

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 27th July, 1999

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.291

REHABILITATION OF MWALA MARKET

Mr. Katuku asked the Minister for Local Authorities:-

(a) whether he is aware that despite regular payment of levies and licences by Mwala market business people, there are no services offered to them by the concerned authority/council;

(b) whether he is further aware that the drainage system in the market has collapsed and the market has been badly eroded with two gullies developing across the market and,

(c) in view of this situation, what urgent plans does he have to rehabilitate the market.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Sasura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the Masaku County Council has not been able to provide basic services, such as cleaning and garbage collection at the Mwala Open Air Market, to the satisfaction of the market users.

(b) The market is not planned and, therefore, it has no drainage system. It is a natural market which has evolved over a period of time, as the local residents found it a more convenient place to market their goods and produce. The shopping centre is built on a steep area and as a result, two gullies have developed in front of the shops on both sides of the area being used as an open-air market.

(c) I have instructed the council to address the issue of rehabilitating the market, especially the closing of the gullies to make it more environmentally suitable for use as an open-air market.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I greatly appreciate the answer that the Assistant Minister has given me. It is good that for the first time they are agreeing. In Machakos County Council, services are not being offered as they are supposed to be. The only aspect that I would want the Assistant Minister to assure me is that, in his reply to part "c" of my Question, he says he has instructed the Masaku County Council to ensure that the gullies are closed. The problem with the Masaku County Council is the collection and release of funds. Could the Assistant Minister assure me that this will be done in the next two weeks?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I assure the hon. Member that this will be done and as a matter of fact, it will be done immediately after the elections.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is tying the assurance to the elections of the chairmanship of Masaku County Council and yet, the problem that we have with Masaku County Council is its Clerk who is currently on leave. I would want the Assistant Minister to know that since the Clerk went on leave, a lot of money is now pouring in the County Council such that, they do not know how to go about it. Can the Assistant Minister consider moving this fellow from Machakos?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Clerk is on leave but the office of the clerk is there and it is not vacant but operational. The work will be done whether the clerk is on leave or not.

Question No.316

OVERNOMINATION OF COUNCILLORS IN THIKA MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Local Authorities:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Thika Municipal Council has twelve elected councillors and by an Act of Parliament (Cap 265) there should be four nominated councillors;
- (b) why did he "co-opt" an additional councillor, creating over-nomination in Thika and,
- (c) since no full council meetings are taking place due to disagreement between councillors protesting this co-option, could he rescind his decision to co-opt this councillor, so as to normalise operations in the council.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Sasura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Thika Municipal Council has twelve elected councillors and that, in accordance with the existing law, it is entitled to have four nominated councillors.

(b) I have not instructed the Thika Municipal Council to co-opt any individual as a councillor. However, I did communicate a request from the local leaders to the council to consider co-opting a very active member of the local community in one of the council's committees, in terms of Section 91(5) of the Local Government Act, Cap 265. This was done to enable the local residents benefit from his experience in order to enhance delivery of services to the Thika community.

(c) It is not correct that no full council meetings are taking place in Thika Municipal Council due to fights by councillors over the alleged co-option. Since January, 1999, the council has had three full council meetings without any incidents whatsoever. Since I have not instructed the council to co-opt any councillor, the issue of rescinding my decision does not arise.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to hear the Assistant Minister say that he has not instructed the co-option of this man. I have a letter written by the Minister himself saying that he has co-opted somebody called Mr. Phillip Miouki. It is true that the Act outlines how somebody can be co-opted in the committee, but this man is attending all the full council meetings, thus causing the infights there. In view of that answer, can the Assistant Minister now give this House an undertaking that this man will never attend any full council meeting other than a committee meeting and can he further tell us which committee he co-opted this person to?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a co-opted member to the council is not allowed to attend full council meetings and neither is he allowed to vote. If this is happening, then it is an anomaly that should be corrected. The co-option of the member to the various committees was actually a request from the leaders but it is upto the council to place him in the committee which they will decide.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House what interests this particular individual represents in that council?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is just a member of the local community and there is a provision in the law to allow a member who is not a member of the local authority, to be co-opted in a committee or the other, of the council. There is no specific interest that this individual has.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has refused to say which committee the man is in.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndicho, all the Assistant Minister has said is that he does not know which committee the council appointed the man to.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the truth of the matter is that, that man was co-opted in that council to vote in the last mayoral election. The Assistant Minister has said that this was done to enable the local residents benefit from his experience and enhance delivery of services to them. The man was a police constable attached to the Traffic Police Department at Thika Police Station. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the special experience the people of Thika would need from a traffic policeman?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly, the appointee is not a policeman; he was a policeman. He is currently a prominent businessman in Thika, and he has got his own experience.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like the Chair to help us get to the bottom of this matter. The Assistant Minister, in his reply, says that the person in question is experienced. The truth is that the man was a policeman, who was stopping vehicles along the Thika-Garissa Road and searching them. Do the people of Thika really need that kind of experience?

Mr. Speaker: Do they not have car parks?

(Laughter)

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have car parks. However, the council askaris at the municipality do not need this man's services. So, could the Assistant Minister be serious and remove that man? Even the councillors at the municipality have said that they never requested for that man to be sent there. I am the Member of Parliament for those residents, and there is no---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndicho, you are taking all the time now. Mr. Assistant Minister, what do you have to say

to Mr. Ndicho's claims?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not true that the councillors in the municipality contested this matter. In fact, there was a case against the council regarding this matter. The case was filed by one of the councillors, but he withdrew it afterwards and agreed to pay the costs of the suit to the Municipal Council. So, the councillors are in agreement.

Question No.148

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME OF SERVICE
FOR SURVEY STAFF

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ojode not here? We will come back to it. Let us go to Mr. Ndwiga's Question.

Question No.307

PAYMENT OF TERMINAL BENEFITS
TO SACKED BANK EMPLOYEES

Mr. Ndwiga asked the Minister for Labour:-

- (a) why some banks terminated the services of some of their employees after the bank employees' strike of 1998;
- (b) why the banks also declined to pay terminal benefits to the sacked employees; and,
- (c) what he is doing to ensure that the affected employees are soon paid their full terminal benefits and further protect other Kenyan bank employees from such unilateral action by the mainly foreign-owned banks.

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

(a) Nineteen banks, which were members of the Kenya Bank Employers' Association terminated the contracts of some of their former employees after the employees protested against the imposition of an enhanced tax on low interest rates to staff loans from 15 per cent to 22 per cent per annum.

(b) Not all the banks have refused to pay terminal benefits to their sacked employees. The delay in some payments is occasioned by the fact that some of the employees took the matter to court. The courts are still determining the benefits to be awarded to them. Secondly, there are employees whose loan facilities have surpassed the payable terminal benefits. Thirdly, a majority of the affected former bank employees' cases are being referred to the Industrial Court. In addition, there is a category of employees who have been paid their terminal benefits, and who have signed disclaimer documents.

