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KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NINTH PARLIAMENT-FOURTH SESSION

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**REPORT ON THE TOUR OF THE BUNYALA IRRIGATION
SCHEME IN BUDALANGI DIVISION, BUSIA DISTRICT**

(6TH AUGUST, 2005)

Clerk's chambers,
National Assembly,
NAIROBI

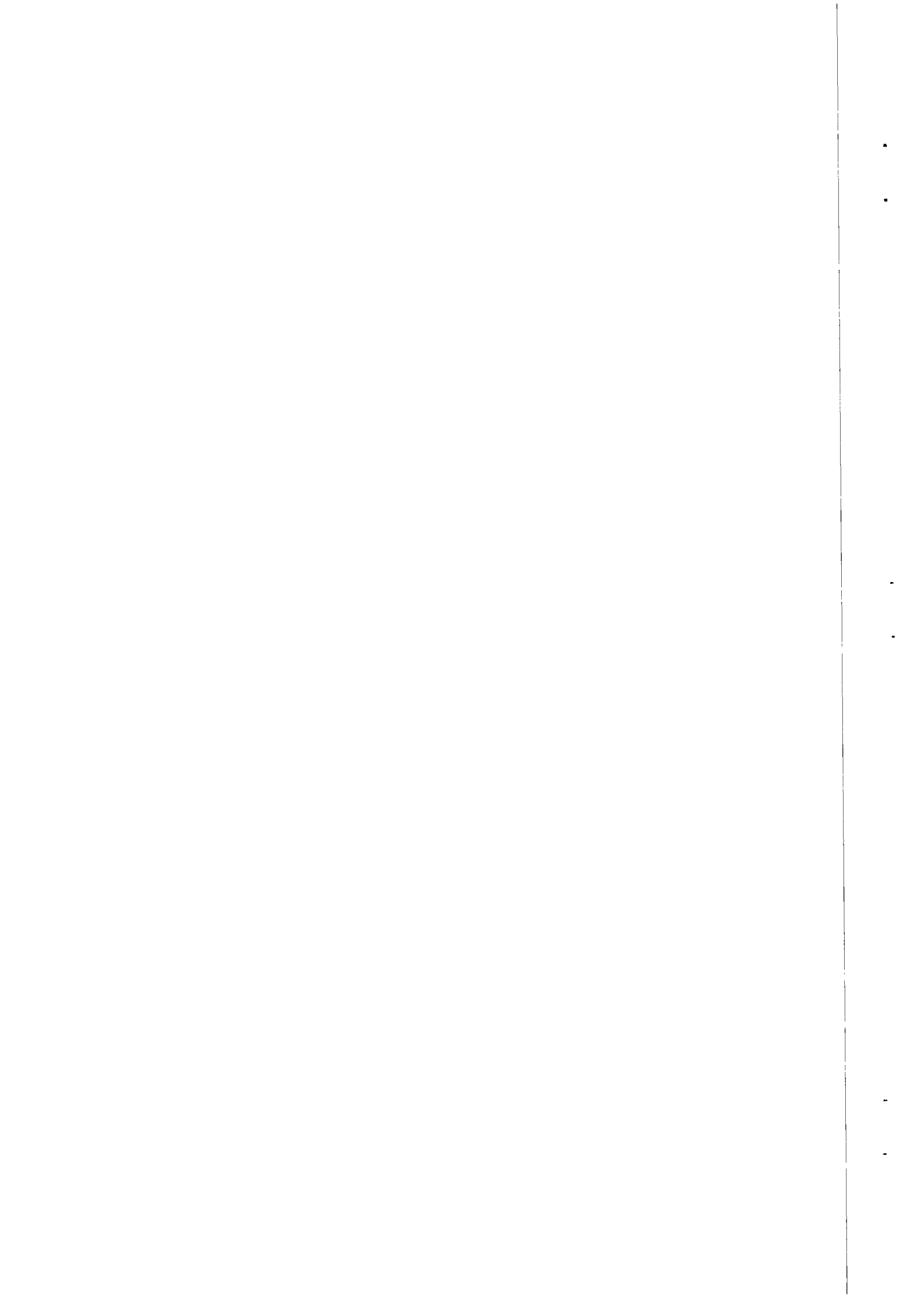
August, 2005

KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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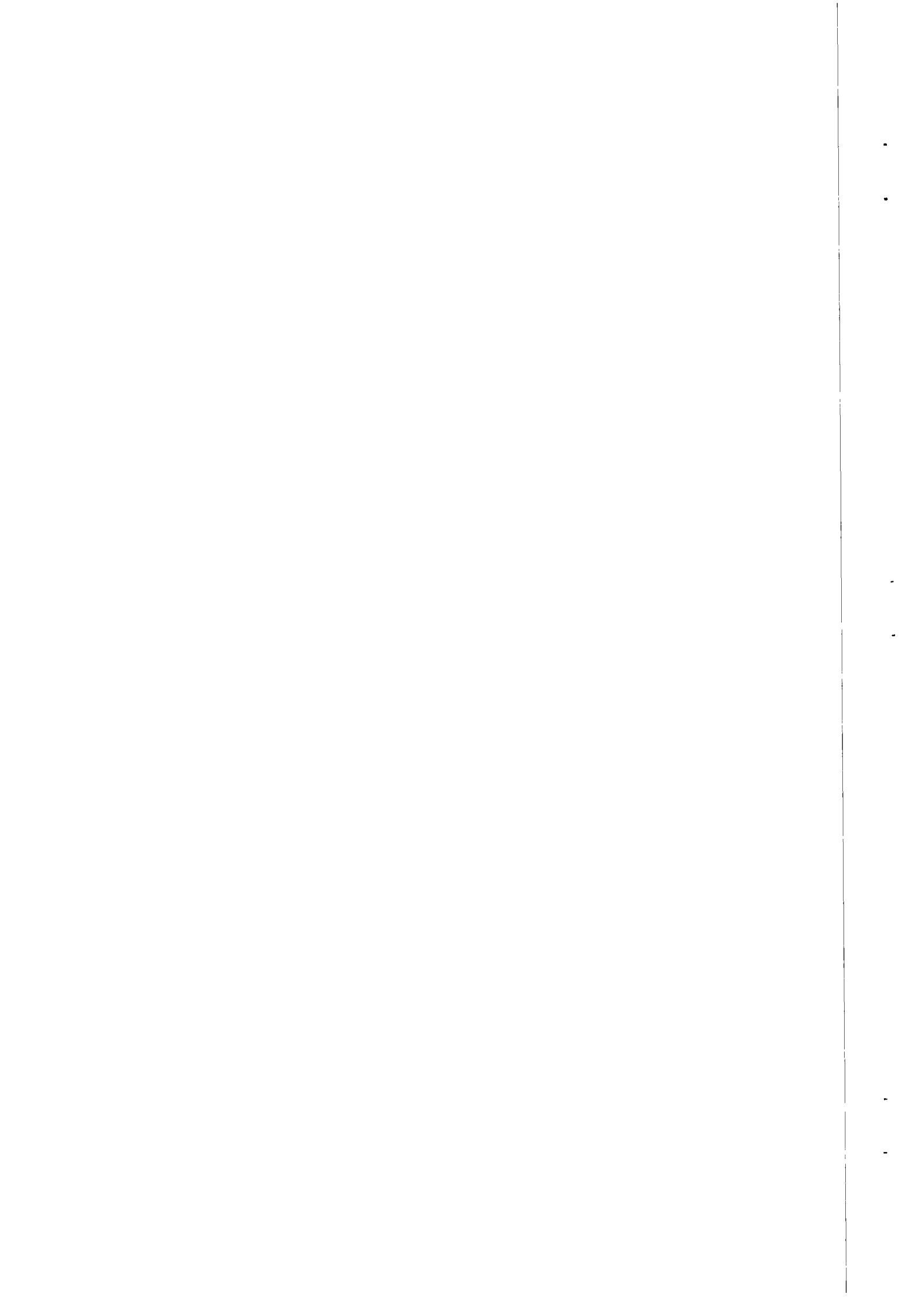


**REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S TOUR OF BUNYALA
IRRIGATION SCHEME IN BUDALANGI DIVISION, BUSIA
DISTRICT**

PREFACE

Hon. Speaker Sir,

1. The Departmental Committee "A" on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources was constituted at the commencement of the Ninth Parliament pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 151; whose paragraph (4) mandates the Committee to carry out these functions:-
 - (a) *to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to its mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;*
 - (b) *to study the programme and policy objectives of ministries and departments and the effectiveness for the implementation;*
 - (c) *to study and review all legislation after the First Reading subject to the exemptions under Standing Order 101A(4);*
 - (d) *to study, assess and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and Departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with its stated objectives;*
 - (e) *to investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as it deems necessary and as may be referred to it by the House or a Minister; and*



(f) to make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible including recommendation of proposed legislation.

2. The subjects falling within the purview of the Committee are:-

- i. Crop and livestock production;
- ii. Marketing;
- iii. Lands and settlement;
- iv. Natural resources;
- v. Water resources;
- vi. Land reclamation and irrigation; and
- vii. Co-operative development.

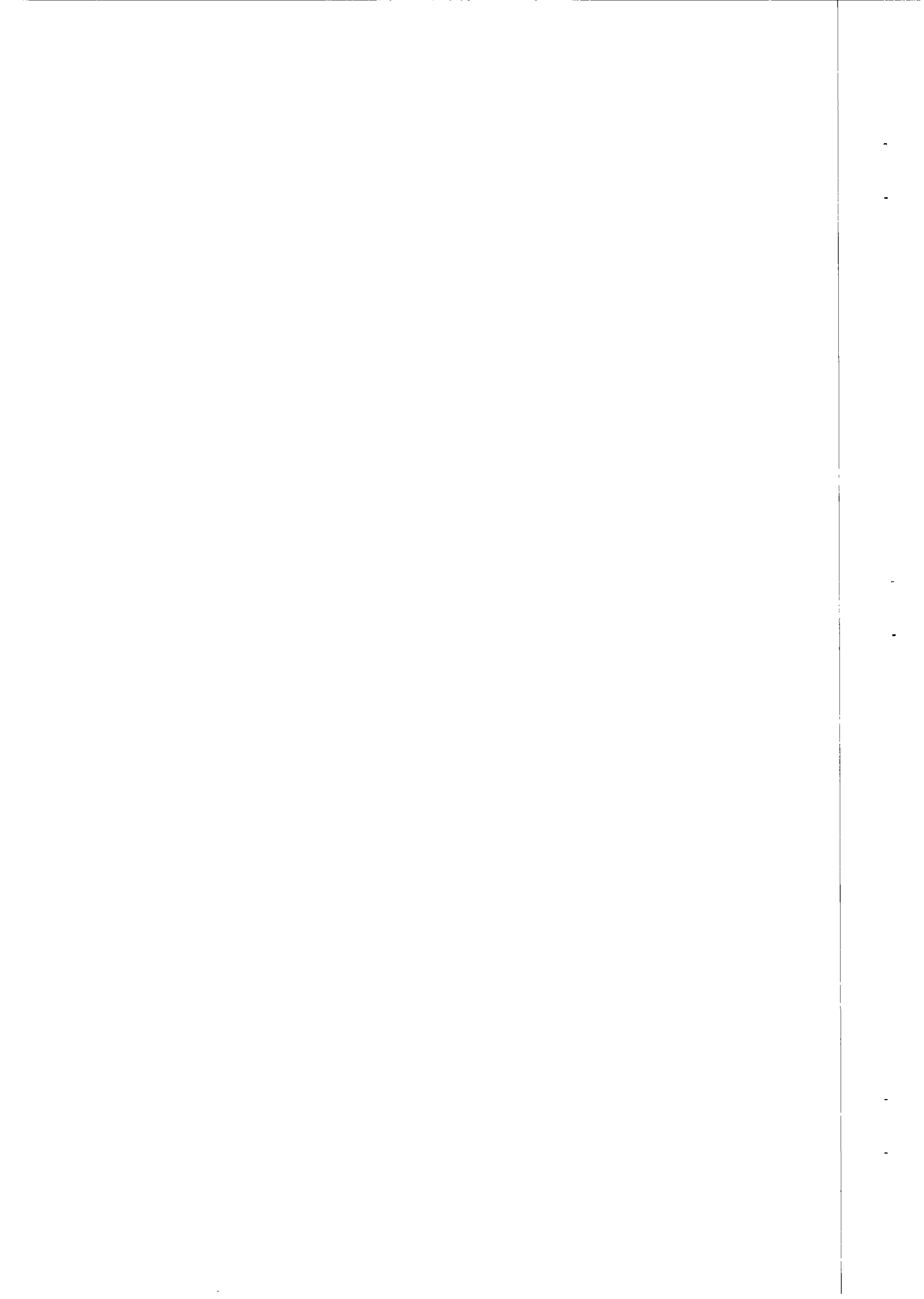
3. The membership of the Committee comprises:-

