

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**THE SENATE****THE HANSARD****Tuesday, 19th November, 2013**

*The Senate met at the Kenyatta International
Conference Centre at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro) in the Chair]

PRAYERS**QUORUM CALL AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Hon. Senators, let us determine if we have a quorum.

(The Speaker consulted with the Clerk-at-the-Table)

Hon. Senators, I am informed that there is no quorum. I order that the Division Bell be rung.

(Loud consultations)

Order! Hon. Senators, I am informed that we now have a quorum. We may commence our business.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**VISITING DELEGATION FROM NYERI
COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Hon. Senators, I wish to acknowledge the presence of Members of County Assembly from the Nyeri County. The Delegation is led by hon. Wachira Waruru, who is the chairperson of the Liaison Committee of the Assembly. I will call them by their names and I ask them to rise so that we can recognise them.

Hon. Wachira Waruru

Hon. Salma Uledi

Hon. Baragu Mutahi

Hon. Nancy Wanjiku

Hon. Jesse Mwangi

Hon. Naomi Gitonga

Hon. Regina Macharia
Hon. Leah Mumbi Njoroge
Hon. Elizabeth W. Njee
Hon. Josephine Muthoni Muriithi
Hon. George Maina Gichuki
Hon. David Ndirangu
Ms. Eunice W. Mwangi
Ms. Lucy Bitutu

On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I wish to welcome the delegation to the Senate.

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS SINCE COMMENCEMENT OF DEVOLUTION

Sen. Wangari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to give a Ministerial Statement that was requested by the Senator for Kakamega, Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale. The Senator rose on the Floor of the House and requested for the Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy, Roads and Transportation as follows:-

(a) The status of all the ongoing construction projects in all counties which have stalled since commencement of devolution.

(b) What the Government is doing to reverse the stalling of Sigalagala-Butere-Sidindi Road which has become unmotorable cutting off transport between Sigalagala, Butere and Sidindi leading to loss of livelihoods to thousands of business people and the general public.

(c) Whether the Government is aware that as a result of this stalling of the construction of roads across the country, the local contractors who employ over 100,000 Kenyans have been forced to lay off around 5,000 people, therefore, declaring them redundant.

(d) What the Government is doing to stop this plight that young Kenyans are faced with, some of whom have been forced to move to South Sudan where they face serious challenges, including being killed.

(e) When the Government will to pay these contractors who are owed over Kshs20 billion for certified works on fully completed and ongoing road contracts.

(f) What the Government is doing to ensure that the construction machines belonging to these contractors who have liabilities with financial institutions are not seized due to failure of the Government to pay them.

(g) Since the function of roads has been devolved to the counties, whether the Government could then clarify if this money that they owe the contractors in their respective counties would be taken to those particular counties, specifically for purposes of settlement of these bills.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The state of all ongoing projects in the Ministry under the three roads implementing agencies of Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) - as has been attached in annex one - Kenya Urban Authority (KURA) - as annex two - and Kenya National

Highways Authority (KeNHA) - as annex three---. I have with me here an annex which has the status of all the roads under the three institutions. They have been tabulated as follows: There is a project name, brief description (scope of works), project location, that is, in which county they belong, the contractor, the contract sum in shillings, the source of funding, the road length in kilometres, the pending bills as at 31st October, 2013, the physical progress achieved in percentage and we have the status of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, under KeRRA, we have about 58 roads that are ongoing and I would table this report afterwards so that the hon. Senator can go through. Under KURA, it is tabulated by counties and the Ministry is undertaking routine and periodic maintenance road works funded through the fuel levy funds and some new construction projects funded through the development vote. Currently, there are no stalled projects under KURA. However the ongoing projects are experiencing slow progress due to delay in payments from the Exchequer. The list is also attached. It is about 24 roads tabulated with county, the name of the road, the contract sum and the status; that is, how far it has gone in terms of percentage. We also have development projects that are under construction. This is also attached. It has the name of the county, the name of the contractor, the contract sum, the commencement date, the completion date as expected and it has progress and remarks. It is a list of 37 projects.

Under KeNHA, there are ongoing road development projects. We also have a tabulation in the annex, including the location, the counties traversed, the scope of works, the contract sum, the budget for the year ending 2013/2014, we have funding model, the status, the contract period, the commencement and completion date. Therefore, a list of 41 ongoing projects under KeNHA has been tabulated in this response.

The Government is undertaking the following measures in order to arrest the stalling of Sigalagala-Butere-Sidindi Road and to make it motorable.

(i) Arranging to pay the contractor Kshs100 million out of the outstanding payment certificate by the end of last week; that is the week ending 15th November, 2013.

(ii) Road maintenance levy funds amounting to Kshs7,000,000 have been disbursed to the KeRRA regional office to fund improvement to motorable standards of the bad sections of the road ahead of the section the contractor was working on before he suspended his work.

The Government is aware that the local contractors have been forced to undertake cost cutting measures which include temporarily laying off some of the staff.

The Government is aiming at providing funds to the contractors to jumpstart those projects that had stalled and those that had slowed down through the supplementary budget provisions from the National Treasury. Once the contractors are paid, production will be jumpstarted hence young Kenyans will retain their jobs. Additionally, under the access to Government opportunities or what is being referred to *ad hoc*, preferences and reservations programme under Treasury, the 30 per cent national Government procurement will be reserved for youths, women, and people with disabilities.

In the current financial year budget, no allocation was made for KeRRA and KURA. However, the national Government has now made arrangements to fund the ongoing projects through the Supplementary Budget. The payments will be made in instalments as funds flow from the National Treasury with the oldest certificate being

paid first. The Government intends to settle most of the outstanding payments by the end of the financial year and to budget for the balance in the next financial year.

As aforementioned above, the Government is making the arrangement to pay the contractor so that the contractor's machines are not seized due to failure to meet their obligations to creditors. In the meantime, when requested by the contractors, the Government is also confirming the amounts owed to them and giving them assurances that the arrangements are being made to pay them for the comfort of their creditors.

The ongoing projects have specific contracts with specific terms and conditions. Therefore, transferring the responsibility of payments of the contracts to the counties by sending the money allocated under the Supplementary Budget to the counties will create some contractual challenges and possible delays in payments. This will further aggravate the already precarious situation where most of the contractors have suspended works and are raising interest and other contractors have suspended works and are raising interest and other contractual claims.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this statement is signed by Eng. Musonik, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

(Sen. Wangari laid the documents on the Table)

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Chairperson for that answer. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that she has referred to 160 projects spread across the whole country in all our counties. I would like to request that since she has attached four annexes; one for 58 projects, 24 projects, 37 and another one for 41 projects, please, indulge me so that I can go and study the answer and also allow Members who have projects in those areas to study it, then I can interrogate her tomorrow.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I support the request by Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, I would like my question to be answered even before that is done. In the Statement, the Chairperson of the Committee has actually given a general picture that all or nearly all road construction projects in this country have stalled. Even for the Sigalagala-Butere-Sidindi Road, the Government has been planning to allocate Kshs100 million, but that has not been effected. Is the Government broke? Is it not true that the Government is on the verge of bankruptcy?

Sen. Murkomen: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to second the request by Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale. I am an interested party.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): You cannot second because it has already been seconded.

Sen. Murkomen: Okay. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to add my voice. The reason I am here apart from that is to basically say that we agreed that this is a House of honour and dignity and Statements that come from here are taken seriously by Kenyans. In that regard, is it in order for Sen. (Dr.) Machage to attempt to say that our beloved country - this is not just about politics - can go bankrupt?

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Order, Senators! Indeed, given that the presentation had a lot of annexes which were not availed to the Senators, and the Chairperson, in her own words, said she was going to do so afterwards, I will, therefore, push this Statement to tomorrow same time.

Proceed Chairperson, but do not respond to any question. Just concur about tomorrow then you can come with responses.

Sen. Wangari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that was specific to Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale's issue. May I react to Sen. (Dr.) Machage's issue?

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Well, you can deal with Sen. (Dr.) Machage's latter point of bankruptcy, since Sen. Murkomen purported to be acting on behalf of the Chairperson.

Sen. Wangari: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I appreciate the self-mobilisation of Sen. Murkomen. This devolution has not been easy. We have had many meetings and this is an issue that kept on coming up. It does not at all mean or imply that the Government is bankrupt. That is a wrong impression. We have had these conversations and we have even had meetings with the National Treasury and money is already flowing to the counties. Already, the Kshs10 billion that was contentious is already flowing to the counties. So, we are not having a bankruptcy issue.

Sen. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): What is it, Sen. Billow?

Sen. Billow: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Chairperson needs to clarify that point. When the Budget of the national Government was approved, the amount allocated for infrastructure, including roads, was in excess of Kshs180 billion. In her answer here, she talked about money not being allocated for some roads and lack of Exchequer releases. In other words, the vote has been made for those roads, but the Exchequer was not available. Could she clarify; if Kshs180 billion plus was allocated for infrastructure, where is that money? It is now the question of spending and not voting for the money because it was already voted by the House of Parliament.

Sen. Wangari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the query from the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Commerce and Economic Affairs. My response was on the specifics that were asked in this Statement. I know that the emerging issues will be dealt with after the Senator who had sought the Statement goes through the annexes. I am also informed that the Committee on Finance, Commerce and Economic Affairs had a meeting with the National Treasury. So, I had hoped he would help on the issue of flow of money from there to the counties. The issue regarding roads, I had said that Kshs10 billion was mistakenly taken to the counties. This had been a problem, but eventually, the National Treasury got the Kshs10 billion. This money was supposed to have been wired last week but one.

Sen. Billow: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): What is it, Sen. Billow? She said she is expecting support from you. That cannot be contentious.

Sen. Billow: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know this is not a House of rumours. You heard the Member say that she thought we were meeting. We were not meeting anybody from Treasury to discuss in-flows or out-flows of money. The question that the hon. Senator needs to explain from her Committee is; how much money was allocated by the national Government to roads in this financial years and how it has been spent. Why are those roads not being financed? That is what she needs to tell the House. It is not about the Kshs10 billion that is being refunded.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Sen. Billow, while at it, I am happy you are saying that this is not a House of rumours, but neither is it a House for ambiguities.

(Laughter)

You also need to clarify whether you had a meeting or not. What you can only deduce is that you may have had a meeting, but it had nothing to do with the issues being raised. So, did you have a meeting or not?

Sen. Billow: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had no meeting with the National Treasury.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in her submission, she alluded to the fact that, indeed, contractual obligations of the Government in payment of the contractors has not been carried out. They have not done their obligations as per the contract. Is it not true that several contractors have actually taken the Government to court demanding the cost of non-payments in time? Where does the Government intend to get that money that will be used to pay the contractors for their omitting or refusing to respect the contractual obligations as signed by the two bodies?

Sen. Keter: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): What is it, Sen. Keter?

Sen. Keter: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am wondering whether it is in order to continue interrogating the Statement yet you have made a ruling that it will come tomorrow afternoon. Could we make progress by dealing with other issues?

