get this road completed? In this House alone and as recently as last year, I brought a Question about this road here. First of all, the gracious Lady, my hon. friend Nyiva Mwendwa, many times has answered this Question and made very sound promises. I am not saying that she was misleading the House but it goes to show that there is something wrong with this particular project. I would like to quote the Minister himself. When I raised this Question about various sections connected with this road, the answer I got from the Minister on the 20th July, 1993, was:-

"Kemeru-Nyaviato-Ting'a Road is part of Kisii-Chemosit Road. The Road is long, 66.6 Kilometers which is under contract for construction to bitumen standard."

I then raised an objection and in answer to that objection the Minister went on to say:-

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is talking about what the DDC did in June this year, which is just the other day. Now, in my case, the prioritization of Kisii-Chemosit Road does not arise as this road has already been given out under contract to be constructed up to bitumen standard. So, I cannot give the House an answer which is going to reduce the standard of the road from bitumen to gravel"

When I further challenged him, he went on to say:-

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that we have given out a contract in respect of Kisii-Chemosit Road. I know there are some problems but I am just as interested as the hon. Member is in seeing that the road is improved because it passes through my constituency..."

He goes on and on. That is one promise that has been made. The other promise that has been made is that the Nyamira DDC Min.4/93 says this:-

"After serious discussions it was the DDC's recommendation that donors should be identified to provide funds for improvement of the following key roads to bitumen standard. Kisii-Chemosit..."

What I am saying, therefore, is that many promises have been made about this road and nothing has been done. They are broken promises. The Kisii people, the people of this area, are extremely frustrated because they get promises which are never fulfilled. I hope today we shall not have yet one other promise that is going to be broken. We would rather have no promises than have broken promises. This road is actually totally impassable. I have just said that Kimera-Nyavioto-Nyaikuro Road, which in the heart of my constituency is totally impassable. The Minister said:-

" I am aware that the road is impassable between Kimera and Nyavioto but the rest of the section is motorable".

That is not correct. The point is that, that part of the road, which is about 20 kilometers, was cut off ten years ago. So, for the last ten years, that road is totally out of use. I am, therefore saying that we, in this part of the country, given the background I have given of the area, deserve one good road, and that road is this Kisii-Chemosit Road. We would like to forget the past history of this road as we are pleading with the Government that this time round, we should have this road done. We have said this before.

(Hon. Nyachae walked in)

I was even in a meeting on Sunday at Kimera where this road is cut off, and the people of Kisii and Nyamira have decided that if there is no road, come 1997 or whenever snap elections take place, as far as we are concerned, no Kisii-Chemosit road means no votes for this Government. Security is a different story, but that is a resolution that Kisii people have made. I would like to say, and I am very glad that hon. Nyachae has just come in, in this matter, we as leaders of the Gusii community are totally united. That road is a priority number one project in Kisii and Nyamira. I am just watching to see who of our leaders are here today to stand up and be counted, so that the Government can know that as far as this Road is concerned, or as far as development is concerned, there is no KANU or Opposition among the Abagusii. It is merely a facility that we require as a community, which is also good for the economy of this nation.

Before I conclude, I would like to say something very briefly about this minor bridge.

As I said, the minor bridge was built in 1908 by white settlers but after they left, the bridge has never been maintained. This road poses a serious danger to motorists and other users. The Akamba Public Road Services Company is the only one whose buses use this route to Nyamira. However, because of the condition of this bridge this company has even suspended its services to Nyamira. So, you can see that we have no other bus services because the bridge is impassable. This means that we cannot travel. As we have been saying, it is no good crying over spilled milk. When people died in the Ngai Ndethya Bridge and when the Likoni ferry sunk, we cried. But what use was our crying? Why do we not do something before catastrophes strike?

I would like to conclude by passionately appealing to this Government that - and they should take this seriously - this road should be included in this financial year.

With those remarks I beg to move. Hon. Omino will second the Motion.

Mr. Omino: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have three points that I wish to make in seconding this very important Motion. Firstly, in his 1993/94 and 1994/95 Budget speeches the Minister for Finance assured this House and the nation that the Government would spend its money on completing uncompleted projects. On that score, this road qualifies; the fact is that it has not been done goes to show that, in fact, that was only hot air.