- i. The Hon. Franklin Bett, M.P. - Chairperson
- ii. The Hon. Mwanicha S.N. Okioma, M.P.
- iii. The Hon. (Prof) Patrick A. Olweny, M.P.
- iv. The Hon. Mwangi Waithaka, M.P.
- v. The Hon. Julius Arunga, M.P.
- vi. The Hon. Patrick Muiruri, M.P.
- vii. The Hon. John Serut, M.P.
- viii. The Hon. Philip Rotino, M.P.
- ix. The Hon. P.G. Muriithi, M.P.
- x. The Hon. J.N. Gachagua, M.P; and
- xi. The Hon. Isaack Shaaban, M.P.

4. On 6th August, 2005, the Committee made a fact finding tour of the Bunyala Irrigation Scheme in Budalangi Division of Busia District.

5. The delegation comprised:-

- i. The Hon. Franklin Bett, M.P. - Chairperson
- ii. The Hon. Prof. Patrick A. Olweny, M.P.
- iii. The Hon. Mwangi Waithaka, M.P.
- iv. The Hon. Philip Rotino, M.P;



- v. The Hon. Mwanicha S.N. Okioma, M.P. and
- vi. The Hon. Julius Arunga, M.P.

Mr. George Gazemba was the Secretary to the delegation. The area Member of Parliament, Hon. Raphael Wanjala accompanied the Committee.

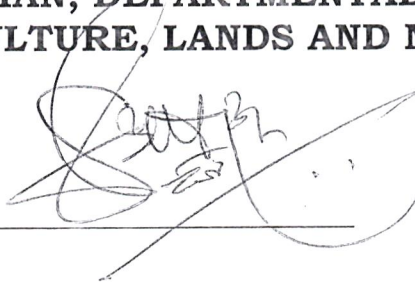
- 6. The Committee expresses gratitude to the Speaker and the Liaison Committee for sanctioning the visit and the Clerk for providing technical support. The Committee also expresses gratitude to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for facilitating the tour and the area Member of Parliament for the company and resource availed.

Hon. Speaker Sir,

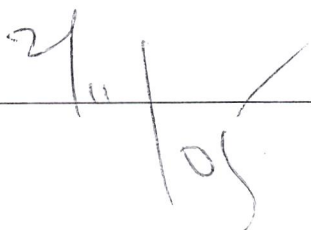
- 7. On behalf of the Committee, I now wish to lay on the Table of the House the report of the Committee in respect of the visit, pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 162.