The Speaker (Hon. Speaker): Order, Senators! Indeed, Sen. Keter, you are right. I hope Sen. (Dr.) Machage is listening to me. Sen. (Dr.) Machage was the second Senator to seek for a clarification after seconding the request by Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale for deferment of the interrogation of the Statement. Surely, you cannot be the one proceeding again to interrogate the Statement when you had requested for deferment and you were granted. So, I rule that your questions be responded to tomorrow and not today. The only burning issue was whether the Government is broke or not and that was clarified. Since you have no matter pursuing on the same, although you are trying to do the same through a different routing, that can wait for tomorrow.

So, let us proceed.

UPGRADING OF THE MACHAKOS-KANGUNDO ROAD TO BITUMEN STANDARDS

Sen. Wangari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also responding to a request for a Ministerial Statement sought by Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale and Sen. Muthama. The Senator for Machakos, Sen. Muthama, rose on the Floor of the House and requested for the Statement from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy, Roads and Transportation as follows:-

(a) How many roads are ear-marked for upgrading to bitumen standards throughout the country, county by county breakdown required?

(b) Why has the Machakos-Kangundo Road not been tarmacked, besides the process of tendering and tarmacking being completed in 2006/2007 and awarded to H-Young Company.

(c) When will the work commence.

I beg to reply.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry, through the three implementing road agencies, that is, KURA, KeRRA and KeNHA has ear-marked the following roads for upgrading to bitumen standards throughout the country. I have annexes and attachments for KURA, KeRRA and KeNHA.

The Ministry did not tender the contract for Machakos-Kangundo Road in 2006/2007 Financial Year. So, no contract was awarded to H-Young Company.

However, the road is one of those that the Ministry has ear-marked for construction and it will be tendered once finances are made available. Again, we are referred to the attached annexes on KeNHA. The design works of the Machakos-Kangundo Road are ready. This Statement is signed by Eng. Kilimo, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Enclosed are three attachments. Under KeRRA, we have 26 projects. Under KURA, we have 138 projects. They are all tabulated to reflect where the road is located and how much it has been allocated in the budget and the status; that is, whether it has been procured or not.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this particular Statement concerns 164 projects; 26 of them on KeRRA and 138 on KURA. All these are annexed. It is also important because it cuts across the whole nation. Could we be given more time to study it? I beg for deferment.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Tomorrow afternoon!

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is okay.

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): It is so directed. Tomorrow afternoon.
Next Order!

BILL

First Reading

THE STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL, SENATE BILL NO.8 OF 2013

*(Order for First Reading read –
read the First Time and ordered to be referred
to the Relevant Senate Committee)*

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Next Order!

MOTIONS

PROVISION OF CHEAP CREDIT TO FARMERS BY THE AFC

THAT, aware that agriculture is the backbone of the Kenyan economy and one of the avenues through which poverty reduction can be achieved; concerned that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) is charging high interest rates on loans and imposing heavy penalties on loan defaulters; the Senate urges the National Government to provide cheap

credit to farmers by reducing the current interest rates charged by the Corporation from 10 per cent to 3 per cent and abolish the penalties imposed on previous loan defaulters.

(Sen. Chelule on 6.11.2013)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 6.11. 2013)

The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro): Who was contributing? Sen. Sijeny!

Sen. Sijeny: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to support the Motion by Sen. Chelule and thank her for bringing it. The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Government of Kenya should take an example from other countries. This is a situation that many countries have dealt with, for example, Brazil. The World Bank invested a lot in Brazil in the 1980s and 1990s to make sure that the direct credit programme was enhanced. This was after acknowledging that agriculture is the backbone of the society.

[The Speaker (Hon. Ethuro) left the Chair]

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Sen. Murkomen) took the Chair]*

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, agriculture helps to reduce poverty and helps the economy grow. It is also the backbone of many other sectors, including the industrial sector. The reason I support this Motion is because Kenya will be headed into some danger zone where the country will continue to be poor and the inflation rate will continue to be high. That will certainly not make our country competitive. If the agricultural sector is not nurtured properly, then the farmers will cease to become competitive. They will not bring in competitive yields and will not be able to get modern equipment that will help them get bigger yields.

The Brazilian Government had noticed this gap and, in fact, they increased their loan facilities and the supply of direct credit. Choosing to increase the interest rate has major consequences. It results in low agricultural output. We know that Kenya is basically an agricultural State. Many people, especially the poor, rely on agriculture. If a family is able to feed itself, it does not matter if they do not have large tracts of land, big industries or real estates. They should be able to feed themselves, pay school fees for their children and get good medical care. If the interest rates are too high, they could die.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we have seen how the tea industry has suffered in the past. If we do not protect the poor who are the agriculturalists, we will lose it. We know that, recently, Kenya was blessed with discovery of minerals, oil and gas, but that is still a myth. We also know that titanium has been discovered at the coast, but still Kenyans have not realized the benefits. So, we are still majorly an agricultural State. Low agricultural output has a negative effect on the economy. Kenya is struggling so hard to maintain the inflation rate which continues to grow. If interest rates are not controlled, Kenyans will not be able to sustain themselves. Kenyans will not be able to expand the use of technology in the agricultural sector if they do not have incomes.

We know for sure that it is mostly the women who are affected by this lack of credit. It is no doubt that the percentage of women who are becoming the sole breadwinners of their families is on the increase. When you deny women money, you affect the entire family, if not the whole village. This is because the children will not be fed and their school fees will also not be paid for. Unfortunately, a lot of women are shouldering these responsibilities. It is because of this that I rise to say that the AFC which should be taking care of the needs of the poor should not be levying them with high penalties which they cannot afford.

We know that most women do not own title deeds. They also do not have any incomes that they can use as collateral to take mortgages and loans. So, the AFC should come in to help such needy women so that they are able to go on with farming activities. The Government alone cannot feed the entire population. All the hunger that is being experienced in the arid areas is because of lack of financial support. If the children are not educated and the women are helped to sustain themselves, there will be increase in poverty. As a result, teenagers will resort to crime to get some income.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Sen. Musila: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this important Motion. I stand here to declare my support for the Motion. As the Mover of the Motion has stated, agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy. In Kiswahili they say: *Kilimo ni uti wa mgongo wa taifa letu*. This is a statement that is made every time. This is a statement that has been made ever since this country came into being. However, we give lip service to this statement. Therefore, this Motion is so appropriate because if Kenya is to be self sufficient in food production, then we must put in place policies that are conducive to making that activity the backbone of our Kenyan economy.

I say this because even the 10 per cent that the AFC charges to farmers is not for farmers. That is purely a commercial loan. In other countries, like it has been mentioned by the previous speaker, farmers get the lowest interest rate that the Government can afford. We cannot leave farmers at the mercy of banks most of which are mercenaries. I say this because, more often than not, even the AFC is unable to give loans to all the farmers who need it. Some farmers are left to go and look for loans from commercial banks. The results are devastating, particularly when crops fail.

Therefore, I want our Government to be friendlier to farmers if we are to afford to be food secure and self sufficient in food production. There is nothing as important as food. The stability of any nation is dependent on the Government's ability to make sure that its people are self sufficient in food production and that whenever people want food, it is available. If the past Governments had put in place policies which are conducive to food production, what we see every time - our Presidents going abroad to beg for food - would not be happening. That is why I want to support this Motion very strongly. In fact, it should have come before this time. Why should our farmers be cheated into paying very high interest rates when we know that whatever they produce cannot even pay those interests?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in other countries, farmers' inputs are subsidized by governments. But when it comes to our country, we are told that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has told the Government not to subsidize the farmers. It is a pity those governments who form the IMF are the ones who subsidize their farmers. However,

when they come to Africa, they do not want our farmers to be subsidized. This is very serious. So, I am advocating for even grants by Government to farmers to enable them produce food for the nation. Unless we do these things, we will not be self-sufficient in food production.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the AFC is given so little money that they only concentrate on the areas that they regard as low-risk. These are areas where it rains. They know very well that if they give loans to farmers in those areas, at the end of the day, they will recover their money. What about Kitui County, for example, where rain is scarce? I have in my file the case of a farmer who was given two lorries of manure by AFC 30 years ago and now they are demanding Kshs100,000 because of the interest that has accrued. My poor farmer of two acres of dry land is being asked to produce Kshs100,000 for manure that was delivered by AFC 30 years ago. I want to propose that the Government writes off all these old loans, so that our farmers, whether in Kitui, Turkana or Kericho can start from a clean slate without any loans. Only then can we be self-sufficient in food production.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, finally, if we are going to write off debts which the farmers borrowed, why can we not give money to students who have school fees balances and cannot afford to pay because their parents are poor and their certificate are held by principals of schools? So, as we forgive these farmers, let us also forgive those students and give them their certificates.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Nakushukuru sana, Bw. Spika wa Muda. Wazo hili la Sen. Liza la kuleta maendeleo katika taifa la Kenya limekuja wakati ufaao.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, Sen. Liza ameangazia mawazo yake kwa hili shirika la fedha la kilimo ambalo linajulikana kama AFC. Naomba kwamba riba ambayo shirika hili linawatoza wakulima ya asilimia 10 ipunguzwe hadi asilimia tatu. Kwa kufanya hivyo, shirika hili litakuwa likiangazia mawazo yake kwa shida za wakulima. Tunajua kwamba tangu Uhuru, miaka karibu 50 iliyopita, kumekuwa na mambo ya kunyanyasa wakulima kila wakati. Kuna utumwa mamboleo kwa sababu mambo yao ni kufanya kazi lakini hawaoni yale ambayo wanafanyia kazi. Hii ni kwa sababu ya riba kubwa inayotozwa mikopo na shirika hili. Kama ni kuuza mazao, mara nyinigi hakuna soko au wanauza kwa bei duni. Wakati mwingi hata nafaka zao huchukuliwa bila malipo na mashirika ambayo yanajifanya kuwa yamefilisika. Nina mfano wa kampuni kama Mastermind ambayo huchukua mazao ya tumbaku kutoka sehemu za Nyanza kusini, ikijidai kwamba inaweza kulipa. Hata hivyo, wanakaa na mazao hayo miaka nenda, miaka rudi, bila kulipa. Jambo hili ni lazima likataliwe kabisa.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, Maseneta hupewa mikopo na Serikali kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa nyumba zao na hata kununua magari ya kifahari kwa riba ya asilimia tatu tu. Hivi majuzi, Bi. Sara Serem, alikubali kwamba wabunge wa kaunti pia wapewe mikopo ya Kshs3 milioni kwa ajili ya kununua vitu kama vile nilivyotaja kwa riba ya asilimia tatu. Kwa hivyo, inawezekana kutoa riba ya asilimia tatu kwa wananchi wa Kenya. Swali ni: Je, wananchi wote wa Kenya ni sawa? Kama wananchi wote wa Kenya ni sawa kwani wale ambao wako uongozini wanapewe mikopo kwa riba ndogo ilhali wakulima ambao pia ni wapiga kura, bado wanaendelea kunyanyaswa kwa riba ya asilimia 10? Huu ni unyanyasaji.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, wale watega uchumi wakubwa au mabwenyenye wanataka mkulima mdogo apewe mkopo kwa riba ya asilimia 10 halafu ashindwe kulipa. Huyu bwanenye atafanya kila jambo kuhakikisha kuwa amelinunua shamba hilo la maskini hohehahe kwa bei ya chini. Ukweli ni lazima usemwe. Siku moja nikienda kaburini ni lazima watu wetu wakumbuke kwamba Sen. (Dr.) Machage alikuwa anasema ukweli. Majuto ni mjukuu; huja baadaye.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, sisemi tu riba ipunguzwe bali hata wale walioshindwa kulipa mikopo miaka mingi iliyopita wasamehewe na mikopo hiyo ifutiliwe mbali. Naipongeza Serikali kwa kujitolea na kuangaza mawazo yake kwa wale walioathirika kutokana na vita vya 2007. Juzi walipewa Kshs400,000 kila mtu na zingine Kshs10,000 za kuhama. Je, kuna tofauti gani kati ya yule Mkenya ambaye aliathirika mwaka wa 2007 na yule aliyeathirika kwa kushindwa kulipa mkopo kwa sababu ya riba ya juu, jua kali na hakuweza kuvuna mazao yoyote? Yeye analia na kusunoneka na watoto hawawezi kusoma. Hata hivyo, anaachwa bila kuangaliwa na Serikali yetu. Je, kuna tofauti gani ilhali lile pia ni janga kubwa? Janga la hivi majuzi lilikuwa la kujitakia.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, hata stakabadhi ambazo zinawekwa na Serikali hutupwa baada ya miaka 30. Zingine ambazo zilikuwa za siri hutolewa ili watu wasome kile kilichotendeka. Kwa sababu miaka 30 mambo mengi yamepita na si siri tena. Lakini hawa wakulima kwa miaka 50 na zaidi wameendelea kuteseka kwa sababu ya riba kubwa inayotozwa mikopo waliochukua hapo zamani. Hii si haki kabisa.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, labda Sen. Liza anafaa kuja na Mswada katika Seneti hii ili tusizungumze mambo hapa na ilhali Serikali inasikiliza kwa sikio moja na yanapitia sikio lingine. Tunafaa kupitisha sheria ya kusema kwamba mikopo yote ya wakulima inafaa kutozwa riba isiyozidi asilimia tatu au hata chini zaidi. Tukifanya hivyo, wakulima watakuwa na uwezo wa kutoa mazao na kuhakikisha kwamba wamelisha nchi nzima. Watu wakiwa na chakula cha kutosha watakuwa na nguvu na ujasiri mwingi wa kuleta maendeleo katika maeneo yao. Jambo la kuumiza sana ni kuwa sisi wenyewe hapa nchini tunawanyanya wakulima kwa njia zote. Mashini za kulima zinazuzwa kwa bei ya juu. Pia mikopo kwa wakulima ina riba ya juu nayo bei ya mazao inapungua kunapokucha. Baada ya haya yote, Serikali yetu inaagiza chakula kutoka nchi za nje kupitia wale mabwenyenye walioko ndani ya Serikali. Watu hawa wanapata faida kupita kifani.