(c) The Minister for Labour, on 22nd February, 1999, appointed one of the officers to act as a conciliator or investigator in this matter. Five such meetings have taken place. The last of the meetings was held on 1st July, 1999, during which the parties concerned reached a deadlock. They, therefore, agreed to refer the matter to the Industrial Court for further arbitration. Should the matter reach the Industrial Court, it is only then that payable benefits, if any, will be determined.

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the truth of the matter is that, after the bankers' strike, most international banks laid off more than 600 Kenyans, who were previously their employees. Some of the banks took advantage of the strike and laid off the affected employees, so that they could not pay them their terminal benefits. The matter was forwarded to the Ministry of Labour but, to-date, the affected former employees have not been paid their terminal benefits, and some of the banks have hold some of the loans.

Mr. Speaker: Are you debating?

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the Assistant Minister has said that not all the banks have refused to pay the sacked employees their terminal benefits. So, one, could he, tell the House the banks that have not paid terminal benefits to the affected former employees? Two, how many of such former employees have since been paid their terminal benefits?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (b) of the Question reads: "Why did the banks also decline to pay terminal benefits to the sacked employees?" It does not name the banks. Subsequently, we can avail the information, but I have not brought it with me. I have said that the former bank employees who were willing to be paid were paid; that, others are still negotiating; and that others have referred their cases to the Industrial Court. So, those are the options that we have as of now.

Mr. Ndigwa: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to say that he did not bring the information asked for in part (b) of the Question when the gist of the Question is: Which are the banks that have not paid terminal benefits to their former employees? The Assistant Minister has not answered the Question. The answer he has brought to the House is a joke.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndwiga, that is not what part (b) of the Question says. Part (b) of the Question asks: "Why did some banks---"

Mr. Ndwiga: Yes, that is the gist of the matter. So, could he now answer that, or tell us when he will answer that one? The matter is very serious, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Ndwiga! You did not want to know "what banks did not pay terminal benefits to their former employees". You asked: "Why did some banks---", and he told you the reasons. You did not require to know the specific banks that have not paid terminal benefits to their former employees. So, that question is irrelevant.

Mr. Kathangu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last two or three years, we have had a lot of Kenyans who have been deprived of their rights by businessmen and some corporate bodies. Sometimes we wonder whether the Government is working in cahoots with those businessmen to deprive Kenyans of their rights. We would like know why it is so difficult to appreciate that, after giving service for about 20 to 30 years, Kenyans are deprived of their benefits by banks. We would also like to know how urgently the Assistant Minister will take steps to ensure that all the employees who have been deprived of their benefits are paid.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the House the options that are available to us. If an issue is before court, it is upto the court to determine it, and the outcome of such determination depends on how long the court process will take. However, on the earlier part of the Question, I would like to say that the Government will, for sure, not leave any employee to be harassed by his or her employer. The Ministry will ensure that they are paid whatever rights and benefits employees are entitle to.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister knows that the country's Judiciary is overburdened, why does he not say the banks that have declined to pay terminal benefits to their former employees? When he was preparing to answer the Question, the Assistant Minister must have known the banks that have agreed to pay and the ones that have refused to do so. He should also have known the action he intends to take against those which have refused to pay. We do not want to have the---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Maore, I think you are now asking me the question. It is assumed by the Assistant Minister, like I would assume, that when you say that "some banks have not paid", you know which banks paid and which did not pay.

Mr. Kajembe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all those workers whose services were terminated belonged to local and international banks. They were laid off through a resolution of the banks association in the country. So, could the Assistant Minister ask the same association to direct the banks to pay those workers?

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is the Chair that is preventing the Assistant Minister from answering this Question!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Maoka Maore! Would you like to answer Mr. Kajembe, Mr. Assistant Minister? You can answer him if you wish!

Mr. Ethuro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am willing to answer each and every Question that is asked here. To start with hon. Maore's point of order, the Speaker is not protecting the Ministry. Your reading of the Question is the same reading that I have. I think any natural meaning of those words will not necessarily make you provide the particular bank. If the hon. Members wish so, then they will request and we will provide those banks at the appropriate time. I only said that I did not think the Question necessitated naming the banks, and so I did not come with the names of the specific banks. It is the reasons that were needed which we have elaborated very clearly.

Back to hon. Kajembe's Question, we have no powers to instruct the Kenya Bankers Employers Association because the relationship between the employers and the employees is simple. The employees have their union and employers have also their union. The two enter into an agreement. Once the instruments of the agreement have been agreed, the work of the Ministry is to ensure that no party betrays the agreement.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This issue did not arise out of a normal industrial relation between workers and employers to spark off a political problem in the country. Would it not be in order for the Ministry to initiate understanding within the banking industry, that as much as possible, those who want their jobs back should be allowed to come and those who want to be paid their benefits are paid their benefits so that we have industrial peace in the country?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to part "c" of the Question provides the answer to hon. Anyona's question. The Ministry appointed one of the officers, a Mr. G. Omondi, on the 22nd February, 1999, to bring these

parties; the employees and the employers into negotiations. Basically, we are looking into the conditions which employers were willing to take the employees back on, and which employees were willing to be taken back on; whatever terms they will agree on. I have indicated here that five of such meetings took place. On 1st July, 1999, the parties reached a deadlock. The current mechanism of arbitration that we have enrolled is that once the two parties do not agree, we refer the matter to the Industrial Court. That is the only choice we have now within the current framework.

Question No.369

CONTROL OF WATER HYACINTH IN NYANZA GULF

Dr. Oburu asked the Minister for Environmental Conservation:-

(a) whether he is aware that water hyacinth has engulfed the whole of Nyanza Gulf and blocked many beaches and ports, thus rendering them inaccessible to fishermen and public transport;

(b) whether he is further aware that the water hyacinth is killing the fishing industry by depleting fish stock in the lake, thus impoverishing the population around the lake, and;

(c) what urgent measures he is taking to control and annihilate this dangerous weed from the lake in order to save the people of Bondo from further suffering.

The Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): Mr. speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that water hyacinth has caused the problems in many parts of the Lake Victoria, particularly in the Nyanza Gulf. The water hyacinth mats are found in various parts in the gulf and often move with the direction of the winds. The weed has, therefore, blocked some of the beaches and ports rendering them inaccessible to fishermen and public transport.

(b) The fishing industry is facing many problems which have led to the decline in total fish production. This decline can be attributed to a number of factors such as pollution, water hyacinth infestation, introduction of Nile Perch, increase in the number of fishermen and lack of harmonized regional fishing policies.

(c) The water hyacinth infestation in the lake is of concern to the Government. The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) has been established to address this issue amongst other environmental problems in the lake basin. An American firm, Aquirus Systems, has been commissioned to undertake the mechanical removal of the weed. This firm is due to commence its operations by August, 1999.