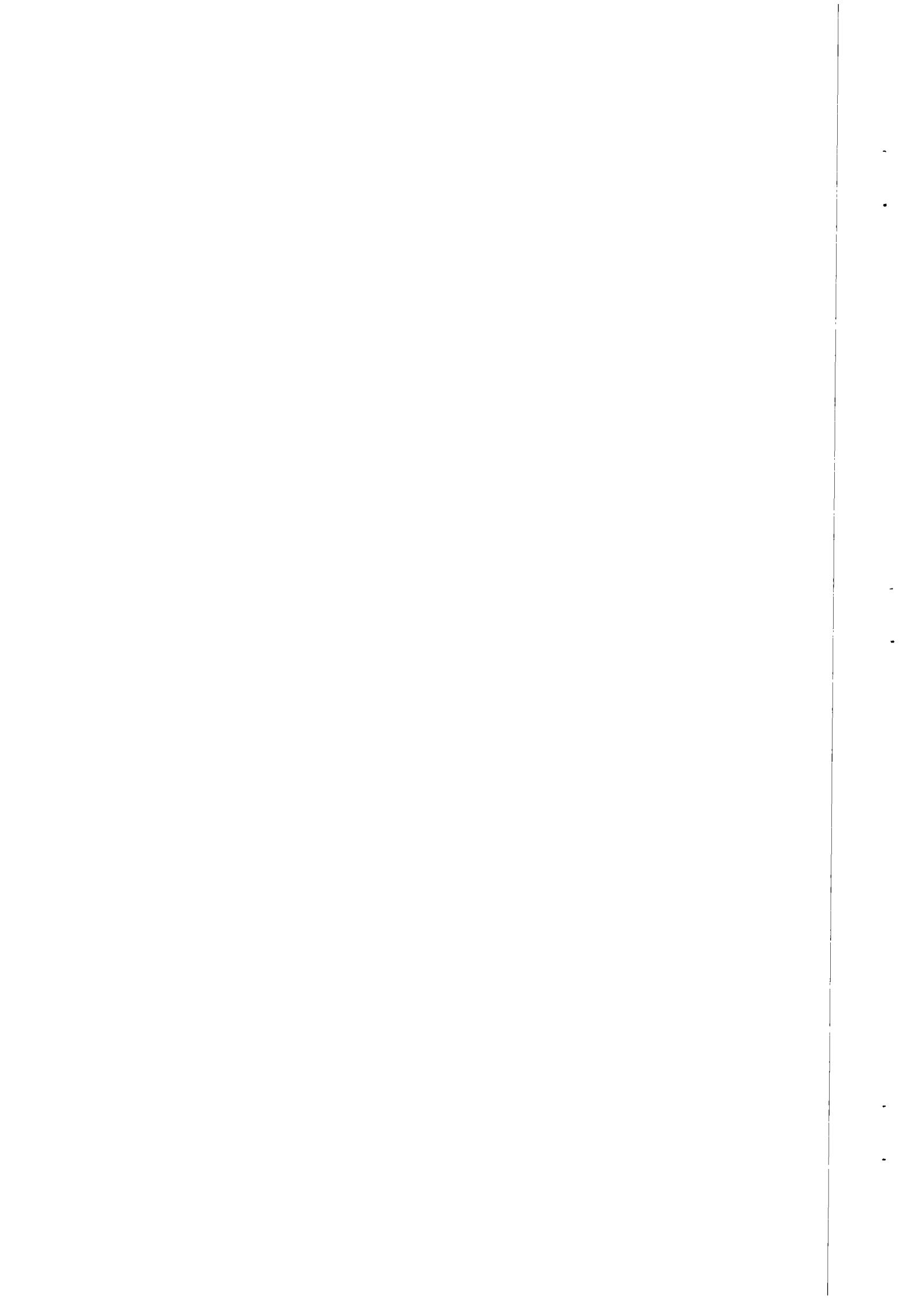
**THE HON. FRANKLIN BETT, M.P.
CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Sign _____