Tunajua haya yote na tuna mifano mingi. Kwa mfano, Serikali inawakubaliwa mabwenyenye kuleta sukari kutoka nchi za nje. Wakulima watahinda kuuza miwa yao kwa viwanda vya sukari kwa sababu sukari iliyopo haiuzwi. Hii ni kwa sababu mabwenyenye wanatumia nafasi iliyopo ya COMESA kuleta sukari zaidi kutoka nchi za nje na kuuza hapa nchini kwa bei nafuu. Wakati mwingine hata sukari hii inapakiwa katika mifuko ambayo ina majina ya viwanda vyetu kama vile Sony, Mumias na kadhalika. Huu ni uzembe, uwongo, ufidhuli, unafiki na unyonyaji ambao ni lazima tuupige vita hadi mkulima wa miwa afaidike. Ni lazima mkulima atetewe na kupewa mizizi aingie kabisa ndani ili awe na uwezo wa kulisha taifa la Kenya.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, naunga mkono Hoja hii.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity. I rise to support this Motion and thank the Mover, Sen. Liza Chelule.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this Motion touches on an important issue on national development, especially on the question of strengthening our agricultural sector. I have been on record before, on this Floor, saying that it does not matter how good our airports, roads and railways are, if we do not have sufficient food in this country. There is no country in the world which can claim or aspire to be stable and prosperous, unless it is self-sufficient in matters of food production and security. This is because agriculture is one of the things that help us resolve the very vexing issue of food security.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want to support the position taken by some of the previous speakers, namely, that it does not make sense that in other areas of production, we are able to entertain low interest rates, in terms of loans, but when it comes to a critical issue like agriculture, one would expect actually no interest or, at least, very low interest, so that we can spur food production and make sure that we resolve and sort out the agricultural sector.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, sometimes some of the measures that are needed to provide incentives to the agricultural sector are not as complicated as we think. So, the issue of interest can go a long way in helping our farmers to increase food production, both in terms of food crops and also cash crops. The only challenge is that for a long time the AFC has been concentrating on giving support to large-scale farmers. I think that time has come for the AFC to concentrate on the rural small-scale farmers a little more and, perhaps, review their way of securitizing loans. I am one of the people who believe that actually we should transform the AFC into a farmers' bank, which is able to fund agriculture, especially subsistence agriculture.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, an example in point of how subsidization of small-scale agriculture can turn around the country's fortunes is what happened in Malawi during the time of the late President Bingu Wa Mutharika between 2005 and 2006. During this time, through incentives by way of subsidizing fertilizers, seeds and inputs to rural farmers and a bit of irrigation, he was able to make Malawi actually export maize for three or four successive years. For many decades before that, Malawi was a net importer of maize. There was a lot of famine and hunger all the time. So, it is possible to achieve this with the issue of interest, because interest is one way of subsidies. There is no country in the world that does not subsidize its agricultural sector, including the rich nations. That is why, for example, the issue of subsidies in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other multilateral trade discussions has featured prominently.

So, I am a full supporter, not only of the waiver of high interest on farmers and farmers' loans, but I am also a strong supporter of greater funding for the AFC and, perhaps, the turning of AFC into a farmer's bank. Because right now, the majority of our population are small scale farmers out there; they have no support system and a bit of the private sector has come in, in the form of some of the banks like Equity and others, which are trying to help the farmers. These banks are actually reaping a lot of profits from our farmers. Some of our farmers are not even able to meet the requirements of loan repayments and they have ended up even losing their investments as a result of defaulting on loans which are advanced by the private sector. The equivalent of what I have in mind is the Farmers Bank of Zimbabwe, the Farmers Bank of India and the Farmers Bank of Philippines, among others. These are examples of how, using agricultural subsidies and financing, we can strengthen the agricultural sector and become food sufficient.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let me comment very briefly on the contribution that has been made here by my brother, the Senator for Migori; I think he has left the Chamber. I support him in many of the things he said, except some of the things that bordered on hate speech. He reminds me that he was a veteran of hate speech accusations.

(Laughter)

(Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale stood up in his place)

But, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, protect me from the Senator for Kakamega because I was referring to the Senator for Migori---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): What is it, Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Standing Orders are very clear; if a Senator wants to discuss another Senator, he should do so by moving a substantive Motion. Is he in order to impute wrong and ill motives on Sen. (Dr.) Machage, without doing so through a substantive Motion?

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am inclined to stand my ground, but I do not wish to entertain the combined effort of Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale---

(Sen. Haji stood up in his place)

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there is a point of information from Sen. Yusuf Haji, which I accept.

Sen. Haji: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Senate Leader of Majority is only confirming what happened. My colleague lost his position as an Assistant Minister because of hate speech.

(Laughter)

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I say no more, but I had my own reasons for saying that I do not wish to entertain the combined wrath of Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale and Sen. (Dr.) Machage; so, I am willing to back down---

(Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale stood up in his place)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): What is it, Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, earlier on in the afternoon, the Speaker ruled that this is not the House of ambiguity or rumours. It is a fact which has been documented. You are a lawyer and an advocate of the High Court and you know that Sen. (Dr.) Machage went through the due process and he was acquitted. He was found not to have participated in hate speech. The Chair should find it necessary to find that these two honourable Senators are misleading the House. They are imputing improper motives on Sen. (Dr.) Machage, and they should withdraw and apologize.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale! I think we need to dispose of that issue. As far as the Chair is concerned, I heard the Senate Majority Leader state that Sen. (Dr.) Machage was a veteran of hate speech accusation, but he did not say conviction.

(Applause)

So, proceed, Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Sen. (Dr.) Machage mentioned something about the COMESA, the sugar industry and why bringing in of cheap sugar has affected our sugar industry here. I wanted to say respectfully that I have a different view. I think our problems in the sugar industry stem from other factors, including our methods of production which make our sugar very expensive. In fact, on the contrary, for more than twelve years now, we have been imposing safeguard measures which have been aimed at protecting our sugar industry from imports, and that has still not worked. If it is possible that sugar can come all the way from Brazil, enter Kenya and become cheaper than sugar produced locally, then it means that the problems are elsewhere and they are not in the dumping of foreign sugar. The problems may stem from our methods of production.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, having said that, I want to support fully the financing of sugar, other crops and agriculture as a whole; and livestock production so that we can turn around the economy of our country. The only way we can spur the growth of that sector is by making credit affordable. The surest way of making credit affordable is by the Government taking leadership in cushioning farmers, especially small scale farmers, from adverse effects of high interest rates.

For all those reasons, I beg to support this Motion.

Sen. Kittony: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to, first of all, commend the Mover of this Motion for a very well thought out and researched Motion which, surely, touches on the hearts of every one of us in this country. Why am I saying this? In my own right, I am a farmer. Secondly, God gave us the best land in the world in which you can grow anything from flowers for export, our coffee, tea, vegetables for export. You just name it, everything can be grown in this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, if there is a home breaker, allow me to use those words, it is the AFC. There is nobody else, but the AFC. The AFC has subjected our people to poverty to the extent of them even committing suicide because of the penalties that have been imposed on them. If you see the misery around the countryside, for those of us who are farmers, we surely feel sorry for this country. I would like to borrow those words of the Senate Majority Leader by giving the examples of Malawi, Bangladesh or even Philippines, where they have banks for farmers.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Mover of this Motion has a heart for the people of this country. Surely, I would support this Motion and I believe that the Senate, as a whole, will sympathize with the plight of the many farmers who have suffered in this country. Some of their children have even been denied the chance to continue with their schooling because of the heavy penalties that have been imposed on the farmers. When you look at other countries that have been mentioned, for example, a French farmer who even buys our flowers gets full subsidy for what he produces. If one day Kenyans would

wake up and say “let the farmer go on strike,” I think this country will see fire. So, I think it is very important at this stage for the Senate to deliberate properly and support this Motion because it touches on bitter issues and problems experienced by farmers and their families. When I say “home breaker,” I have seen families who have really suffered and who have lost all they had. For example, you find whatever little they had had been auctioned and they lose everything.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, farmers never make money. They toil on their soil from January to December, year in, year out, without making any profits at all, all in the name of feeding Kenya. At the end of the day, they are the sufferers and losers. The AFC has subjected many homes and families to nothing, but poverty. So, it is very urgent that farmers get other alternatives like banking facilities which are favourable to them. We should get farmers banks. We should subsidize farm inputs, fertilizers and seeds. We must come up with ways of mitigating against the effects of drought and too much flooding. Sometimes flooding leads to the loss of the crop that was beautifully grown and looking healthy on farms. So, what are the results? The result is that the farmer does not make any money at all. You work throughout the year and you are not benefitting. Yet we say we are feeding the nation. Are we feeding the nation with bare hands?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this Motion has come at a very appropriate moment when people are getting ready for next year’s crops. So, I believe that the Senate will give the necessary support so that farmers may enjoy their work and be better farmers in this country. The farmers who are listening to this Motion today will be very happy. That is why I commend the Mover of this Motion. I know her background, coming from Rift Valley, where they grow a lot of potatoes in Molo. The farmers will be very happy to hear that, at least, the Senate is very concerned with their plight. I, being a farmer, I am also very happy with this Motion.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Senate Deputy Majority Leader.