KARI has been rearing and releasing weevils to the lake for the control of water hyacinth. The activities currently implemented by KARI are biological control and manual removal of the weed from the strategic sites. Communities and other stakeholders have also been sensitized on manual methods of control of the water hyacinth. Some local communities are in the process of harvesting the water hyacinth and putting it into commercial use.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for the answer. He has admitted that there is a problem and he has also said that there are some measures by the Government to try to solve the problem. However, the weed is spread all over Lake Victoria and it is carried by wind from place to place. I would like the Minister to tell us whether the machinery which is being brought to the lake is going to be there permanently to keep on removing the weed, or is it going to be removed by the contractor when his contract expires? Secondly, is there a co-ordination of efforts between Kenya Government and all the other countries surrounding Lake Victoria to make sure that this weed is dealt with from all parts of the lake, and it is not left as a Kenyan problem where the weed will be carried by the wind from River Kagera in Uganda to the Nyanza Gulf?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the area that will be harvested by this machine when it arrives is 1,500 hectares. The Lake on the Kenyan side is larger than that. The money given by the World Bank will be enough to harvest 1,500 hectares of water hyacinth. What will happen to the remaining part, heaven knows! So, the three Governments; Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have not come together over this problem. So, I cannot assure the Member of Parliament for Bondo what is going to happen after that.

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to seek guidance from the Chair. I am given to understand that the hon. F.P. Lotodo is the Minister for Natural Resources and not for the Environmental Conservation. Have there been a reshuffle which we have not been told of? He is answering that Question on the Order Paper which is directed to the Minister for Environmental Conservation?

Mr. Speaker: What rule refuses the Minister for Natural Resources answering a Question ---

Mr. Kamolleh: We have not seen it happen! Is it a precedence being set?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Kamolleh, you have not been here for two years. So, there is nothing for you to compare. Proceed!

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question was directed to this Ministry by mistake. Secondly, the Member of Parliament should know that we have collective responsibility. So, I am qualified to answer Questions directed to any Ministry. The latest information I have is that the machine was shipped from New York Harbour on 16th June, 1999, and it is expected any time in Mombasa. It will take five days from Mombasa to Kisumu. It will be assembled within 24 hours, and I hope it will start operating on the lake around 4th August, 1999.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, water hyacinth is indeed, a big menace on the lake and the Government must accept that the beetles project has failed because the beetles which were supposed to eat the weed when they were dumped into the lake came ashore and found the sweet potatoes sweeter than the water hyacinth. Therefore, they begun destroying the sweet potatoes. The cut-chopping this weed is going to involve dropping 450,000 tonnes of dead weeds into the bed of the lake. Has the Government carried out an environmental impact assessment to find out what kind of destruction, in terms of pollution, is going to be caused to the lake by dumping all that biomass on the bed of the lake?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not had the problem of water hyacinth before, and so we do not have the experience. I am sure that the Member of Parliament for Langata, Mr. Raila Odinga, has picked that information from elsewhere, because the problem of water hyacinth has never occurred anywhere in East Africa.

Mr. Raila: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have not picked that information from anywhere else. There are two ways of removing the weed; one, chopping and dropping it ashore and using it as a fertilizer and also make building materials from it, as opposed to dumping it on the bed of the lake. Scientists are concerned that dumping the weed on the bed of the lake will cause serious pollution to the water, because we have a very tiny portion of the lake on that side. So, has the Government done environmental impact assessment? If it has not done, what is the reason behind it?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount of money available is only for the chopping of the water hyacinth and leaving it there. Both hon. Raila and hon. Dr. Oburu can form their company, remove the weed and convert it into ceiling boards, or anything that they want, but the contracted company will not do what they want.

(Laughter)

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question is very precise---

*(Mr. Leshore consulted with an officer
at the Civil Servants Bench)*

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Leshore! You have no business conversing with strangers. Do that again and I will show you out of this House. Strangers must keep quiet while in the Chamber! Proceed, Dr. Omamo!

Dr. Omamo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Question is very specific and it is as follows: What steps is the Government going to take to annihilate the weed? The word used is "annihilate." The reply about the use of the weevil is unsatisfactory. The weevil can eat a little of the weed, but it cannot annihilate it. The machine which is expected may chop some roots and leaves of the weed, but it may not annihilate it. Could the Minister explain to the House whether or not the Government has found another method of removing and annihilating the weed?

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water hyacinth is not something that you can completely wipe out; it comes often. So, we are going to reduce it, but we may not completely wipe it out of Lake Victoria. I remember on 13th July, 1999, my colleague, hon. Dr. Oburu, told me that, in fact, the water hyacinth had brought some peace which had disappeared some years back and it had saved the lives of some of the people around Lake Victoria. Now, he and hon. Raila are retracting what they said. So, there must be some confusion on the Opposition side.

(Laughter)

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister really aware that the problem of water hyacinth is an extremely important one; that it is not only relevant to Lake Victoria, but to all water resources in the Republic, which are all being invaded by it? If the Minister is not aware of that, the fact that the Government is chopping the weed and dropping it into the Lake Victoria, is he convinced that, that is the best way to annihilate the dangerous weed from all the water resources in the country?

An hon. Member: "Annihilate?"

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know what to "annihilate" means. It means to completely remove the weed. As I said earlier on, we shall see how this machine will work. After finishing with the Lake Victoria, we shall move to other water bodies within the Republic of Kenya.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has admitted that the removal of the water hyacinth by the machine will not completely eliminate it. I understand that to mean that this contractor will do absolutely nothing; he will not even solve a quarter of the problem. Could he confirm or deny that this contractor is only coming to "eat" money, given out by the World Bank? They have incorporated a local company in the contract, which has nothing to do with the removal of the water hyacinth. These people are just out to "eat" public funds and there will be no solution at all to the weed menace. The company is called M/S Miligan and Company.

Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the harvesting of the water hyacinth, which covers 1,500 hectares, is an enormous job. I do not know of the local company which the hon. Member talked about. The issue of "eating" money donated by the World Bank does not arise; the company will work and it will be paid for the work it has done.

Question No.383

NON-PAYMENT OF DECRETAL SUM TO MR. PAUL OKUT

Mr. Ngure asked the Attorney-General:-

(a) whether he is aware that the High Court at Nairobi on 21st January, 1991, entered judgement in favour of Paul Okut and others against the Attorney-General in HCCC No.3727 of 1981 for the sum of Kshs543,338 together with interest and costs;

(b) why he has failed and/or neglected to pay the decretal sum together with interest and costs even after the Court issued a decree to that effect on 11th February, 1991;

(c) whether he is aware that by September, 1997, the decretal sum had attracted interest in the sum of Kshs600,000 and;

(d) when he will pay the entire decretal sum together with interest to the judgement creditors.

The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) The advocate acting for the plaintiff did not take any legal step to enforce judgement, until February, 1999, when they served a copy of the decree on the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, the application to set aside the judgement was not heard as the court file went missing for a number of years.

(c) I am not aware.