Secondly, we instal infrastructure to serve people. Now, Kisii/Nyamira is one of the most densely populated places in this country and yet here we are in 1995 talking about constructing the only tarmac road in Nyamira and to improve on a bridge that was built by the colonialists in 1908. One might as well ask, how can we tell the people that they have a Government that cares for them more than the colonial Government did?

Thirdly, we are, or we are told that we are, an agricultural country and yet I cannot think of any part of this country that is more agricultural than Kisii, Nyamira or Kericho! These places produce agricultural products for the market and yet we have not given them a road for transportation of their produce to the market. So, is it a wonder then that we cannot feed ourselves although we call ourselves an agricultural nation? Is the reason far to seek? No, it is not! This is because agricultural produce goes rotting in Nyamira, Kisii and in certain parts of Kericho. This is a statement of fact. If we are serious, as a nation, about our agriculture, ability to feed ourselves and exports, let us put our money where mouths are. I support this Motion and I am prepared to vote for it, in fact, even if a project that was to be done elsewhere, including in my constituency, was to suffer because I think it is about high time we took agriculture seriously.

Earlier on, I talked about uncompleted projects and the entire landscape of this country is littered with uncompleted projects. Even Nyamira, Vihiga and Makueni district headquarters have been left uncompleted and so have been the provincial headquarters in Kisumu. So, what are we saying about our development if all that we are doing is to start projects in order to raise the hopes and aspirations of our people and then dash them? As hon. Anyona indicated, half the money that was voted for this project has already been paid but not half the project has been done. So, taking inflation into account, we are going to be asked to vote for it more money than was required when the project was first initiated. And that money comes from the voter, who is also the taxpayer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say this, that implementation of projects cannot, and must not, be used for vote catching. Vote catching must come as a result of sound and implementable policies. But if policies cannot be implemented, then the party concerned gets no votes. When we were debating introduction of the road maintenance levy there was not a single dissenting voice in this House! Why was it so? This was because every hon. Member wants some kind of road built or maintained in his constituency. I even advised the Minister that he should

leave out the ceiling of the levy so that he could put in rules and change them as and when the need arises. This is because Kenyans will not complain if they are taxed to provide them with services that they require and, indeed, deserve.

Even if this road is not for maintenance it deserves the use of that levy because it will make a difference not only to the people of Kisii, Nyamira and Kericho Districts but also to those of the neighbouring districts of Homa Bay, Kisumu, Bomet and Migori. This is because trade in those areas is interlinked and the people also inter-marry. I would want to believe that if I am going to marry hon. Anyona's sister, I will be able to reach his place without any trouble.

An Hon. Member: But you are already married!

Mr. Omino: Well I can marry two wives!

It is a crying shame that, firstly, on every occasion that this road has been tendered for, there has been something fishy in the award of the tender! When you talk about a whooping Kshs.50 million difference in the lowest and second lowest tenderer, and still you award the tender to still a more expensive tenderer, you ask yourself: "When will *chai* ever end so that the people can get the service they deserve?" This is a straightforward case of corruption! Corruption has gone on to the extent that hon. Obwocha proved in this House that in the official road map of Kenya, this road is indicated as having been tarmacked. In the official road map of Kenya Kisii-Chemosit Road is indicated as having been tarmacked. So, we have gone from corruption in the awarding of tenders, to corrupting official documents in order to prove that the money that we have spent has not been "eaten".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion as it is and if the Minister for Public Works and Housing includes an item in their budget which caters for this road, they can be sure of my support and that of all the hon. Members from Nyanza irrespective of their parties. When it comes to matters of development, we, in Nyanza, speak the same language. When we have intruders from Samburu or Laikipia, then we speak a different language. I think the essence of this Motion is not so much in criticising the Government as in wanting what has been promised, and what commitment has been made to be fulfilled. It should be fulfilled, not for the sake of KANU or any other party, but for the sake of this nation so that we can be seen and appreciated as a nation which makes a promise, keeps its word and, therefore, a nation that is worth respecting in the world.