Sen. Keter: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion. From the outset, I wish to join my colleagues who have already contributed towards this Motion. I have heard people talk about the AFC so much. The speaker who was here, the Senator from Trans Nzoia, Sen. Kittony, said that the AFC is a home breaker, which I want to correct by saying that it is not the AFC; it is the repayment of the loan which is causing problems. This is because the AFC requested for Kshs1.3 billion in the current budget, out of which, they were given nothing. Therefore, as a State corporation, they have obligations. So, if they have given out loans at the rate of 10 per cent, they have to collect that 10 per cent so that they can also give it to other people.

I remember I asked for a loan from the AFC, but they could not afford to give me the loan because their liquidity is not stable. Hence, it does not mean that they are not doing their work. They are doing their work. The Motion is requesting the interest rates to be reduced from 10 per cent to 3 per cent so that we give room to farmers to pay. If you look at the import of the Motion, you will see that there is no room for farmers to pay. The rate of 10 per cent is causing problems in our respective homes. If this is reduced from 10 per to 3 per cent, the interest will still remain high because there are natural calamities that may affect our farmers. At times, flooding, weather and diseases, among other things, affect our crops and animals. If someone had taken a loan to carry

out livestock farming and a disease breaks out such that a cow does not survive the weather, where would he or she get money to pay back even if it is 3 per cent?

My argument is that there must be an insurance cover so that if such things happen, the Government takes responsibility. The Government should meet the obligations and pay off what the farmers have requested. In the current budget, the Government has invested heavily in irrigation. They will irrigate one million acres of land. My argument is that, that is a lot of money. I have seen what has been budgeted for. If this money is advanced interest free to our farmers, we will achieve three times what we are supposed to achieve in irrigation.

You will find that the areas we come from have good weather and arable land. We can plant maize and everything else. The problem we have is in relation to inputs. You will find that farm inputs are very expensive. Diesel, fertilizers and seeds are all very expensive. If the money that goes to irrigation was given to the small scale farmers, then Kenya would be self sustainable in terms of food production, hence, all the noises we are hearing would not be there. My argument is that we need to refocus. As we talk about Vision 2030 and say that Kenya is an industrialised nation, are we also taking care of our small scale farmers?

I come from an area where if some of you, who have not been there passed by, would think that people are extremely rich. Kericho is a county that is ever green, from January to December. We have rain throughout the year. If you see our tea plantations, you will think that these are golf courses. Some people think that this is an airstrip. However, these are tea plantations. People think that the highest earner of foreign exchange is tea. However, if you see the small scale tea farmers, you will think that they are not happy to be associated with what we are saying, that Kenya earns a lot of foreign exchange through tea.

We must ask ourselves who is marketing our tea. If you go to Britain, Japan and many other countries, you will not find Kenyan tea, but Lipton Tea. Lipton Tea is a buyer stationed in Mombasa and it is owned by Unilever Company. It has a big plantation in Kericho and part of Limuru. They are the ones who are controlling tea prices. They have opened offices in Pakistan, Russia and many other countries that buy our tea. They are the ones who are controlling our marketing offices. It would be good for the Government to change our marketing strategy within the Government so that we market our Kenyan tea because our tea is the best.

When some of us, who come from Kericho, taste our tea out there, we notice that it has been blended. You will find that countries out there have tea from Vietnam, India and many other countries. They blend our good tea and call it English Tea. So, if you happen to say that you are from Kenya; you are told that this is a country with good tea. However, if you visit the farmers in Kisii, you will find that they are all suffering. It is prudent that farmers are given leverage and financial stability so that they get what they deserve. We must get rid of middlemen and middle women.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A time came when I thought that my eye was not catching someone, but now I am happy that I have caught your eye. I want to contribute to this very important Motion.

There are things that we do not even need to talk about here since they are obvious in the sense that we must feed our people. That is an obligation. It is obvious that

we hail from a country that needs food security. This is Kenya. Many times when I go round, I wonder whether we practice what we see out there.

Recently, I accompanied the President to China. I was amazed to see that China is a country with a population of 1.4 billion and yet, it can feed its population. The whole population of the Africa Continent is 1 billion. So, we are trying to say that China, as a country, not just a sub-continent, can feed more people than the total population of Africa.

If that is happening, then there has to be something we can learn from China and India which also has a big population. I think Indians are more than 1.2 billion. We need to practice what they do there instead of lamenting about our people and prices. We need to come up with policies so that we help our people. These are the policies that are being used elsewhere and I do not see why they cannot be used here in Kenya. I am talking from the background of a farmer. This country has farmers who really suffer. We have people with full potential who can grow cash crops, but at the end of the day, farmers get peanuts.

Recently, we were talking about tea farmers getting extra bonuses. To date, farmers from those areas are filling loan forms so that they can educate their children next year and even buy clothes for Christmas since most of the money they got out of the bonus went to the loans they had borrowed. The money went into meeting the high cost of production. This is all meant to frustrate farmers. So, if farmers are frustrated and yet they form the bulk of the population, then what are we doing when we say that we are protecting our people? We are not doing anything.

I thought that this kind of Motion, which has been brought by the able Senator from a region which grows this kind of crop, needs to come up with a Senatorial team which will investigate and find out why we cannot feed our people. I am fond of giving examples. If China can feed 1.4 billion and still export part of its rice to Kenya, why can we not do it? The reason is that our production is low just because our cost of production is high. When it comes to real production, our farmers get very little.

We are subjected to a lot of climatic changes and vagaries of weather that affect farmers. The tea crop can be very good at one time, but next time you see it, it will have been affected by blight or frost. If you are from the area that I come from, you will wake up and find that birds have eaten all the rice. What happens to the rice farmers? Why can the farmers not be protected by the Government? Even after production, part of the money goes to sales and that is how we get revenue and talk about foreign exchange. That is why we talk about exports and agro-based industries and the cottage industries.

There is no way we will not talk about industrialization and value added industries. We have cottages in India where they grow and process some of their products on the roads. They are comfortable because they can pay people. They can sell and make money out of it. That is how we want our country to be. The only problem is that even where they get credit like the AFC, you will find that farmers are exploited. The interest rates are equally high. Even after that, you will find that once they borrow money, they do not get it. It is given to the big farmers. Some people do not even use it for production. These are some of the loopholes that the Committee should seal. Once we are serious and give the farmers the right assistance in terms of money, I am sure our country will be self sufficient. We will also have food security and part of it will also remain for export.

The area that we will continue to lament about and which will continue to lead us to poverty is that our policies are not scrutinized by serious people. This time round, let us come up with a team that will assist farmers. In America, in 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt supported Tennessee Farmers. The farmers who were growing cotton in Alabama had to be moved to the west in California. When they moved there, they found many problems emanating from shortfalls of rainfall. They were given subsidies and this created support for farmers when the yields went down. The Government should come up with a farmer's bank like the one in South Sudan so that if there is crop failure, farmers continue to earn. That is the only way they can be motivated to continue with their work and to feed their families. That is what we are asking for.

You will notice that we will talk, but farmers will continue to suffer at the expense of big people who will hold AFC money such that the money never reaches farmers. When it comes to time for farmers to pay, they do this through their noses. They pay in very difficult times and they are still made to pay. They are even made to sell their farms. This is why we are saying that this bank is not helping, but harassing the people.

I support.

Sen. Wangari: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I know a lot has already been said about this Motion and how timely it is. I want to add my voice by congratulating the Mover of the Motion; knowing that she comes from Kuresoi, I know that she is very passionate about farming and she has said so herself. I want to say that this Motion is very timely. A country that cannot feed itself does not have moral ground to talk of being industrialized and a first world country until everyone can have food on their table. It is very heartbreaking and I know this was brought up a few weeks ago in the starvation statistics; that we are already staring at a food crisis in this country. We watched on national television a woman who had not eaten for three days. It is very sad and very heartbreaking to see a child trying to breastfeed from breasts that do not have anything. We cannot be proud as leaders if we cannot put food on the tables of Kenyans.

As we know, there have been effects of global warming. Gone are the days when we could predict the beginning of the short and long rains. Nowadays you cannot predict that. The people who came up with the AFC and most of the other parastatals that deal with agriculture were founded on the basis of supporting farmers' right from when they are preparing their land to the planting stage. That is where we talk of provision of seeds. We even have reports of farmers getting poor seeds from the same Government. Apart from that, the purpose of AFC was to complete that chain after planting and even in the management of the plants as they grow, up to the day when we shall harvest and distribute them.

I know we have had problems, especially with the marketing. This touches on the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). Even right now, the stores of NCPB are not open. This subjects the farmers to having middle men to buy the maize at throwaway prices and yet the NCPB is supposed to assist them to get value for their money. We should have an agricultural parastatal that is supposed to subsidize and support the farmers. Every time they default, which is not necessarily pre-meditated, but because of issues that are beyond our control, especially for the small farmer, they should be assisted. The moment you have planted, you can only rely on God that the rains will come, but when they do not, the rate of interest is doubled. If you have a loan with the AFC that is standing at 10 per cent interest rate, if you default, that rate is doubled. That

is the penalty the farmers have to deal with. It is 20 per cent. I think the role of AFC will have failed because then, how do you explain whether that is support or killing the farmer?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I know we are very fond of talking about agriculture as being the backbone of our country and having the best tea and coffee. Until this success story is shared with *wananchi*, I think this is just an exercise in futility. I think we need to look at the issue of amalgamating these parastatals wholesomely. We should not just think about AFC, but see what role it plays alongside the NCPB so that the coordination that has lacked in the Ministry can be put in place even as we restructure these institutions so that if it is in terms of policies, we are developing them in the right way. Under the Constitution, Schedule 4, agriculture is supposed to be a fully devolved function. It, therefore, means that we do not just leave policy making at the national level because the people who will feel the effects are at the counties. Even as we suggest to the Mover that this be expanded in terms of coming up with legislation to this House, we should also look at ways of enjoining the county governments so that they can have their input.