(d) The responsibility of paying the decretal amount of money lies with the Ministry of Health. I have been assured by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health that he has put in motion the procedures which will lead to payment.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether it is the duty of the advocate to chase for some of these payments when a judgement has been entered. But anyway, in part "c" of his answer, the Attorney-General says that he is not aware. But I have got a copy of a letter written by the advocate to the Attorney-General, stating the amount of interest which would accrue on the decretal sum of money, and also a copy of a letter from the Attorney-General which says, in part:

"In the circumstance, please, comply with the terms of the decree to forestall further accrual of interest---"

Could the Attorney-General tell us what type of interest he was talking about in that letter, if he is unaware of the accrued interest?

Mr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that the decretal amount has attracted interest amounting to Kshs600,000. It may have attracted less interest, but not in the sum of Kshs600,000.

Mr. Kajwang': Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Attorney-General confirm that the Government is the worst paymaster, when it comes to decrees from the courts. This is because the Government knows that the advocates cannot do anything. They cannot attach Government property. They cannot arrest public officials. The advocates are at the mercy of the Government. That is why, since 1991, the Attorney-General has been sitting pretty, with the Minister happy, and they cannot pay anybody!

Mr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is not the worst payer of decretal amounts. I do agree that the Government has, at times, defaulted in paying the decretal sums. It is a problem that I addressed this Parliament on last week, and in the previous weeks. I may take this opportunity to state that there are procedures for enforcing judgements against the Government. I would hope that rather than rushing to this House, the persons who aggrieved that their judgements have not been paid, can follow those procedures. When they follow those procedures, they will find that my office will be very co-operative in securing payments.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Attorney-General, for the sake of so many other people with

judgements against the Government, explain in a simple and detailed manner what those procedures are, so that other people can use them?

Mr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would have hoped that since those people normally use advocates, the advocates are very well aware of the procedures. But on payment of a small fee, I can explain to the advocates what the procedures are.

Mr. Kapten: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Attorney-General confirm that the Government is broke? That is why it is unable to live up to its obligations to its citizens. The procedures the Attorney-General is talking about are very expensive to the ordinary litigants. Where will those litigants get money to follow all those procedures of bringing notices to show cause; and, to bring the Permanent Secretary to court?

Mr. Wako: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already assured this House, if any person in that problem approaches my office, we shall be very co-operative in ensuring that the relevant Ministry pays up. I do admit that, in the past, we have had problems in paying decretal sums. But as I have explained to this House, from last year, we have been going into this exercise on how much of the judgement debts is owed to various persons. The Treasury, in conjunction with my office, is dealing with the problem. I hope that in future, payments will be effected and the Government will be an exemplary way to other litigants on obeying court orders and effecting payments immediately.

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. If I heard the Attorney-General well, he said that there is no need for hon. Members to rush to this House, where we are elected to ask questions on behalf of our constituents. Is he in order to say that we are not supposed to rush to this House?

Mr. Speaker: To the extent that he cannot execute judgement against the Government, he is right!

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Attorney-General indicated last time that, there was a lot of Questions of this kind, which will be coming before this House. In that event, would it not be fair to this House, for the Attorney-General to make some general statement with regard to those procedures, so that the Members could be aware, rather than leaving the procedures to the advocates? That is why the matter came before this House because the advocates were not able to sort it out in time. Could he consider, at some time but not now, to make a general statement to the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! First of all, Question Time is not for teaching hon. Members procedures of executing debts. In fact, we have no time! But if the Attorney-General so pleases, he may extract a copy of the Civil Procedure Rules concerning execution of debts, and lay it on the Table. Those Members who wish to read can do so. Can we have hon. Ojode's Question for the second time?

Mr. Ojode: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to apologise for coming late.

Question No.148

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME
OF SERVICE FOR SURVEY STAFF

Mr. Ojode asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement what steps he has taken to implement the Scheme of Service for the Survey of Kenya staff, which was recommended by the Head of Civil Service in June, 1990.

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

I am not aware of the scheme of service for the Survey of Kenya staff which was recommended by the then Head of Civil Service in June, 1990. However, I am aware that the scheme of service for Survey of Kenya staff, which was released by the Government in 1989, was fully implemented. The Ministry has already proposed the revision of the existing scheme of service. The new scheme of service will be implemented once the on-going consultations are finalised.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite worrying that the same Assistant Minister who is answering this Question, was the then Head of Civil Service. He says that he is not aware. Having said that, the Head of Civil Service in 1990, Mr. Joseph Leting, was the Chairman of the Commission for the scheme of service for the Survey of Kenya staff. I am just asking him: Why has it taken a long time to implement what he and his team had recommended. What kind of consultation---

Mr. Speaker: Could you give him time, Mr. Ojode? We do not have a lot of time! Do we?

Mr. Ojode: Let me ask the exact one!

Mr. Speaker: Order! You are going round in circles!

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what kind of consultations is he going to have, apart from the

recommendations which he gave in 1990?

Mr. Leting: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am still not aware of such a circular! In any case, if there was such a decision by my office at that time, it should not have been recommended. The Question asks what the Minister is doing to implement the scheme of service for the Survey of Kenya staff which was recommended. That office does not recommend. It directs. So, if it was to be implemented, it should have been directed and not recommended.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if that is his argument, what consultations are going on, if they are not on the implementation of the scheme of service which was done by him?

Mr. Leting: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may improve on the consultations. It is true that there was the scheme which was launched in 1989. It was implemented up to the middle of 1990s. Then, the Ministry of Lands and Settlement began consultations with the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM), to review the scheme of 1989. Consultations were carried out and a conclusion was reached. A draft scheme of service was agreed by both parties. However, before it was implemented, the Government appointed the Munene Commission on salary review for civil servants. So, the DPM advised that the implementation of that scheme of service, which had been implemented up to mid-1990, should be suspended, pending the outcome of the Munene Commission. When the Munene Commission submitted its report to the Government---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Leting, please shorten your answer! I do not have time for all this!

Mr. Leting: In short, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a draft report was ready, but we were told that we could not implement it until the Kipkulei Commission, which is going on now, and which is looking into the harmonisation of conditions of service in the Civil Service, completes its work. We cannot go very far now. We are relying on the DPM to tell us what to do next. Until they do that, we cannot do anything.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON HON. ANYONA

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question was deferred last time and the Minister was supposed to bring more information---

Mr. Speaker: Order! You ask the Question. Look at the clock.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all I was saying is that I expected a written answer which I have not got. However, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President the following Question by Private Notice.

In view of the current spate of political incitement, intrigue and thuggery in the Abagusii Community, could the Minister inform the House:

- (a) The circumstances in which hired political thugs made an assassination attempt on my life in the compound of Kisii Hotel at about 8.00 p.m. on 20th June, 1999?
- (b) The motive(s) behind the assassination attempt?
- (c) The identity of the thugs of the assassination plot?
- (d) What measures the Government has and will institute against the prevalent political incitement, intrigue and thuggery in the Abagusii Community to protect innocent and law-abiding citizens?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that this Question has appeared before and we answered it. But the hon. Member was not satisfied with the answer mainly because he wanted us to come here and report here that the culprit or the suspect has been arrested. We have not yet arrested this suspect. We have generally agreed with the hon. Member that I come to this House when these suspects have been arrested.