Date _____





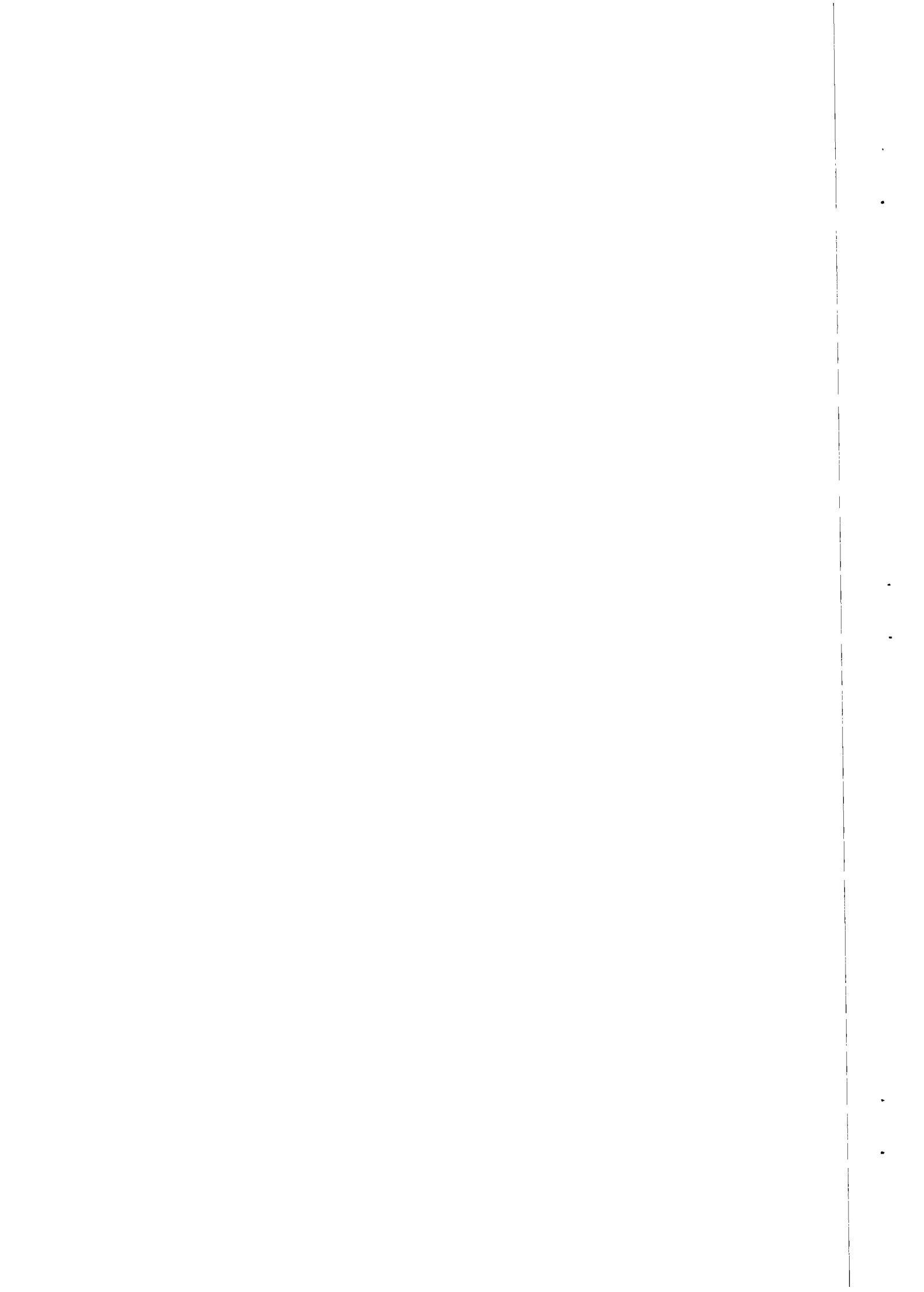
TOUR OF THE BUNYALA IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Bunyala Irrigation Scheme