Last week we were in the field in the counties and one of the most contentious issues was the mechanization of agriculture. They feel that they are ready to do it, but the national Government has not released it through the Transition Authority (TA). The other issue is to do with training. I think the county Governments need to take this issue seriously. They should provide information to the farmers because they are the ones on the ground. That way, we will have synchronized our efforts in trying to curb this problem.

I beg to support.

Sen. Mungai: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Issues to do with agriculture are very sensitive in this country. I am happy that a Member of my delegation brought up this Motion. From our counties, these are matters that are close to the farmers who are there. I wish to state that I fully support the Motion due to the fact that it is talking about the reduction of interest rates from 10 per cent to 3 per cent. Like Sen. Kittony has said, I am a farmer and when I contribute to this Motion, I will do it from a very passionate point of view. When you charge a farmer an interest rate of 10 per cent and any other businessman is charged 12 per cent by a commercial bank, literally, what you have done is that you have finished this farmer.

When you look at the external factors that affect farming, they are varied and some of them do not forgive, especially when you talk about the weather. Therefore, I also support that the loans that farmers owe the AFC be written off because when a farmer plants a crop, he or she majorly relies on the weather to ensure that they harvest and sell so that they can repay the loans. If anything happens, be it natural or otherwise, it means that this farmer will never be able to recover the costs of the fertilizer that they used and even the seed itself and many other inputs that are involved in growing of some of these crops. It is, therefore, wrong for us to have a body that continues to charge interest and even sometimes sells farmers properties.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Motion should go further and propose that any farmer who is unable to repay the loan, their farms should not be sold. There should be prohibition of selling of farmers' properties in default. If this is done, just like what Sen. Kittony said, it creates a lot of problems even in marriages. As we propose that the

interest rate goes down to 3 per cent, this can only be addressed if the other factors that are affecting our farmers are looked into. I am happy to note that the Jubilee coalition Government has come out very strongly in ensuring that some subsidies for some of the farm inputs have been offered by the Government. I would propose that besides subsidizing fertilizer, diesel which is used in farming should also be subsidized. It has been done in the developed countries where colouration of diesel is done to ensure that the same fuel is not used in *matatus* and trucks. If we are to become self sufficient, this matter should be looked at very seriously.

The other area that should be looked at very seriously is the issue of our weather department. As I said earlier, this is an area which I am very passionate about. The fact is that we have a weather department that we have been relying on for quite some time; it is also responsible for some of the losses that our farmers have incurred. This is because farmers have apparently been victims of poor weather forecasting. For example, when they are told that it is going to rain during this particular season. They prepare the farms, but it does not happen, at the end of the day, they become severely affected. They are unable to repay the loans even if you peg them at 3 per cent interest rate because the weather does not forgive the farmer.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, currently, we are having problems with our lakes, especially in Nakuru County where Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha are overflowing. I would propose that we build holding dams to hold the water that is flowing into the lakes to be used for irrigation. That way, we will ensure that there is regulation of the water that is getting into the lakes by positively helping our farmers and also by ensuring that one of the Government's promises is realized through irrigation. What is happening around these lakes is affecting the inflow of tourists. Therefore, Kenyans should embrace farming in a more serious manner. But they can only do so, if the Government also takes into consideration the views that have been expressed by other Senators. They have done this because of the love that they have for our country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, at one time we had drought in the country and I had to fly to Malawi and Zambia to try and source for maize. When I went there, I found that the grade of maize that was being grown there was our No.4 Grade. This means that in terms of farming we can measure the quality. Even the maize that we are growing here is able to give millers a lot of flour. By so doing, it reduces its cost.

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

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. Lonyangapuo, you have only three minutes.

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion which is, indeed, very timely.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are 50 years old as a nation and a number of Senators here are below 50 years old. There is a song that we used to sing which said that agriculture is the strength of the nation. It is even written that it is the backbone of the Kenyan economy. But what value have we put to agriculture ever since the first Government took power? I want to give credit and praise to the first Government that brought Independence and the second Government for putting agriculture at the top. Look at the structures that they put in place, like the AFC. It was supposed to create an enabling environment where farmers would take affordable loans. A farmer was supposed to go to the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) and pick UP seed and

fertilizers. The KFA was supposed to be buying bulk fertilizer from abroad at a cheap rate, subsidized by the Government. But now the KFA is dead and the AFC also went down. When it was revived with a small amount of money, they were told to charge interest at the rate of 10 per cent to 12 per cent, like other banks.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, maize does well, especially in Trans Nzoia, West Pokot and Uasin Gishu counties. What have we put there, as the Kenya Government, so that we get the best maize that can be consumed and our people remain healthy? We have just heard from a miller saying that he went to Malawi only to discover that he was going for Grade 4 maize. Some people have been rushing to Uganda and they discover that there is only Grade 3 and Grade 2. Kenya is always number one. When I was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industrialization, I was surprised that we could run to South Africa and import Grade 2 and Grade 3 maize and then, top senior civil servants would want to cheat us that there is no food in the country. Fortunately, I had 4,000 bags of maize in my store which I wanted to sell. We were told to go to Mombasa.

I think that the people who are actually doing more harm to Kenyans are Kenyans themselves at the top. Do we really want to move agriculture forward? Look at the vision that was introduced by the Jubilee Government. They promised to irrigate one million acres in the next five years. If you divide one million acres by 47 counties, we are supposed to irrigate 20,000 acres of land per county, funded by the national Government. If we choose to go that direction, we will fight hunger. But we are now concentrating on Tana River and Kilifi counties. How will the people of Lodwar get that maize? We want to solve problems right at the doorstep. The people of Baringo County, with Lake Baringo bursting its banks now, could actually immediately start uprooting trees because there is excess fresh water which can easily be pumped for irrigation. I want to challenge the Government to close the story of Kilifi and Tana River, and distribute all that acreage in the 47 counties. Even Nairobi has small plots where they can do irrigation.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Your time is up!

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): I now call upon the Mover of the Motion to reply.

Sen. Chelule: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have ten minutes to reply, but Sen. Mong'are has requested to also contribute to this Motion. I humbly donate three minutes to him.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): You have seven minutes, because your brother, Sen. Lonyangapuo, has already taken three minutes.

Sen. Chelule: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, may I donate three minutes to Sen. Mong'are.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Okay!

Sen. Okong'o: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, first of all, I wish to thank Sen. Chelule for this timely Motion which I support.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, things changed during the NARC Government because a lot was done in terms of subsidies. Some loans were also written off. We need to get the data of all the loans accruing with farmers. It is so tragic and sad that 50 years after Independence, our farmers have become workers in the factories and industries in that regard. Even the idea of amalgamation of corporations, especially including the

AFC, must be very well thought out in terms of assets and liabilities of these corporations, so that we can know the way forward.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the way that loans were procured for the farmers was not good. Farmers were not really sensitized enough about the consequences of the loans. It is the high time that some of these policies were put in place. Our county governments must and need to come up with policies of sensitizing farmers in terms of loans and insurance covers for their products in times of calamities.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, most times, the farmers were supplied with substandard fertilizers and they are paying for them. The issue of infrastructure also must be taken into consideration by our county governments. Our farmers have become workers for the middlemen. In counties like Kisii and Nyamira where we have plenty of bananas and avocados, the middlemen go to Tanzania to sell them. These are the issues which we really need to address.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion and urge that the national Government, county governments and we, as the Senate, who are supposed to defend those counties and farmers, work together and determine the way forward.

Sen. Chelule: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this time again. I must take this opportunity to congratulate my fellow Senators for contributing positively towards this Motion.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as we all know, agriculture provides support for the rural economic growth. It is one of the avenues through which poverty reduction and rural economic development can be achieved. It is surprising that the AFC is not getting any funding from the Government. If there is something very important in this country, it is the support to the farmers. The Government needs to support the farmers through empowering the AFC. The AFC is supposed to be elevated to a bank, because it is the only remedy to the issues that affect the farmers in the country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is also surprising that there is Kshs1.3 billion that was allocated to the AFC and it has not received it. It is my prayer that the Government gives this money to the AFC, because empowering it is much cheaper than using money to buy food from outside this country. So, it is my request that the Government supports our farmers through the AFC. This will improve food production and encourage most of our citizens who are farmers. About 80 per cent of our citizens are farmers. If these people could be encouraged by being given cheap credit, most of them will engage in farming activities.

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

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Hon. Senators, this is not a matter affecting counties, but basically farmers and Kenyans. Therefore, I would like to put the Question.

(Question put and agreed to)

REVIEW OF EDUCATION POLICIES
TO MAINSTREAM STI

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, aware that science, technology and innovation (STI) are critical to the attainment of Kenya's Vision 2030; cognizant of the fact that harnessing of STI would stimulate industrialization and immensely contribute towards sustained growth of the country's economy; the Senate calls upon the National Government to review education policies to mainstream STI by ensuring that the curriculum at all levels of education, right from preprimary school level, meets the skills demands necessary for fostering STI.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I stand to present this Motion because of the nature of our lifestyles now in the world and the trends that are taking place in the world, where it is science, technology and innovation which are the drivers of most of the things that mankind requires today. Although this is not a classroom set up, I will start by giving the definitions of the three terminologies first. Science is the practical application of knowledge, especially in particular areas like medicine, engineering and so on. This is also a manner of accomplishing a task, especially using technical processes, methods or knowledge. It is also the specialized aspect of a particular field of endeavor; for example, educational technologies. Finally, it is a systematic enterprise that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions.

Technology is the purposeful application of information in the design, production and utilization of goods and services and in the organization of human activities. Technology is generally divided into about five categories, which I will give very briefly. One, tangibles; these are the blueprints, models, operating manuals, prototypes, *et cetera*. Two, the intangibles; these are consultancy, problem and training methods. Three is high technology. These are entirely or almost entirely automated and intelligent technology that manipulates every finer matter and every powerful force. Four, intermediate technology; this is just any automated, partially intelligent technology that manipulates the finer matter in the medium level. Five and last is low technology; these are labour-intensive technologies that manipulate only coarse or gross matter and weaker forces.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, what is innovation? There are so many definitions, but this is a new idea, device or method; the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices, or methods, *et cetera*, as you can see from the dictionary, if one can consult it. I am mentioning this because Kenya--

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo! You have made extensive definitions of various subjects in science and technology. You know that this is a very important exercise for the record and, as a scholar and a professor, it will also be very useful for this House that you acknowledge all the sources of the definitions that you are using. As you know, other definitions might exist, but the sources are very important for the record.