Mr. Speaker: Order! What do you want me to do? I cannot keep this Question forever here!

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not I, but it is the Chair that directed the Minister to bring a more adequate answer to the House because the House was not satisfied. They asked for two weeks and they were given two weeks, but they are coming back with the same answer. This is such a serious and sensitive issue that I would not want to venture into speculation. All I am saying is: If the Minister is unable to carry out a simple investigation because he has been given the suspects, and as you said, we cannot hold up the House forever, then I can only request that, in the meantime, he ensures that there is no incitement, or insecurity. When he gets the answer from the people who were involved, he should come to this House and tell us what happened.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure this House that the investigations are continuing and I will issue the appropriate statement when this is concluded.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Ali.

DENIAL OF VISAS TO BRAESIDE
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Master Omar Abdullahi and Farhiya Abdullahi, students of Braeside High School, Nairobi, were denied visas to travel to France with their French Class?

(b) Under what circumstances were these teenagers aged 13 and 12 years, respectively, denied the visas while the rest of the class were cleared by the French Embassy?

(c) What action is the Minister taking against this act of discrimination by the French Embassy?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Dr. Godana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I wish to take the opportunity to apologise to the House and to the hon. Member for failure to answer the Question last week. I had rushed here from a crucial meeting which I was holding in time, but the Question Time ended a little prematurely. However, I beg to reply.

(a) The plight of the two students was brought to the attention of the Ministry on 28th June, 1999. The Ministry was informed that the two students had been singled out from a group of students of Braeside High School who were due to travel to France on an educational tour from the 1st to the 23rd of July, 1999. The other 13 students were issued with visas while Omar Abdullahi and Farhiya Abdullahi were denied visas by the French Embassy.

(b) Immediately the Ministry was so notified, it took up the issue with the French Embassy who informed us that some time ago, the two students, Omar Abdullahi and Farhiya Abdullahi had individually applied for Schengen visas which were denied. The French Embassy did not clarify to which country in the Schengen group the earlier application was made. France is a member of the Schengen Group of States and it is bound by the decision of one of those countries not to grant the visas.

Also, as a sovereign state, France, like any other state has the right to admission of foreign nationals onto its territory.

(c) The Ministry did its best in trying to assist.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with that answer at all. I think the answer is not satisfactory enough because these children are aged 12 and 13 years. The first time they applied for visas to go to Holland in 1996 for a private holiday, the Holland Government said that since they were going to visit people who were on welfare, it was not good enough because they could not be taken care of. This was accepted. Now, they are going with a group of students from their class. How are they going to feel for the next 50 years? What is this Government doing about it? This is discrimination. I want a proper answer!

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most proper answer he could possibly get. First, I need to clarify the issues a little further. France is a signatory to the Schengen Convention which allows for open borders to facilitate--

Mr. Komolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(The sound of a gadget was heard)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Who is that? I am shocked! Hon. Members must treat this House with respect. Keep those gadgets away. Now, hon. Members must understand one thing. When a Question is asked and the Minister is in the process of explaining the reasons, it is not right for hon. Members to stop that explanation in the hope that the Minister will agree with them. They are not obligated. You have asked a Question, you must get an answer. So, let the Minister give the reasons, then you can agree or disagree with him.

Dr. Godana: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I was in the process of explaining the issues involved and I think it will be good if hon. Members listen. France is a signatory to the Schengen Convention which--

Hon. Members: What is that?

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Schengen is the City State where the convention between a group of European States was concluded. The Convention has taken its name from the place of its conclusion.

The convention allows for open borders to facilitate the free movement of persons, goods and services among the member States. Member States are Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Italy and Germany, with Greece so far an associated member. Hence the issuance of a visa to an individual by one of this Schengen party States automatically allows that individual free movement to the other member states. Conversely, the denial of the issuance of a visa to an individual by one Schengen member state, automatically denies that individual the right of entry to other member states. In this age of computers, in fact, the embassy while processing the visas, is

immediately alerted by its computer that this happened before and this person cannot come in.

In accordance with the common immigration policy of the members state of the Schenge Convention, free visa travel for Kenyans has been withdrawn, like for many other countries, from several European countries with which, in fact, we had free travel arrangements. This is the case in Italy and Spain while Germany has already given notice that the withdrawal of free visa travel will take effect from August 1999.

The Ministry took up this matter with the French Embassy precisely because the information we received through the lawyers of the family of these two students indicated that this appeared to be a case of unjustified discrimination against two individuals out of a group. That was the basis on which we interceded with the Embassy and the Embassy gave us an answer in terms that made us understand the Embassy's position. This was a matter in which it was obliged to reject because of that earlier situation. The hon. Member is asking what will happen for the next 50 years; perhaps the situation will change. We know the question of visas is becoming a major problem worldwide, particularly for people from the Third World like Africa, who wish to travel to the developed world, for example, Europe. Maybe, at some stage, internationally, in some international forum, it will be necessary for the international community to deal with the matter in a manner which departs from the current practice where every state is recognised to have the right to decide who comes into its territory and who does not come in. We too exercise that power and sometimes turn down requests for visas for individuals who come from certain countries. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whereas we do appreciate what the Minister is trying to explain, I would like to inform this House that the French have come to Africa without visas and passports, and yet, today, most Kenyans are living in anguish. Anybody who wants to travel to Europe or the United States of America (USA) must line up in these Embassies for several days. What is the Minister doing to alleviate this problem because this is not the first case but there are many cases of this nature? In fact, many Kenyans are suffering as a result of this. Could the Minister assure us that if these people will not give us visas they will close down their embassy and go back to their country?

(Applause)

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I certainly think that the hon. Member must have made the last comment with a light touch. We are certainly not in a position, or of the mind, to require countries with which we have to engage internationally to close down their embassies. But I want to say that questions of visa denials keep on coming to the Ministry at an alarming rate. Therefore, I would like to inform this House that there have been cases where we had to intervene very strongly, and others where we had to secure change of policy for the issuance of genuine visa application. For example, the most disturbing case now is that of students who pay their money in advance to the USA, or United Kingdom (UK); the money is received; the university concerned sends the documents and then the student is denied a visa to travel. We had to intervene in a number of cases of this nature, and we are still taking up the matters with the concerned embassies.

Having said that, I also want to emphasis that those who seek visas also need to be of assistance to us. They should supply all the information required on the forms in an appropriate and correct manner. Now, had we known that these children had applied for the visas individually to another country earlier on and that they had been rejected, perhaps, the manner of our intervention would have been different. I would like to inform this House that we did not know that until the embassy told us that their visa application had been rejected a long time ago, and the individuals should have known that they were tourists.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the answer that the Minister has given us. France is a sovereign country and has a right to admit or refuse admission to any other citizen from another country. Therefore, it is the responsibility of this Government to protect the right and dignity of its citizens. A visa can be refused for different reasons. For example, one can apply for a resident or tourist visa, but this was a different application. This was a case for a review of the application. Could the Government make it as its responsibility to ensure that Kenyans are not discriminated, particularly on flimsy grounds, such as that these were juvenile citizens of this country? There was a case for a proper review of the application because these children were travelling for purely educational purpose and not for tourism or residential purpose.