8. The Bunyala irrigation Scheme is in Budalangi Division of Busia District. It started operations in 1969, covers 534 acres and supports 133 families. The Scheme has 3 acres of land for research.
9. The Scheme uses water from River Nzoia. The water is pumped to the fields by electric pumps. The Scheme has three pumps capable of discharging a maximum of 300 litres per second, depending on water level in the river. The cost of running the pumps is 80,000 shillings per month which is too expensive for the Scheme. The pumps are also old and poorly designed.
10. In the year 1994 out-grower farming was introduced at the Scheme in two phases. Phase 1 was called Muluwa and Phase 2 Munaka. The out-grower farms covered 126 acres. Through out-grower farming, paddy production was significantly increased.
11. In the year 1999 when there was a crisis in the rice industry in the country leading to the collapse of the National Revolving Fund which supported rice farmers countrywide, operations at the scheme stalled. Poverty levels in Budalangi increased as the people of Budalangi did not have any other source of income. The current government was however committed to restructuring and revamping the entire rice industry and had taken steps to the effect.

Steps taken by the government towards normalization of rice farming at the Scheme

12. Efforts geared towards revamping the industry started in



early 2004. By mid July, the efforts had been enhanced by launch of rapid results initiative. The tasks accomplished so far include:-

- i. installation of three rehabilitated pumps with a combine discharge of 1000 litres per second;
 - ii. excavation and desiltation of the scheme's main canal;
 - iii. excavation and desiltation of 144 Kilometers main drain;
 - iv. Construction and repair of all water control structures; and
 - v. formation of Bunyala Irrigation Scheme Water Users Association.
13. The entire scheme's 534 acres are currently under basmati rice production. The gross value of paddy to be produced this year is projected at 30 million shillings at a gross production cost of 10 million shillings. 124 acres owned by out growers are not under cultivation.

Challenges facing the Scheme

14. Though production is going on well, it is still not certain how and when the Scheme will attain independence and self sustenance in future. This is because:-
- i. the Scheme is the smallest and has remained a pilot project for Yala Swamp;
 - ii. the overhead and unit costs of providing services and inputs remain high;
 - iii. the scheme uses electric pumps to pump water to the rice fields and incurs high electricity bills; and