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

(Question Proposed)

Mr. Nthenge: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am very happy to support this Motion because it is the duty of the Government to make the farmer and the ordinary person do his work well. We, as leaders of the nation, have a duty to make things easy for the others. Kisii and Nyamira are among the most fertile areas of Kenya. They can produce many things, but if they cannot produce these products, they go to waste. When this happens, it is not just these producers who have lost, but the whole nation because they would have fed us, and even created jobs for transporters and retailers of these products. So, the nation loses by not having a road. The existence of this road has been accepted by the Government. The problem is that the road is not good enough. I would like the Minister of Public Works and Housing and his entire Ministry not to look at this Motion as "hon. Anyona's Motion" or anybody else's. They should look at it as a Motion for Kenya. What does Kenya gain out of this road? Kenya gains employment because many people will be employed. The first beneficiary is the person who tills the land because he will get a job. Instead of begging or stealing from other people, he will have some job to do because he will be sure of selling what he produces. The second people to benefit are the transporters. Therefore, the "turn-boys", the drivers and owners of transport vehicles will get business from the farmers whose products they will have to transport to the markets. The other beneficiaries are wholesalers of foodstuffs. For example, if somebody runs a shop, he naturally employs shop attendants to sell bananas, vegetables and other products from Kisii and Nyamira districts.

How does the Government gain? We gain by taxing all these people, starting from the farmers to the shop owners. The Government gets richer and as a result, it provides better services. So when hon. Sagini or hon. Nthenge gets into some problem on the road, he will get good services from a nearby hospital because the Government is in a position to provide such services. If the Government is poor, good hospitals and good doctors will not be available. If somebody steals from me and I report such an incident to the police, when the police tell me they do not have petrol, that shows that the Government is not helping Nthenge because it is a poor Government. We must always look at a Motion with a totality of purpose, with particular reference to what the nation gains from it. There are Motions which I call cheap because they are very individualistic. But when something is national in outlook, we must think deeper about it. Now, this road that hon. Anyona is talking about links the rest of Kenya to Kisii and Nyamira because when you are in Nairobi, to reach Kisii, you have to go through Nakuru, Kericho and, eventually,

Kisii. Therefore, this is a linking road and not just a road for Nyamira or Kisii; it is a road for Kenya.

Therefore, I would like the Ministry to be very serious in considering it. All that the hon. Mover is asking is that provision be made so that by 1996, there is money to make that road better for the good of everybody. This will improve our economy by boosting farming and also tourism. Local tourism sometimes fails because of bad roads. Hon. Nyachae will invite me, the Vice-President and, may be, hon. Masinde to his place. Because of good roads, we will not find it difficult to go there, and when we go there, we will go along with our supporters and drivers. That way, they will trade, and will then become local tourists for Nyamira and Kisii. If the roads are very bad, it is as if you are telling people: "do not move around. Please, do not move around". The more you do not move around, the more you do not generate or get involved in economic exercises. I would, therefore, like the Ministry to look at this issue very seriously and open its eyes and see that this is for the benefit of everybody. This is because whenever the Government benefits, we all benefit because we belong to the same Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty in this country has been caused by simple things like too much individualism. We forget that we all belong to one nation. The other problem we have is idleness. Everybody wants to look like hon. Nyachae. If Nyachae is a Permanent Secretary, he has to go to his office with a collar, but if I am not a Permanent Secretary, I can go and till the land and produce 100 bags of maize, or even a lot of tomatoes. That way, I will also be as important to the nation as hon. Nyachae. Nobody should refuse to do any job because he/she feels that it is below him. There is no job which is below a person. When I went to high school in the 1940s, we were looked at as very learned. By then, I was with hon. Sagini. English was known by very few Africans, so we looked very learned. But immediately I came to this City, do you know what I started doing? I started dealing in handicrafts and I was doing every kind of job. People were saying: "we understand you have been to high school. How is it that you can do this job?" But I said that so long as I have got hands, I can do any job that anybody with hands can do. It is the other person who may not have my knowledge who cannot do what I can do. So when they used to ask me to write letters for them for their promotion and so forth, I used to write them for them because I had the two abilities. I am saying that we will be encouraging the ordinary person to work, to till, and even do all sorts of jobs in Kisii and Nyamira in order to produce a lot. With such a road available, the people will not feel the necessity to look for white collar jobs because they will be doing very well in their farming and if they produce tomatoes, bananas and so forth, and make enough money, one day, on a Sunday, they can dress well enough to look like a Permanent Secretary.