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure the hon. Member that the Government, through my Ministry, is determined to take up every complaint of denial of visa to Kenyan citizens, where it appears genuine, and in a very forthright manner. In fact, that is what we have been doing.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! There is no way we will be on this Question forever!

CONTRACT AWARD TO M/S
URBAN CLEANERS LIMITED

(Mr. Badawy) to ask the Minister for Local Authorities:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that the Deputy Town Clerk, Malindi Municipal Council, irregularly and arbitrarily signed an agreement on 2nd June, 1999 with M/S Urban Cleaners Limited of P.O. Box 14814, Nairobi, contracting them to collect refuse, sweep roads *et cetera* in parts of Malindi Town at a sum of Kshs8,183,000 per month without consulting the council on the contractual sum and the terms and conditions of that purported agreement?

(b) Why was this tender not advertised?

(c) Could the Minister intervene and restrain the council from executing the agreement on account of its irregularity and the scarce financial resources of the council?

Mr. Speaker: We cannot tackle the third Question by Private Notice by Mr. Badawy now, but instead we will place it on the Order Paper for tomorrow morning.

(Question deferred)

As for all those hon. Members who talked to me and wanted Ministerial Statements, or the Ministers who wanted to make Ministerial Statements, will you all be here tomorrow morning? I will give all of you a chance to do that tomorrow morning. I will add five minutes at the end of the sitting and, therefore, let us move on to the next order.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read being Twelfth Allotted Day)

MOTION

THAT, MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

*(The Minister for Education and Human Resource
Development on 22.7.99)*

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 22.7.99)

Mr. Speaker: Was there anybody on the Floor? Mr. Shidie!

Mr. Shidie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to Vote R31 and D31 for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. We do appreciate the fact that this is a key Ministry that is empowered to provide education to Kenyans. However, this Ministry, as it is, need to be given more funds so that it can undertake education in our respective districts and provinces. If one looks at this Ministry, he or she will realise that it is the most active Ministry in this Republic. This is because there are schools at the village, locational and district levels. In fact, this is a Key Ministry and it needs to be helped!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would now like to inform this House that there are few teachers in North Eastern Province, particularly in Garissa District, where I come from. In fact, the teachers who are in that district are not enough! For example, if you visit a school in Garissa District you will find two teachers, and if you visit another school you will find three or five teachers. In that case, we have few teachers in Garissa District.

The 8-4-4 education system has made us to lag behind when it come to education in that province. In the old system, when one had not performed very well in his or her "O" level examination, he or she had a chance to improve in the "A" level examination, and that person would have ended up going to the university. With the 8-4-4 system, you will realise that majority of students from that province are unable to join public universities. Today, as I am speaking here, there is no single girl from that province who has managed to join any of the five public universities. That alone is an indication that this system of education is not appropriate for our people.

Time has come for us to introduce the quarter system at our universities. This is because the education system

in that province is very poor. This is because most schools in that province have poor facilities, few teachers and have no laboratory equipment and not enough desks. That means that the kind of students we have will be ill-equipped for the national examinations. This is why the quarter system should be introduced at the university level, otherwise, we will continue lagging behind. Whereas the rest of Kenyans will go to good universities that province will lag behind for ever; the province will be a cancerous growth to the rest of Kenyans. That will mean that we will not have teachers, administrators and other skilled manpower.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to touch on the issue of bursary. The way bursaries are allocated by this Ministry need to be revisited. Whereas we are the recipients of relief food - I hope the Minister is listening to me and that he knows what I am saying because he comes from a very dry area - we are expected to pay school fees. How does the Ministry expect somebody who is on relief handouts to pay school fees? The way the Ministry is giving out bursaries is wrong. This is because it looks at the number of students in a school and gives out bursaries on that basis, which is very wrong.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is very wrong. Kiambu and Nyeri Districts and some parts of Laikipia do not need relief food. I do not want to say that there are no poor people there because there are. How would a student in Turkana whose parents are depending on relief food be able to get to school? I think this is very cardinal and fundamental to us the pastoralists whose children are going to school. We have no source of income, industries and major projects. The livestock we were depending on has no market. We have nowhere to sell it since KMC has been closed and here we are being told to pay school fees. How will I pay school fees when my entire constituency is a recipient of relief food? This really affects our people. Today the only consolation they have is just a bursary fund and a fundraising by the Members of Parliament and that is not good enough. The time has come for the Minister to evaluate and see how he can assist these people of Northern Kenya. We do not expect people who are getting hand-outs to pay school fees.

Last week my constituency was raided. About four people were killed and three schools have been closed. The so-called Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) had invaded two of my divisions. Benane Division was raided in the wee hours of the morning by about 200 armed OLF members. Four people were killed in cold blood and the schools were closed.

Mr. Shaaban: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is making a serious allegation that a foreign rebel group by the name of OLF has raided his constituency which is in this country. Could he substantiate since that is a very serious allegation or could the Minister in charge of internal security give a statement on this issue because we are having foreign soldiers in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Shaaban, you were right when you asked Mr. Shidie to substantiate this allegation. It is within your rights, but you cannot deflect it to this Minister because he is not the Minister of State. Mr. Shidie, will you substantiate?

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying this in relation to schools because the schools in my area were closed as a result of the invasion.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Shidie, you made a categorical statement that members of a foreign organisation called the OLF came to your constituency and killed people. The hon. Member sitting next to you being worried about your state, has asked you to substantiate as he is entitled to do so under Standing Order No.76. You cannot run away. Two choices are open to you; either you go ahead to substantiate or if you cannot, you withdraw.

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that four people were killed in my constituency and the raid was carried out by the OLF. 200 men armed to the teeth raided a place called Benane in the wee hours of the morning. Four people including one child were killed in cold blood. Several people were injured and about 200 heads of livestock was taken away. It is a fact.

Mr. Speaker: Are you happy Mr. Shaaban?

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a very worried man because if there are 200 foreign soldiers in this country who have killed four people and they are still in the country, they will be killing more people.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Now you are debating.

Mr. Shidie: Having said that, whereas the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is empowering this country by producing so many graduates, the time has come to also export this educated manpower. We have so many educated Kenyans who have no jobs in this country. Ways must be found to facilitate their going abroad to neighbouring countries which have less educated manpower. In other countries like Egypt they have about five million people working abroad and they do not have the issue of lack of foreign exchange. The best thing is to export manpower to sell our country abroad and bring that money back. If you go to Nyayo House today to look for a passport, it will take you a year before you get that document. That is pure bureaucratic red-tape and flagrant abuse of office.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we applaud his Excellency the President for bringing change in this country by appointing a

new Head of the Civil Service. These are at least people who can understand what is happening across the board. Those changes are all welcome. We want new people in the public service so that we can know that these people do not close themselves behind doors. We want somebody who will open his door so that members of the public can come in to be served. The appointment of Dr. Leakey is welcome. We want more changes such that the system can be moved and the country can forge ahead. We are happy with those new changes.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Maore: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to discuss this important Vote. Every year we are called upon as the National Assembly to pass money for various Ministries to do their work. When the Ministers are moving their various Votes they come and tell us that they need this money so desperately that their operations might come to a halt. There is no time that even the token one pound has succeeded in this House. This means that the Minister and his bureaucrats usually go and bring in budgets then they do the things that they wish to do which a lot of times are wanting. For the last 15 years when the 8-4-4 system of education has been under implementation we have not been having complaints from any of the Ministers of Education. After 15 years of implementation the system is almost tumbling down. The Koech Commission is doing an inquiry into the education system. It is the same initiator of the 8-4-4 system who have been single handedly defending it when the professionals, teachers, parents and everybody thinks this is the most evil virus that has ever crept into the Kenyan society.