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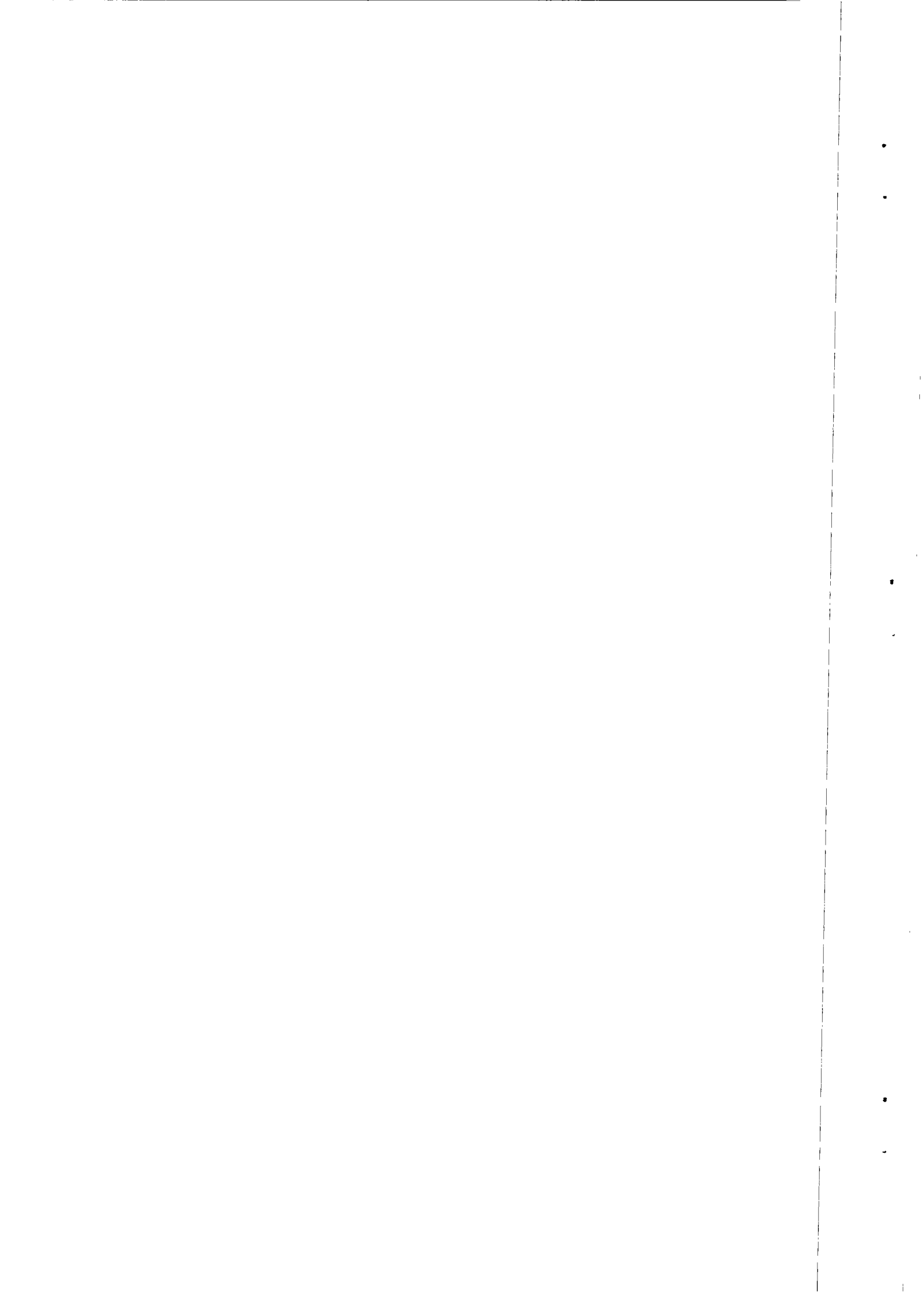
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- iv. the farm organizations though demonstrating potential to deliver require empowerment and capacity building the cost of which is unaffordable by the Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Having toured the Scheme and listened to a Memorandum of farmers, the committee recommends as follows:-
 - i. The pumping of water to the fields by electric pumps is too expensive and the government should facilitate change to gravitational irrigation which is cheap. The pumps either electric or diesel should only be there for emergencies.
 - ii. The government should address the issue of incessant power failure on the scheme which adversely affects production.
 - iii. The irrigation and drainage facilities on the Scheme are narrow and poorly laid out. The irrigation canal should be lined up with concrete slabs to avoid erosion of the banks and sediment. The canals should also be excavated down the lake and widened to discharge excessive water from the Scheme during floods.
 - iv. The 7800 shillings paid by farmers per hectare for the use of irrigation facilities are exorbitant and the government should intervene to have the rates scaled down to affordable rates.
 - v. Only the 534 acres of the nucleus estate are under production. The 126 acres under out-growers are not in use and the government should facilitate cultivation in order to boost paddy production.



- vi. The government should make available irrigation facilities and services to both nucleus and the out-grower farmers free of charge or at very reasonable and or affordable rates.
- vii. All roads in the entire Budalangi division are rough and make transportation of paddy very difficult. The government should improve the roads.
- viii. The government should facilitate the strengthening and capacity building of water users in the rice industry.
- ix. There is urgent need for the government to improve on extension services provision to the rice industry.
- x. There is urgent need for the government through research to develop better rice farming technology and improved varieties.
- xi. The government should fast track on revitalizing the co-operative movement in the rice industry.
- xii. The government should ensure that the roles of the Ministries of Water and Irrigation, Co-operatives and Agriculture in agricultural production are well co-ordinated to avoid conflict.

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