Once you have the money, there is no problem because you can do anything. During the day when the farmer is not in his farm, nobody one can be able to differentiate between him, Prof. Saitoti, hon. Nyachae and hon. Nthenge. Although he only tills his land, there is no difference between him and the hon. Members. The point I am trying to raise is that the road is not meant for an hon. Member to get a credit for it, because it is the nation which is gaining. It is very wrong for the Government not to encourage those who have turned to farming by failing to assist them market their produce easily. So, I am supporting this Motion wholly and I am ready to support construction or repair of any road. I would like the Ministry of Works and Housing as a whole to look at roads as a source of wealth to the nation. I am sure even when the donors visit Kenya, they are interested in seeing how much money they have so far invested. They do not look at our individual bank balances. We may have billions of shillings stashed away in local and foreign banks, but that is not going to be checked by the donors or investors. They will want to see the national wealth like roads and schools. These are the projects which all Kenyans should be proud of since they serve all people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am calling on the three individuals on whom His Excellency the President has bestowed the responsibility of taking care of our roads countrywide to open their eyes and look at the road projects from a national level. It is not right to assume that by constructing a road in Kajiado you are helping Prof. Saitoti. You are not helping Prof. Saitoti, alone but the whole Kenya.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Motion that touches in general on roads and the infrastructures of this country is definitely welcome. To be specific, the Motion is touching on a road which is passing through a very densely populated and productive area - Kisii, Nyamira, Bomet right down to Kericho. This area produces a lot of tea, coffee, maize, pyrethrum, bananas and many other fruits besides having cattle and milk. Most of the produce that comes from these areas is perishable goods which need to be moved from the farms to the markets. It is, therefore, important that this road, C21, and as many others as possible in the country that pass through potential areas are given great attention.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of these roads are, of course, prioritised through the DDCs. The very fact that work had already started on this road and stalled due to lack of funds, shows that the DDC had already

given its blessing as a priority. Therefore, if the Government can afford to start work again on this road, it would be beneficial to the wananchi who live around and, of course, to the Government as a whole, bearing in mind that it is the wish of the Government to make sure that infrastructure in the whole country is properly brought up to date so as to serve its people and speed up development in general.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government cannot accede to this request within this financial year, 1995/96, probably then it can continue looking for ways and means of raising funds to restart the work that has stalled. If it is left the way it is, it will be more expensive for the Government to handle in the future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, quite a bit has been said about corruption especially in the offering of tenders. His Excellency the President has often said that "the African is an enemy to himself". Indeed, and whatever went wrong with awarding of these tenders was done by the Africans. The Government should not be blamed for stalling this project. It provided the money and tenders were issued. If the individuals who were involved in awarding these tenders messed up, they did so as individuals and they should carry their own crosses but not the Government.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndoto): Ndungu yangu, ni taabu gani?

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In marketing, we say that a product is not sold until it is delivered. If the Government signs a contract with a construction firm who then messes up the project that is entirely the Government's responsibility. Is the Minister in order to tell that it does affect the Government's outlook?

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not sure whether that was a point of order. However, I would like to confirm that this is not an issue for the Government, but for everyone of us. It is not even an issue for KANU; it is an issue for both KANU and the Opposition. We should all make sure that people who interfere with Government projects are dealt with and brought to book. I am sure the Government would be ready to receive any information concerning this sort of corrupt practices and deal with those responsible accordingly. What I am saying is that the problem is our own as Kenyans, and not a Government problem, and we should try to eliminate this by ensuring that whatever has been allocated for any project is properly put to maximum use, so that it can benefit all Kenyans.

I would like, in connection with this, to appeal to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to make sure that as a result of the bad experiences that we may have had in connection with setting up of infrastructure in this country, whatever funds are collected from the fuel levy are properly used and also properly spread in the country. The areas that produce food for this country should be properly attended to.

With regard to my own constituency, I would like to thank the Government for the work that is being carried out currently on the tarmacking of Busia-Nambale-Mumias Road. I would, however, like to state that the speed at which this work is going could be increased because that will be beneficial to both the Government and the contractor who is handling this project.