There was no consultation whatsoever from any of the experts in the education system, the parents or teachers when the 8-4-4 system was imposed. Now that we want to have it back let us call it a nightmare and not look back. Let us look forward into a different system of education where citizens of this country will not sacrifice a whole generation for pure political evil like we have had for the last 15 years. Another issue that comes up is exactly what the immediate hon. Member has talked about, which is the infusion of new blood into the Civil Service. When we have been complaining about the corrosion and rot of corruption and inefficiency having brought down the morale, integrity and efficiency of the Civil Service we did not have a single office in mind. It was the entire public service. If this corrosion has caught up from the highest to the lowest level then the education system is equally infected by the virus of inefficiency, low morale, confusion and lack of direction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not long time ago when we used to have a proud nation, where we trusted our young people to the teachers, whose morale was high; had appropriate mode of dressing and good mannerisms. At this time, we are asking the Government to examine all the sectors of Public Service, including education so that with the improved remuneration of teachers, we may have officers who are going to make the education system respectable as it used to be.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not need an expatriate as the Director of Education, Provincial Director of Education or District Education Officer. Our people can do it. We do not have any reason as to why we cannot do it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like the regulations that govern the constitution of District Education Boards and the Boards of Governors to be updated. In very many instances, the District Commissioners, when constituting Boards of Governors go to market places, collect idlers and make them members of the District Education Boards. Those people become very useful to them when there are some political inclinations; they do not want to bring in the enlightened members of the community. They just collect rejects and sycophants who will only be telling the District Commissioner that he is right, throughout because he happens to be the chairman of the District Education Board. We want a change of direction as we vote for this money. I would like to say that the Kenyan taxpayer should not be given a raw deal.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we come to the close of the 20th Century, I would like to see this Ministry introduce a Sessional Paper which will call upon the Government to put in resources, mechanisms and appropriate measures to ensure that every Kenyan born in this country will have access to a minimum of 12 years of education. It is through education that we are going to prepare this nation to be industrialised in the year 2020. I know

that a clique of the leaders who are talking about the year 2020 know very well that, either through biological or the normal withering, they will not be in charge during that time. They are just talking about this because, the year 2020 sounds nice. We want the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to bring into this House a Sessional Paper that is going to commit the Government into putting in resources and do everything possible to make sure that every Kenyan will get minimum education. It is through this that we are going to prepare citizens who can be noble participants in a civilised, industrialised and an organised society.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the level we are in now, things have been left to Darwin's Theory, where the fittest survive; where a few can learn: "Hayo ni maneno sawa sawa, na wengine wamesumbuliwa na hii uzungu na tunaendelea sawa sawa."

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Maore! Which language are you using?

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not switching to a different language. This is just a matter of clarification. Kiswahili is not a forbidden language here. But this is for the sake of my friend, hon. Nassir to be happy!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Continue, hon. Maore, but in one language.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that we need the technocrats in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to be the guiding light in preparing this nation to be civilised through education. We do not want to have a certain section of this country being left behind because their parents are poor and cannot access education or they come from cultures that need not to be pushed so hard because we want them to remain that way so that we can continue dominating them. Many politicians from those marginalised areas do not wish to have massive education for the people in their areas because one of them might come up and kick them out of Parliament or claim their positions. So, we want this kind of---

Mr. Shaaban: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to allege that hon. Members from the arid areas whose people are not well educated do not want most of the children to go to school because they fear that those children will come and compete with them during elections? I think he is misleading this House!

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not talk of arid areas but marginal areas, which comes close to what he is saying! What I said is that you will find that those places that have been ruled by kings---

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

Mr. Maore: Anyway, my time is up.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Sasura): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development was being referred to, in the early days, as the "Ministry of Education" only. But currently, it is being referred to as the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. This is rightfully put because we cannot develop human resource without education. I would like to point out that the ages between three years and five years are the most important ages where a child can grasp or absorb a lot of teachings; whether in the classroom or at home.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a section of the education system which has been ignored for a very long time - the Early Childhood Education Programme. In primary schools, we have all the cadres of observers to oversee the smooth running of our schools. But when it comes to early childhood education, that is the nursery schools, the pre-primary schools or the kindergartens, there is a bit of ignorance by the Ministry, in the sense that most of our nursery schools are not supervised by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. Most of these schools, except the private ones are sometimes run by the councils and most of the teachers have turned out to be very idle. I am sorry to say this, but most of the teachers in the nursery schools are female teachers and there is nothing wrong with that. I think there is also need to have male teachers in the nursery schools because most of those female teachers keep on crocheting in the schools. This is because there is no proper supervision in the nursery schools by the Ministry. I urge the Ministry to take a very keen interest in the early childhood education.

Secondly, in our primary schools, in the last few years, the Ministry has put in place a system of supervising schools by appointing school inspectors, that is the Assistant Primary School Inspectors (APSIs). We had so many of them in the country, but this was changed and most of them had to go back to classroom because of the new policy in the Ministry. This has changed. Most of them had to go back to class because of the policy of the Government. Even the remaining school inspectors do not reach the schools. They do not have means of transport and the schools are very far away from their offices. So, they end up staying in the office. A case in point is my constituency in Marsabit District. You will find in an office, a group of about 10 or 12 ladies and gentlemen who just sit in the office; it actually looks like a secondary school staff room. This is because they cannot reach the schools they are supposed to inspect. I