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Indeed, you are right, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I just said that you can get them in the dictionary. I did not go to the details, but Oxford Dictionary is one of them.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I decided to mention this because sometimes we may wonder what science, technology and innovation are, and that is the reason I am putting a lot of emphasis on the same. In the syllabus which we use to normally train our children in primary schools, right from nursery to high school and to universities, there is a lot of emphasis on theory, where we carry on what we learned from the beginning. We

decided to read the books that were written during those days not knowing that today, science is the driver of most of the things that we are talking about, including even the farms that we have just talked about. Remember that during those old days, people used to go to farm with a wooden hoe; but you can no longer do so now because science and technology have improved and they have brought a lot of innovation until we have mechanized farming.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, because of not putting a lot of effort in science and technology, our system of technology has continued to remain the rudimentary one. This is where you just pick a physics textbook and read the theories that are there without applying them. I will give you data here which is a bit surprising. For the last five years when the Government decided to put money for science, technology and innovation at a higher level in the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) which is the apex of science and technology in Kenya here, only 405 applications have ever been received. Out of this, only 74 of the same have received very little funding. What that means is that almost 18 per cent of the innovations and technologies that were generated by Kenyans here have been funded while the rest are still ignored because there is no money.

I will quote three of them here which are very brilliant, which were tabulated in the NCST Book of Funded Innovation Projects dated May 2012, which is just last year. One scientist by the name Jeremiah Murimi did research and came up with a very brilliant idea on how you can ride a bicycle in the rural areas and, in the process, charge your mobile phone. When this idea was generated, funding was given, but nothing has been commercialized yet; it is still stuck with Murimi, wherever he is, because our Government has not realized that we can upgrade this by linking the idea to the industries. That is why I am talking about upgrading and bringing up our innovations in the rural areas. This fellow is just a young man. He was just doing his degree.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the other innovator is called Purity Muthoni, who decided to do research and innovation on “Solid Waste Management for Markets Through Vermicomposting.” We have a lot of rubbish and dust in our cities. Our people have come up with a few innovations and technologies through which we can harness onto the same and upgrade it, but we have not done so. Eric Kithinji Muriithi decided to talk about “Emergency, Security and Disaster Management System” (ESDMS), where if you are in your house with your phone, and you are attacked by robbers or anything else, it is a system where you just press your phone and it just connects directly to the department that handles emergencies. We could have done this if this system was there when Westgate attack happened.

So, you will notice that a lot of innovations have been done because of science and technology, but at a higher level; this is at now Masters and PhD levels. What I am proposing in this Motion is that, do our children know what science is when they are born? Do our children in primary schools know what science and technology is? Yet at that age when you are still very young, you can touch anything under the sun; you have fingers and your mind is moving very fast. The examples of countries that I am going to read here, you will be surprised: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, United States, *et cetera*. Their economies are primarily now driven by science, technology and innovation. Nothing else!

Everything that we have here is from outside. Are we saying we are of a lesser breed in this world; that we cannot innovate and our children cannot discover anything? We have 42 million people in Kenya, but we cannot innovate anything? We can if only we put emphasis and train our children in the basics of science. We should put a premium on our nursery schools and we should put a lot of attention to the syllabus. So, I am proposing that we meet the relevant Ministry at the higher level and the departments in the counties dealing with education so that they can totally review the curriculum that we normally teach our children to put a premium on science, like the way they do in Singapore.

I once rode in a taxi in Singapore and I asked the driver; “why is it that this country is so brilliant as it is today; with flowers everywhere and you do not even see trash anywhere? When a leaf falls down, it is picked up immediately almost automatically. He answered “it is because we have realized that we do not have any natural resources. We do not have cows, we do not have any farms, but we have human beings.” So, what they decided to do is to change their syllabus so that it reads science, technology and innovation. They have put a lot of incentives in primary schools so that their pupils can innovate and invent anything. We can identify talents very early. These talents are shaped up after form four up to top universities or top research countries in the world where they can now go and train the child and then he comes back to lead. When he comes back, he brings back the knowledge learned.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am bringing two ideas here. The first one is that our syllabus should be totally changed if we have to move with the current trends, particularly to conform to Vision 2030. This vision wants us all to collectively improve our lifestyles. How can we improve our lifestyles if the training that we give is just rudimentary? We must emphasis on science and research in our syllabus. Many countries have put a lot of investment in information technology. Computers must be introduced to our children at an early age. We talk about farming in this country. Where do we get farm implements that we are using for ploughing? They have been invented by somebody else. Are we saying that we cannot do the same? If we train our children on science and put technology as a premium in our syllabus, just like it has now been done in Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT), I am sure students doing engineering will invent gadgets that will be useful in our farming activities.

I am talking about very cheap things that can be invented by our people and then be upgraded and taken up commercially. The same JKUAT is where the Senator for Nyamira County was talking about bananas farming which can be improved using modern technology and research. For example, we have tissue culture technology of growing bananas in JKUAT. This technology can be introduced in Kisii and other areas where bananas are grown to improve their yield. But what do we, as Government, contribute in terms of investment to improve our agricultural produce? The percentage we have contributed in terms of money for research is very little. We do not have any policy and that is very serious.

That is why I am proposing that we have a department within the Ministry of Agriculture which will oversee what can be done for us to achieve Vision 2030. We must wake up from slumber and change the direction of this country if we have to realize Vision 2030. But how do we achieve Vision 2030? We can only achieve it if we put science as the number one subject in our syllabus. I am not saying the other subjects are

not important, but we must put more emphasis on science subjects. We cannot specialize if you are learning Christian Religious Education (CRE), history, science and geography at the same time.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, if we compare ourselves to other countries, we are quite far behind because a lot of effort has not been put on scientific progress. We have not progressed well in terms of well trained human resources in science and technology, yet we can do it if we really want to move and drive this vision. In order to access new scientific knowledge, we have no choice, but we have to benchmark with other countries by sending some of these researchers out there. When they come back home, we should also give them money for research. I was a principal of pure and applied sciences for five years. I was a principal at Chepkoilel Campus. Now it is known as the University of Eldoret. A lot of research was done there and we came up with the best variety of seed of maize that can do well all over the world. This variety is not found anywhere in the whole world apart from that university. After it was discovered, no funding was forthcoming from the Government.

Prof. Gudu, the brainchild of this variety just remained in the laboratory doing his research without funding until he was promoted the other day to head a new university in South Nyanza. That is where he is now. I have visited him there. There is no farm and he cannot do anything. He is a very frustrated man because there is nothing much he can do. He told me that he had gone to Ontario in Canada. With all his knowledge, there is nothing he can do now because of lack of funding.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as a nation, if we want to move ahead, we must seriously invest in technology. For example, who makes the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) that we are using for security purposes? Kenyans can actually innovate and come up with better CCTV cameras than those which have been made to fit in the local circumstances that we have. A few of the Kenyans that we have trained in technology have moved to Botswana, South Africa and other countries because we are not supporting them. They are running the best meat factory in Botswana.

Recently, I visited Rwanda with the Education and Information Technology (ICT) Committee. While there, we saw the technology being used. We could not believe what is happening there. The man in charge of the polytechnic which produces farm products for Rwandan farms is from Nyahururu. How much is he being paid with his Higher National Diploma? He is paid an equivalent of Kshs250,000. However, his colleagues here earn Kshs20,000. The Koreans have linked up with them. They have given them those machines and are training them to make whatever they want. We also visited Sigalagala Polytechnic with my colleague, the Senator for Kirinyaga. However, in this area, there has not been funding. Therefore, there is no money to buy machines to utilise the technology.

In the area of ICT, Kenyans have come up with good products. There is one person in the coast region who was on television recently. There are also two others who have been struggling with technology and innovation. One of them is in Kitale. Two years ago, if you can remember, he was telling people that his plane was about to take off. There was another one last year who tried climbing Ngong Hills. He told people to go and watch him fly. He tried although he almost killed himself.

However, people must die for a product to be realized. We should put more effort and ensure that our syllabus encourages the same. How many of us have failed to take

science subjects because of debts? The country's response to rapid change will depend on our economy. I am proposing that we put a lot of human capital and money so that science subjects are encouraged in our schools. I note with a lot of satisfaction that very many studies have been done and commissions have been formed, the latest one being the one by a professor from Moi University. This was about two years ago. He was proposing that we need to come up with a policy to review school curriculum.

The Government has not done that up to now. This policy is supposed to change the way we teach our technical subjects in high school. We are talking about counties. What type of people are we trying to produce? I visited the Kenya Industrial Training Institute (KITI) in Nakuru, the only specialized one which received from Japan tailoring machines. This was in 1957 and yet we want tailors to make uniform for our children. We should have machines instead of going outside to buy products that we have capacity to produce. We have chosen to become consumers of people's products. If we put a high premium on innovation and technology, those things will disappear.

I saw someone who has come up with a good irrigation style. He does not use the drip irrigation that is used in Israel. He is talking about shower irrigation. The only people who have tried these are Kenyans. However, the idea has permanently been in the laboratory. This idea came up two years ago, but we have not commercialised it. Nobody knows it, but is called the Shower Irrigation Technology by Isaac Munyiri. He appears to be very old. However, the day he will retire and go where old men go, the idea will also go.

The document I have here shows the shower and the amount of water going directly to the plant overhead. That is what is required. This is what is required. Drip irrigation takes water to the roots, but shower irrigation releases water to the leaves. This is the same concept with rain and that is what makes plants healthier. We can do these things if we choose to. I have been looking at our funding in terms of universities. The Science and Technology Department of University of Nairobi was given very little amount of money with all its research potential. We should assist all the universities.

Recently, Kabarak University became the top university in Kenya and numbers six in the whole world after coming up with a noble idea in business. I do not know what it was all about, but this means that our children, with our systems, can come up with things we can consume.

Our problem is that we keep on saying; buy Kenya build Kenya. That is by mouth. But the reverse of that happens. We buy outside products and build outside countries. When you buy everything we have around, our money goes to outside countries. Do you want to tell me that nobody knows how to make toothpicks? All of them are imported. If you go to any supermarket, you will find that they are all imported. They are made in China and Korea and yet the trees are from Kenya. They are carried to Mombasa and loaded to ships. Where would they get trees from anyway? Look at the innovation technology we should be having in terms of our furniture. Kenyans can do it if we put money in it.

With regard to agriculture and animal production, we tend to believe and trust in what comes from outside. However, if we can do it using ICT which is also innovative, we would go very far. So, in this Motion, the Senate is saying that the national Government should review education policies. They need to renew these policies and to

mainstream science, technology and innovation so that our curriculum at all levels is compulsory.

I beg to move and ask the Senator for Kakamega, Sen. (Dr) Khalwale to second.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker Sir. My compliments go to the Professor. Every time I listen to him, he pleases me. Clearly, he researches on his stuff before coming to the House. Probably, that is why he is the Chairman of Kabarak University.

Congratulations Professor.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I rise to second. Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo defined science and innovation. However, allow me, by way of example, to comment on something about innovation. A few years ago, a little boy in Busia used to sneak contraband from the Kenyan side of the border to the Ugandan side of the border. He would get more contraband from one side and sneak it to the other side. You should not think that he was not doing it himself. He was carrying the traffickers themselves. They called him the boy who moves from one border to the other border. They called him the *boda boda* boy. Through that innovation, this boy is the answer to hundreds of thousands of youth who today earn a living from *boda boda*. That is called innovation. We have to be simple. We do not need to have the kind of degrees that Professor has and which our Speaker, this afternoon, has. We do not need them. All we need is a desire to contribute something to the society.