Also, while the Government is considering Road C 21, Kisii-Ting'a-Kebirigo-Ikonge-Chemosit, they should also consider another very important road, which is Mayoni-Butula-Bumala-Funyula road, right down to Rwamba and Port Victoria. This road has been in a bad shape for a long time. It is a very important road because it is the only road that takes people to the lake. The wananchi along the shores of the lake, especially in Samia and Bunyala, depend basically on fishing. Fish is a perishable product and it needs to be transported as quickly as possible from its place of origin to the markets upcountry and even down to Mombasa. To do this and to lessen the expenses incurred by people who depend entirely on fishing, that road should be tarmacked. If it cannot be tarmacked for the time being due to shortage of funds, I think it should be made an all-weather road so that traders who would like to transport their fish from Lake Victoria to the big towns in the interior of the country can do so without having to incur huge losses.

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

Mr. Obure: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I would like to join my colleagues here in Parliament to support this Motion.

I am sure that all of us in this House, and also those outside this House, would like to see this country attaining self-sufficiency in food production.

As we all know, Kisii and Nyamira districts have become the granary of this country. Even when this country was experiencing food shortages, Kisii and Nyamira were the only two districts which were able to feed this nation with bananas and vegetables. It is a well known fact in this country that Kisii and Nyamira are among the districts which produce cash crops in this country. These crops, coffee and tea, are exported to earn this country foreign exchange. But contrary to the expectations of Kenyans, you will find that these two districts are the most ignored in the country despite the fact that they produce food for this country. The people in Kisii and Nyamira are the most forgotten lot in this country. This road is very important and it should be tarmacked for reasons that are well

known to all Kenyans. The people in Kisii and Nyamira Districts, including senior Cabinet Ministers from those two districts, are crying for this road to be tarmacked. The only thing we lack in those two districts is a reliable road network to enable farmers to transport their farm produce to the markets, to be able to feed this nation.

Now that we have maize, we have a lot of bananas lying there rotting because there is plenty of rain and we cannot transport the maize. The tea leaves are lying in the buying centres. You would think that they are just fertilizers. It is time that we, in this country or in this Government, supported these roads, and money should be allocated to develop them. There are many problems facing Kisii District. We do not have roads and telephones, nor do we have electricity. Now the question arises and this goes to us hon. Members of Kisii and Nyamira constituencies. Since 1960, when I was a kid, hon. Sagini has been in Parliament. Now the constituents are asking us; "How are we benefiting from the KANU Government? What major projects do we have in Kisii District?". People are saying: "We supported the KANU Government". In fact, 90 per cent of Kisii supported the KANU Government, but it is high time now, that we called upon the Kisii community, as well as other Kenyans who support the development in Kisii, to think twice as to why we should support the KANU Government in 1997. I am challenging our Members of Parliament from KANU side in good faith, being from the Government side, to sit down and tell Kenyans what they would tell the people in 1997. What major projects has the Government completed in Kisii District, be it roads, electricity, a mortuary or anything? I am telling our hon. Members of Parliament from Kisii, that we have a challenge to come to Parliament in 1997 because if I was to be with them here in Parliament, I like hon. Nyachae; I like hon. Manoti, and I like hon. Momanyi. They are my people, leave alone my old man there; I enjoy talking to him but, hon. Sagini, I am asking you, what will you tell the people in 1997? What will you tell the Kisii? We have chief---

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I understand my hon. friend on the Floor was actually addressing hon. Sagini and asking him numerous questions on what he has done. Is that in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): That is not in order, hon. Obure.

Mr. Obure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was asking hon. Sagini through your Chair. I am appealing to hon. Saitoti, the Leader of Government Business to know that we, Kisii, have been awakened now. We see what has happened, and I am telling you, in 1997, if you can have one hon. Member of Parliament coming back to this House if this road is not constructed, God knows who. You will not have one Member of Parliament being returned from Kisii.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to threaten me as the one who is preventing the Kisii from getting the roads repaired?

Mr. Obure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not threatening hon. Saitoti. After all, he is a very good friend of mine, but I am telling KANU that there is a danger of having one member of Parliament---

Mr. Muluya: On a point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it not true that most of the investors in this country are in the private sector and this is why they are concerned about the private sector?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): That is not a point of order, Mr. Muluya and you now it.

Mr. Obure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am questioning the credibility of our Government for not establishing one single project in Kisii District. For a period of ten years now, we have not had a mortuary at the Kisii District Hospital. I have a case where my sister-in-law died at the weekend in a road accident and her body is rotting in Kilgoris hospital since there is no mortuary at Kisii. I am now hurrying to go home to have the body buried as soon as possible since we do not have a mortuary at Kisii. What I would like to remind the hon. Member of Parliament from Kisii District is that the 1997 general elections are just around the corner. If they want to come back to Parliament, they should get together and face this Government and assert that it is our right to have development carried out in Kisii District. After all, we pay taxes just like people in other districts! We have been paying taxes since 1960, and when you look around to see what development has taken place in Kisii since that time, you question as to where the tax we have been paying has been going.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we people of Kisii are not power-hungry-minded people. However, when we ask this Government to construct roads in the district, we are told to keep on waiting. We have been waiting now for too long but the unfortunate thing is that even if we wait until the year 2000, they will still tell us to wait until 2003. We are therefore telling this Government now that the people of Kisii District, and those in the rest of the undeveloped places, are now tired of waiting. It is, therefore, high time that this Government woke up to their responsibility. We have given this Government money through taxes and there is no reason why we should not have development in Kisii. It is unfortunate that people like Messrs. Nyachae, Sagini and others come here and support the Budget every time and say it is, in fact, a very good Budget. However, nothing ever seems to happen in Kisii.

Therefore, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say what the Kisii Members of Parliament do

not say in this House. If this road is not constructed by 1996, this Government should forget about votes from Kisii.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member on the Floor in order to speak on behalf of other Members from Kisii District who are in this House. I am sure they can speak for themselves because they are not dumb and mute. I can see hon. Nyachae here---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): It is not your responsibility to tell the hon. Member what to say or what not to say.

Mr. Obure: I am saying this because I know some of the Kisii Members of Parliament have deliberately kept away from the House because they did not want to speak about this road. If they do not want to speak on such an important---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, Mr. Obure, your time is up.

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Nyachae): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Firstly, let me declare here that when it comes to matters that affect that community in Kisii and Nyamira, we, the elected leaders, have no differences at all. It does not matter to which party one belongs to. In an issue that affects the community and Kenyans, we always agree and move together.

In this particular case, Sir, I would like to confirm that I very strongly support the Motion brought by hon. Anyona, and we must admit that we, elected leaders, are extremely embarrassed by the stagnation of that project. We find it difficult to explain to our people why that project has stagnated for so long. It is a project, as hon. Omino put it that would serve not only Kisii and Nyamira, but even the rest of South Nyanza and Migori. If you were going to Kuria and Kendu Bay, the shortest route is the junction at Chemosit, where you would go to Nyamira, Kisii and then link to Kamagambo, Homa Bay and anywhere else. So, it is not a question of hon. Members from Gusii and Nyamira being selfish because it is a project being termed as "Chemosit-Nyamira-Kisii" Road, but it would serve the economic activities of this country in the western part of our nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have often said that the country does not have funds, and it is true that our country faces an acute shortage of funds. But it is also true that all other nations also cry of shortage of funds.

However, we are in 1995, and this road, as a project, started in 1965, and today it is 1995. Now, 30 years of shortage of funds for that particular project is unimaginable. Where is another project that has stagnated for 30 years in the whole of Kenya? So, I am sure even hon. Shikuku would be using that road when it is done well.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Roads can only be done by the Government and for 30 years, we have had only one Government - the KANU Government - which has done nothing for 30 years. Is the Minister now in order to state that they are going to do something on this road?

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Nyachae): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Let me also confirm here that for 28 years of the KANU Government, the hon. Shikuku was in the KANU Government. Therefore, since 1965, when this project came up, he was an hon. Member of Parliament supporting KANU until the era of multi-partyism came. Therefore, here---

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can the hon. Minister, through you, tell this House and the country at large and more specifically the Kisii, what he did concerning that road when he was the Chief Secretary in this Government?