Research, science and innovation are very important in the US. During the Presidential campaigns when candidates are engaged in Presidential campaign, every candidate must speak to four things. They must speak to foreign policy, local and international security and US economy. But more importantly, the winning candidate must have a clear policy on research, science and technology because that is the only thing that gives America an edge over the rest of us.

I cannot fail to pay tribute to retired President Moi on this Motion because of the wrongs he did. I remember the good old days during the struggle when we were discontinued from the university. We were jailed at chief centres, but that is not the issue. The issue is that I am paying tribute to Moi because he had the right attitude to education. In the first ten years of his rule - I think you were in nursery school then - the President was clear minded and he came up with the Nyayo Car. However, the gangsters who used to surround him made him lose focus and the Nyayo Car collapsed. Today, we are having the Numerical Machines Complex. If only somebody had pursued that---

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I would like to inform my colleague, now that he has talked about the Nyayo Car, that I was the first PS for Industrialisation. That car is in the Numerical Machines yard. I am told that when we stopped working on it, Malaysia came for the documents. They went and utilized the information. Today, they have a car, thanks to our innovation.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is amazing how professors come up with good things, but leave out little details. All they needed to do was to patent their good works. If they had patented their work, this idea would not have been stolen from them. However, there it is. Something went wrong. We lost it all when we went the route of the 8-4-4 system of education.

Most Senators here are very young and they do not know that in the system that you and I went through, there was an attempt to specialize children and even identify

talent. After form four or O-Level, we were deliberately taken to the science side of the system or the art oriented system. In the process, before you joined university, you had an idea of specialization. That is how some of us, not by accident, became doctors of medicine because we were allowed to pursue pure sciences at A-Level.

It is important that countries that were with us in the same club of third world countries like Brazil and India have now broken through thanks to science, research and technology. It is amazing that in a period of less than 20 years, Brazil is a former third world economy selling air buses. I know that every time we fly with the Kenya Airways, we do not know, but we fly in Brazilian aircrafts. We can do it and we must do it.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we must change the syllabus as requested in this Motion because long gone are the days when people used to take pleasure from speaking “fat English”, Shakespearean English and so on. We should move away from that pursuit of perception to actual knowledge so that instead of emphasizing Shakespeare to our children, we should teach our children the history of science. We want our children to live the life of Albert Einstein at an early age so that they understand who this man was. By the way, Albert Einstein never went to a university. It is important that we change the orientation to education so that the so called village polytechnics should now be centres where even the children who are not very gifted to pass Form Four Examinations and go to the university still have exposure to scientific ways of looking for simple solutions.

I would also like to pay tribute to the University of Nairobi, my *Alma Mater*. I will never forget the late Prof. Maina Mungai, the father of the School of Medicine of the University of Nairobi and Prof. Nelson Wanyama Awori, the surgeon. With every new innovation in the world, they brought it to Nairobi so that when kidney transplants started, Prof. Nelson Awori decided that we must have our own kidney transplant here in Kenya and so have the others followed. When the open heart surgery was done in Europe, within a very short time, you found that appropriate technology had been brought near home.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my own friend and school mate, Dr. Noriah from Eldoret Town, because of self belief, gives an answer to women who have challenges of fertility. He is able to give them a child through test tube babies. That is clear that once we get focused, it can be done in Kenya. I also know that Prof. Stanley Khayinga, a plastic surgeon who was my classmate from Class One up to Form Six in Kakamega High School, up to the medical school, is today one of the finest plastic surgeons who is taking care of the ugly burns that you normally see our children go through or some of our women who do not want to continue carrying ugly burns on their faces. These things can be done locally.

I do not want to end before remembering the injustice that our universities have visited on agriculture. I come from a sugar cane growing county and it beats me why at this particular time with all the billions that are there in the sugar industry and with all the billions that Mumias Sugar Company makes even sponsoring football clubs like AFC Leopards, why can they not use some of that money to put into serious soil research so that, deliberately, Mumias can have an answer to what particular species of cane can be grown in a particular soil for us to maximize on varieties and species of cane that are fast growing and that have very high sucrose content so that the farmer can realize the fruits of his work within a shorter period and by maximizing on profit by way of growing cane that has high sucrose content? All this requires nothing else. It does not require the

corruption that goes on in all public offices. All it requires is men and women of this Republic who are honest and dedicated and who are prepared to burn the midnight oil doing research.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, is it not a shame that we have so many tractors in Mumias, West Kenya, Butali, Miwani, Muhoroni and Sony sugar factories and yet we do not produce spare parts for our tractors? If only they had not killed retired President Moi's vision of the Nyayo Pioneer car, we would today, probably, be producing our own tractors and we would be having our own market here in Kenya and also to sell to the region.

It is important that I mention the kind of waste that we have in the cane industry. We have an opportunity from bagasse; we can use it to make the furniture we are today importing from China and India. We can actually make it locally as a by-product of the same cane that we grow. These days it has gone up to Uasin Gishu and Nandi. So, they are joining the club slowly and since it is their Government which is in power and I know the Chair has a big ear of the ever working Deputy President of Kenya---

Sen. Hassan: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Is Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale in order to refer to your stature as Speaker as a Member of a Government in power and yet, we know for a fact that this is an independent arm of Government that is not necessarily in power in the strictest sense of the word?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry for missing on that. Indeed, Sen. Hassan is right that you are not a Member of the Executive, but a Member of the Legislature. But I know that your friendship goes beyond particular separation of powers. In fact, your DNA is such that you have the luxury of having the big ear of the hard working Deputy President of Kenya. Tell him that the people of Kakamega County are wondering when the Government takes Kshs3 billion to go and invest in a new factory in Narok, why can they not have the same amount of money or even a half of it to come and answer some of the challenges that the already existing proven productive factories are going through? Is it that there is an attempt to divert the economy of Kakamega County to Narok so that we go down on our knees to continue voting for some people in this country?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, you must have missed some steps a little bit. This House works through Committees. If there is any message that needs to be conveyed to the Executive, you know how to do it. You can come through a question or propose to the Committee of Agriculture, Land and Natural Resources which is deputized by your able friend and a Member of United Democratic Front (UDF). They can answer those questions. So, next time you should follow the right channels. Besides, you are a senior Member of this House and you are able to do so without intermediaries.

(Question proposed)

Sen. Melly: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Indeed, science and technology are the main drivers of our economy. Any country which does not believe in science or does not invest in research is a country that is doomed to fail because, at the end of the day, that is what determines the society that we will live in today if we are

serious in investing in research, science and technology right from primary to secondary schools. We should develop a system whereby science and technology in this country become a solution to every problem we face. We must be willing to start from that lower level right from the primary and secondary levels.

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen) left the Chair]

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Ongoro) took the Chair]

Madam Temporary Speaker, we should invest heavily in science and technology as a solution to the problems that we face today. A number of challenges that we face today can actually be solved through research and also technology. We should create a special fund for young talented innovators so that they have a place to harness their talents in terms of technology and information. There was one young man from my county in high school who has appeared in the media several times because of what he was able to do, who discovered a radio station though it could not sustain the normal standards. However, it broadcasted around five kilometres within the village. Every time he would arrive home from school, he would activate his radio station. People within a radius of five kilometres would listen to the young man. Today, he is languishing at home doing odd jobs which earn him about Kshs100 per day and yet, he has an untapped talent. Instead of encouraging the young people to harness their talents, they end up languishing in poverty, not because they are poor, but because there are no mechanisms to support them.

A number of talented young children in our high schools do not get a chance to improve on their talents because our secondary schools lack funds and the capacity to support their great ideas. Most ideas develop from high school and colleges, but there is no capacity to develop them. In the long run, instead of harnessing those talents to help us move forward and come up with solutions, they end up dying in poverty. I do not know why most of the young talented youth come from humble backgrounds. If they are not supported, their dreams get lost. We have lost many opportunities which our young people possess because there has been no serious attendance on these issues. In the long run, our talented young people end up languishing in poverty instead of getting an opportunity to change themselves and their country through their God given talents.

Madam Temporary Speaker, Vision 2030 is a great dream for all of us irrespective of which party we come from. We should see this to reality and better the lives of young people who have suffered in poverty for a long time. Therefore, we must take a serious step to commit our political goodwill and funds to ensure that this great dream is achieved. This country is known for able young men and women who have come up with serious innovations, including the M-pesa and car track technologies.

There are so many innovations that emanate from this country. Indeed, we are in a beautiful country. There are those who have been supported by the Government. However, there are some in our counties for whom we must create special schools in order to harness their innovations. We must be willing to take a step forward and ensure that these young people are identified. We should also create a mechanism where their talents are nurtured. Their talents should be developed step by step to ensure that, in future, they are able to use those innovations which will solve the challenges that we face

with regard to fighting poverty and ensuring that this country becomes a better place for all of us.

With those few remarks, I support.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you very much, Madam Temporary Speaker, for allowing me to also contribute to this very relevant and important Motion.

Madam Temporary Speaker, some of the things that we talk about here appear as if they are outdated in the sense that they should have come earlier. We are about to celebrate 50 years of Independence and that is when we are talking about them. You might be surprised that there is a lot of talk which has taken place here and will take place, but we need implementation. We need not to be seen like we are a talking shop. Let it be seen like we are moving somewhere, because talk without implementation will take us nowhere.

Madam Temporary Speaker, last week, I was in France. We happened to go to one of the educational institutions in Paris. We realized that when the children are very young, even before they are five years old, their talents are identified. So, instead of their parents deciding which class to take them to, there is a system of identifying talents in some children. Some will go to study aviation while others will go to study engineering, medicine and so on. As a result, France has a bank of scholars who can develop those talents from primary, secondary and even universities.

That is what our earlier system of education aimed at before we shifted to the 8-4-4 system of education. The system aimed at making someone a specialist in his or her field. Today that is not happening. It is like every other person comes up with a policy, which is taken over by the Government. To me, this is wrong. We should be able to test and determine whether whatever policy is proposed is suitable for the entire country. This is because somebody will come up with a policy today. However, after he leaves office, somebody else comes up with another one and there will be no reference to the past development.

That is why we are just moving one step forward and another step backwards. That is why when we go outside the country, they ask us: "You have been here so many times. Why do you keep on coming every other time?" Every other time there are Committees going to visit Korea, Malaysia and Australia to a point where are even told: "Do not even come, because we do not hear of any development from your visits."

Madam Temporary Speaker, this Motion is very important and I wish that it could be taken further from where it is now and become a policy. Let it be handled by the relevant authorities, so that we can tailor-make our people to take up various fields. There are many Kenyans who are talented. Even as we plan to introduce laptops, there are some children who will pick up very fast, but there are some who will struggle and never understand the concept, because they are not talented in that line. Maybe they have talent in history or knowing where rivers originate from and how they can develop irrigation schemes. Since we have diverse ideas, the curriculum could be changed a bit so that we can identify, develop, maintain and manage different talents.

Between 2003 and 2004 when I was the Chairman of the Committee on Education, we visited Malaysia. We discovered that in Malaysia, the Government pays a lot of attention to high school students. Whenever a student discovers or comes up with an innovation of a kind, he is given a lot of support and even scholarships. He is even attached to a certain department in the mother Ministry. That student will continue

guarding the interest of the country to very high heights. But in our country the Government will spend so much money in training doctors, for example, and then abandon them later when they start to be innovative.

Madam Temporary Speaker, if we can get to know who is talented in what, we will develop that talent very early. That is how we can come up with our own scientists in future. I have been a teacher for a long time. Sometimes I get shocked to see people being trained to teach a specified subject. By the time, they finish the training, that subject is no longer in the curriculum. Therefore, they remain redundant. The equipment that has been bought by the Government to train teachers will, at one time, be vandalized because they will not be of use after some certain stage. For example, we used to have technical schools which used to produce wonderful people. These are the people who have supported our technical development in Kenya. But after sometime when the 8-4-4 system of education was started, the technical schools were done away with. Some technical schools like Kabete, Nairobi Technical College and Kisumu Technical College which were doing very well are no longer producing those technicians who would have been very useful in running the country.

At the moment, even some of the equipment that was used to train people to get specialized skills is not there. Some of the equipment has been vandalized and sold by the same administration. That is a lot of money which has gone to waste. Why can we not have a system of Government which will be observed even by those who will come after us? For example, if a President decided to provide Nyayo milk to pupils, that should have continued even during the Kibaki Government and now. However, in this country, somebody comes up with a policy and when he is no longer in office, the whole process ceases. That is why somebody will come up with "Michuki rules" and when he is not there, Mwakwere will come in and he is not interested in those rules. This is what we are complaining about. Everytime we talk and nothing happens.

Madam Temporary Speaker, if we can be serious to a point where we can identify talents in our people, that will be good for development. For example, if we can identify an astronaut, let that person be taken to the Southampton School of Astronomy, so that he can come back as somebody who can contribute to our economy immensely. Also, we need to be serious in what we are innovating. In Malaysia, there is a card, like the ATM card, which has so many other functions. It is used to drive, open doors and for security. This card has been developed by students. Once talents are identified in students, they are given positions and continue identifying other people with talents and the story continues. Therefore, our syllabus should be able to recognize the existing market, so that those who are trained as scientists, for example, will continue discovering and spending more time in the field, instead of exploring other fields elsewhere. That is what is killing our education system in Kenya.

Madam Temporary Speaker, Prof. Maina Mungai was a very great scholar, but at the point of his retirement nobody knew him. We also have Prof. Ogot, but our system does not recognize the existence of such people. So, even when they pass on, nobody remembers them. How many roads are named after scholars in Nairobi? In America, scientists and scholars are given very good salaries. They are recognized and given state protection. That makes them feel like they belong there.

Madam Temporary Speaker, we should start a syllabus which is relevant to the market, so that those pupils who are in lower classes will continue developing their

talents until they get to a higher level. Since not all of them will go to the universities, some can be supported to do farming. Those who are in fishing can continue making nets because that is their talent. Collectively, we will have very many people in Kenya who are contributing or who will be contributing towards our economy. This is the economy that will now be seen to be Kenyan as everybody else will be participating. So, that participatory approach is what is lacking in Kenya. That is what will make one feel like one tribe is superior to another, yet they have the same opportunity in the country.

Madam Temporary Speaker, with those many remarks, I will support this Motion and continue to urge the speakers who are going to speak after me to support it. Without this kind of support, we will not move forward, but we will only be talking. I would like the scholars, more so those who are retired heads like myself, to be given some recognition for future reference.

Sen. Omondi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for allowing me to contribute and support this Motion on science, technology and innovation. I am looking at science, technology and innovation to be a potential and significant contributor towards the attainment of Vision 2030. It also helps to mainstream the system of education at all levels of education and academia. It goes a long way in the creation of science, technology and innovation in our Kenyan culture. It will also contribute more effectively in increasing confidence when dealing with science, technology and innovation, including developing curiosity and skills and all methods of inquiry in our young ones who are still of school going age.

Madam Temporary Speaker, science and technology also prepares students to be responsible in their future as Kenyan citizens. It prepares some of them to pursue higher education and career in this line of science and technology. The issue of science and technology helps children because as they graduate from primary education and move on to secondary schools, they are equipped with skills for eight years, and these skills help them reach a stage of maturity which in turns helps them to have a developed mind and a positive attitude towards science as a career in their lives.

Madam Temporary Speaker, many young people feel differently towards science. They believe it is beyond their understanding simply because they develop a negative attitude towards it because of the way it is introduced in their academic life. Science and technology plays a significant role because it is a technology. If this technology is well developed, it can also boost the economy of the country. It is also a way which can build the capacity of people such that many people who are not involved in white collar jobs can engage themselves in self employment, thus reducing poverty levels and also the number of people seeking employment. Because when people have science within themselves and they are able to become good innovators, then the issue of looking for opportunities to be hired in white collar jobs reduces. So many young ones come up as innovators and they create job opportunities for others and for themselves.

Madam Temporary Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to support this Motion.

Sen. Wangari: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. From the outset, I rise to support this Motion. I know that we have put a target of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. That is lowering of mortality rates and the eradication of many diseases, including malaria. But when I look at our country, I think we are still very far from achieving these goals. Of course, there are various attempts which have been made, especially on the development of vaccines. I have seen scientists

come up with trial vaccines for HIV/AIDS, resistant tuberculosis, and now as you know, there is already a polio vaccination that is going on and which can be attributed to the research that has been done by the scientists of this country.

Madam Temporary Speaker, having said that, I think we cannot over-emphasize the importance of having science and technology being inculcated from the very young age of children. Even in the world, most of the great innovators are not necessarily the very bright students in class. According to history and what we have witnessed, even the person who came up with these social media platforms like Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, they are people who had been seen when they were in school; they were not *ati post*---

(Laughter)

My apologies, Madam Temporary Speaker. They were not of post-school going age. It was developed when they were still in school. But they came up with something that changed the world. We cannot talk of Vision 2030 without talking of science, research and technology. In fact, when we even look at the numbers of people who are flowing into the job market in this country, by 2030, we are talking about 14 million unemployed young people. Those are the numbers we are looking at. I have said here time and again that this is a time bomb. If we are not able to take care of these young people, it will be a time bomb and one day it will explode and boomerang on our faces.

That means that we have to stem out this problem right now. We have even seen children committing suicide because of the way our curriculum has been structured where so much effort and emphasis has been put on passing exams. That means that if the previous day before you do your Kenya Certificate of Primary Examination (KCPE) or Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination (KCSE), somehow, you have a cold or you are not able to study because the challenges of doing class work and the challenges of studying are varying; it then means that you are looking at your whole life going down the drain. We have seen very many children getting stressed because of this over-emphasis on passing a three-day exam. These children are not necessarily gifted in the cramming or application of paper examinations. Some of them would do very well in other fields.

We have seen great innovators in this country. We have seen people even come up with a car tracking device or even a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system using their mobile phones. We have seen someone even boil an egg from a far distance because he just dialed a number of a phone that is in the house. It starts boiling the egg so that by the time he is home, it is boiled. To me, these are the things we should be looking at. The media has really brought them to the fore. We have seen great young men and women who can change this country.

Madam Temporary Speaker, indeed, what we have been suffering from is people stealing these ideas. This is because not very many people, like Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale noted, are very keen on having these ideas patented. In any case, not very many of them know how they can go about patenting and making that idea an intellectual property. That way, we have seen people coming up with very good ideas. For example, we have even seen someone come up with a plane. I think it is very commendable for this country because the brains that we have is amazing.

In fact, if you look at what we call the “M-pesa revolution,” I think it is a clear demonstration of how far innovation and creativity can go. This innovation was done by one person who sat somewhere. He came up with what has changed how we transact business in this country today. It not only had impact on telecommunications, but it has also spilled over. I mean nowadays you do not have to carry money around anymore, but you can even buy vegetables from the kiosk or from the supermarket just using your phone.

Madam Temporary Speaker, we cannot run away from this. The earlier we do it, the better for us. Sen. (Prof.) Lanyangapuo is one of the greatest brains of this country and this Senate has been endowed with such brains. As we listened to him when he was moving this Motion, I could see the passion in him because he knows where the lock lies. I think it is time we listened and also dealt with the skeptics. A few weeks ago, together with the Committee on Devolved Government, we visited New York State. We went to the County of Albany and the County of Schenectady. We also visited one very important arm of Government there; that is, the Centre for Information Management (CIM).

I think what ails us, as a country, is the fear of not performing. At that time when we were visiting, it was the time when there was a shutdown of Government in the US. In fact, the director of this CIM, which is responsible for coming up with systems of implementing and monitoring in the whole New York State, told us “Do you know that out of ten, eight fail?” I think one day after that, the “Obama Care” was launched and it failed to a very great extent because it was overloaded. We lived through the whole experience there and we saw the President come out to explain that really it was a technical hitch and someone was working on it. So, why are we, as Kenyans, so afraid failing? I was looking at America, with the millions of people that they serve--- Why are we so afraid of trying out things? After all, if it fails, then we can do it better another time. It is time we reduced these skeptics in this country because you can only tell that it cannot work after you try it out. I think it is time that we went that way.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I know that some of the sectors are really trying. I have even seen the energy sector in terms of training; they have partnered with the development partners that are sponsoring some of these things to even train geophysicists in some of these special careers abroad so that they can see what is going on in the other developed countries. But it is time we build this as a culture so that we should not wait until I have a geophysics degree from Chiromo Campus, then I am picked to be taken for a crash programme in New Zealand, because they are doing better than we are. I think it is time that we integrated this right from the beginning and, that way, we will talk of standardization and giving every person an opportunity. It is not that I need to be an “A” student or that I need to write and cram an exam very well. Maybe I am very good in technical work, but I do not know how to cram law. It is time we gave opportunities to the young people of this country.

Madam Temporary Speaker, knowing that one of the functions of the counties as per the Fourth Schedule, is village polytechnics. As the policies are being developed, they must also be brought on board so that we integrate them in the policies. Developed countries like China, Korea and Japan have gained very much from certain innovations. Earlier, as we were talking about the Motion on Agriculture, we said that if we could conduct research, then we would know what breeds can do best where. We would contribute to the efforts of the Government in reducing poverty.

I support this Motion and hope that we can actualise this. Let the idea in this Motion not end here. Children should grow up knowing that this is a changing world. We have to keep on changing the world. Otherwise, we will not survive in this global village.

QUORUM

Sen. Kisasa: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I have noticed that we do not have a quorum. We should, probably, try to raise quorum so that we have more Senators deliberating on this.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Ongoro): Yes, we do not have a quorum. Could we have the bell being rung?

(The division bell was rung)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Ongoro): Hon. Senators, this is unfortunate. First of all, I took note of the fact that this Bill was being debated without a heavy presence of the Education and Information Technology Members in the House. Secondly, our Whips should do a better job in getting our Senators to the House.

Therefore, there being no quorum, the House is adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 20th November, 2013 at 9.00 am.

This Bill will continue for another one hour and 40 minutes when resume tomorrow.

The Senate rose at 6.00 p.m.