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Nyachae): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Mulusya! Is that a point of order, hon. Mulusya? I think you should take the House seriously. If I give you the Floor, I think you should have a point of order. That is not a point of order.

Carry on, hon. Nyachae.

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Nyachae): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was the Chief Secretary for the country as a whole and not for Kisii, but let me also tell my friend, the hon. Mulusya, that the small portion that was done, was done when I was in office.

(Applause)

I am saying that we should all join hands together and develop some of these areas. Now, in the case of Kisii, we are talking about Chemosit Road but the fact is that right now, even our tea roads are not functioning. Our access roads are not functioning and yet Kisii and Nyamira are housing the Regional Rural Access Road Centre at Suneka. We are only providing the offices and the maintenance unit but the roads have problems. I would like my colleague, the Minister for Public Works and Housing to visit Kisii. All the Kisii hon. Members of Parliament, ten of them, including the Nominated one will be ready to take him round. We will leave all our work and take him round to see the

roads. We are not asking the Government to give us tractors because we do not have much land to cultivate. We are not asking the Government to do too many things but we are asking it to assist us to have access roads. That is what we are appealing for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me mention this. We are giving our people a rather awkward impression. This road has stagnated for a number of years. Right now, as we are talking, our provincial headquarters is in Kisumu. Our business headquarters is also in Kisumu but we cannot now use the traditional road, which is the Kisii-Sondu-Ahero- Kisumu road. It used to be a tarmac road but now it has potholes. It has not been recarpeted. We are forced to pass through the Sotik-Kericho junction down to Ahero instead of using the Oyugis-Sondu-Kisumu Road. We cannot do business like that. We are losing money. That is again holding us up in our economic activities. Our people's vehicles, especially business vehicles like matatus, are being taken over by the hire purchase people almost on weekly basis. This is because once they use that road, by the time they return from Kisumu, they cannot move because of their bad condition. In this way, the owner cannot make any income and eventually the hire purchase people take away the vehicles. So, poor roads are contributing to making the people poor. This is not a criticism of anybody. Let us join hands and ensure that something is done. At least, let us see something moving. If we are told that funds are exhausted and we see what they have done, we will be satisfied, but when we see year after year that where the road reached about seven years ago is where it is up to now, then we are asking for a little vote to go there. We are not trying to be selfish. Here it is not a question of criticising anybody. As a Parliament, we want the Minister for Finance to provide in his estimates, money for this road.

With those remarks, support this Motion very strongly.

Mr. Obwocha: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Indeed, the complaints by some of the hon. Members show their interest in this road. In the last Session I brought a Question about this Kisii-Kibirigo-Chemosit Road (C21) to this House. I put on the Table a map of 1968 which showed that this road is tarmacked from Kericho to Kisii. This is very absurd! We would like to know from the Government where the imaginary tarmac went to.

This road passes through my constituency and other neighbouring constituencies. This road is completely impassable during the rainy season and matatus and other vehicles cannot go to Kisii. As you know, Nyamira District Headquarters is new and so the commercial centre is not big enough. It is, therefore, necessary for most of the people in Nyamira to travel to Kisii and yet they cannot use this road. It is upon the Government to have this road in the 1995/96 Estimates. It has taken very long to complete work on this road. First, work on this road was awarded to Ms. Solel Bonch Construction Company and later Zakhem Construction company was given the job.

As we know it, the problem in this country is single sourcing, whereby, because officers want to get something small, contracts are given to people who cannot complete them. It is very sad that we are talking of work on a road that was started 30 years ago by KANU and yet this Government wants Kisii people to support it. We say "no way". Indeed, I was in secondary school with hon. Grace Gathoni and---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Obwocha! Can you withdraw that and proceed?

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was not referring to any hon. Member of this House---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Obwocha! There is no hon. Member here called "Grace Gathoni"! So, I want you to withdraw that immediately and then proceed.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. From where he is sitting, hon. Kariuki said hon. Obwocha is very foolish! Was he in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Hon. Obwocha, can you proceed?

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are some of the people who were misleading the President when they were close---

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Members! It is time for the interruption of business and the House is adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.