would like to urge the Government that in future, instead of giving motorcycles to Public Health Technicians, who just move within the towns to inspect meat, I think the most deserving group are the school inspectors. The Ministry needs a lot of money to mobilise these inspectors, because if they do not go round the schools, we are going to fail.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, still on primary schools, we have the school committees. There is no school which can be smoothly run without a collective effort by the parents, the teachers, the students and of course, not forgetting the Ministry. However, you will find that most members of the school committees are village elders and they do not know their responsibilities. Most of the complaints raised in schools pertain to discipline. On the other hand, most committee members go to school complaining to teachers that their children are being punished. The school committees have totally failed in their role and it is upto the Ministry to put in place a mechanism to ensure that at least, members of school committees have some little education. This will give the teachers some support and I am sure the schools can be run properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, after completing secondary school in the 8-4-4 education system, most of our students cannot pay for their university education, owing to the current economic situation. In that respect, I would like to take issue with the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). This is an institution which is biased and disorganised. Loans are disbursed by way of lobbying. Students have to lobby in order to get a loan from HELB. I would like to urge the Ministry to look into this issue very critically. All parts of this country are not equally productive. The economic status of various regions are not uniform. There is some difference and I urge the Ministry to give preference to students from ASAL zones. These are people who just depend on livestock and rain is erratic in these zones. It would only be fair to give priority to students from ASAL areas. Some students from ASAL areas qualify to go to the university but because of the few vacancies in our universities, they cannot be given a chance in the formal selection. So, they try to take up the parallel courses. This is a very expensive programme and that is why there have been so many Harambees of late of students going to pursue parallel degree courses in our universities. It is high time HELB considered sponsoring students pursuing degree programmes in our universities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also important to mention that early childhood education is as important as adult education. I remember one time, we had hoped to achieve a big stride in education, especially in adult education, by 1983. Most of these adults have turned out to be illiterate. The Department of Adult Education has been under the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services. I think this is the wrong Ministry and it is high time this department was transferred to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. The adult education teachers are not transferrable. For example, an adult education teacher in Maasailand cannot be transferred to teach adults in Luo Nyanza, because the adults have to be taught in their mother-tongue. So, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development should supervise the adult education teachers, despite the fact that they fall under a different Ministry. These are people who just earn salaries at the end of the month. They do not do anything. I do not know of any adult in Marsabit District who has even achieved a KCPE certificate in all these years that we have had this department in place.

Lastly, we have private schools which are run by various religious organisations. For example, a school that is run by Catholic missionaries has enough facilities by virtue of being sponsored by the institution. However, it is very sad that these schools are given a lot of autonomy. They are so independent that the Ministry has not much say over them. They then, take advantage of the Education Act that allows them to admit children of their choice, depending on their religion. How fair is it to have a Catholic missionary school which discriminates pupils in terms of their religion? I think it is high time the Education Act is amended to disallow excessive autonomy by private schools and for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to have a say in the running of the schools, so as to give a chance to the local residents where these magnificent schools are built. Local residents, regardless of their religion, should have a place in these schools. Instead of getting students from other zones, the Education Act should be amended to allow the supervision.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Raila: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel sad because I see that the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is asking for very little increase on its Budget, compared to last year. I do not know whether this is because there is no money, or whether the Ministry itself is complacent and happy with the status quo. I have seen that in the current estimates, the Ministry is only asking for an additional K£16 million over and above last year's provision. This is mainly to enable them take care of the four per cent salary increase for teachers, Ministry staff, university staff, enhance provision for purchase of text books, school feeding programme, grants and grants-in-aid for primary, secondary and university students bursaries. I do not know where this school feeding programme is. At least, I know that it does not exist in the constituency that I represent. From my conversation with other Members of Parliament, I also know that it does not exist in their constituencies. So, we do not know why we are making provision for a school feeding programme which does not exist. But more importantly, I consider education to be a human right.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my party, we consider fundamental human rights to be the right to life, education, food, shelter and health. Therefore, we believe in a society that offers equal opportunities for all its citizens from the cradle to the grave. We need to offer our children equal opportunities to quality education. In doing so, we will be empowering them to face the rigours of life in the future. That is the reason why we oppose the policy of cost-sharing in education. In situations of extreme poverty like the ones that exist in our rural areas in the countryside, you cannot leave it entirely to the market forces to allocate resources. That is the reason why education has become unaffordable to quite a number of families. Although we are saying that primary education is supposed to be free, it is not. This is because these days, the Government only provides teachers, leaving the other responsibilities to parents. So, the Government does not bother whether children are learning under a tree or not. By leaving every responsibility to parents, we are causing disparities in terms of provision of quality education. That is why we ought to follow other people's examples. We ought to say "no" when we see that a certain policy is actually not achieving our national objectives.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Uganda has said "no"! Currently, it is offering universal free primary education to all its children and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are not complaining. Why then are we being forced to implement policies that are causing havoc and suffering to our people? We would like our Government to review some of these policies. This is because we have taken certain political decisions. This Government is planning for industrialisation by the year 2020. That is a political statement and a commitment. It means, therefore, that, there has to be massive manpower development. The private sector is not interested in manpower development. The private sector will not invest in primary school education. It is the Government which has to take that responsibility and we have to get provisions for that. We ought to review these policies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my view that the Education Act of 1968 ought to be reviewed because it has outlived its usefulness. It should be reviewed to reflect all aspects of Kenya's education enterprise. When reviewing our education policies, let us bring quality into it. We have had several commissions and committees reviewing our education policies. But they have never been headed by qualified educationist. I do not see why it is so hard to get an educationist to be chairman of a commission reviewing education. I have no problem with my friend, Dr. Koech, who is now heading the current commission.

*(Mr. Michuki consulted with some
hon. Members on the KANU side)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Order, Mr. Michuki!

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in all fairness, Dr. Koech is more useful to this country as a veterinary scientist. Why do we not bring in qualified educationists to chair the Commission of Education and also to provide the secretariat? It is time we changed this trend; people who sit in such commissions should be vetted by this Parliament to ensure that they are personalities who have got the quality and calibre that will carry out the comprehensive review that we need.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, computerisation has now become a universal phenomenon. We need to address this issue in our schools, but we will not be able to address it if we are talking about cost-sharing. We need to come up with a universal computerisation system in our schools. This Government is not taking it seriously, because it is not mentioned in their policy statements. The issue of teachers needs to be looked into again. We had a problem last year and at the moment, it has been buried under the carpet. However, we should know that we are sitting on a time bomb. Something has to be done on this issue so that we can have a permanent solution to the remuneration problem of our teachers.

We need to democratize our institutions of higher learning. In doing this, we need to look at various Acts, like the Acts of various universities, Teachers Service Commission Act and the Institute of Higher Education Act. We have a situation where the TSC is an employer who does not have the power to promote his employees. That responsibility is left to the Inspectorate Department in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. So, we need to empower the TSC to promote its staff. For example, if we are to democratize universities, we need to allow the position of Chancellor to be filled through elections so that we can have different Chancellors for different universities. I know that His Excellency the President does not enjoy being the Chancellor of all public universities. This is a lot that he will gladly share with some other people. While having Vice-Chancellors who are elected, why do we not elect the Deans of faculties, Principals of Colleges and the Chairmen of Departments? All they are doing is basic administrative work. There was a time when I used to teach at the university and we used to elect them. Why do we not do that now? This is because in doing so, we are going to create harmonious relationships within the faculties, between the teaching

staff and the student population. This is necessary for the efficient running of a university. We need also to enhance remuneration of university teaching staff.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I went to South Africa recently, I was surprised to find so many qualified Kenyan scholars teaching in South African Universities, especially the University of Cape Town. There are qualified Kenya professors teaching there because those are greener pastures. We would like to remunerate other so-called expatriates to come and teach here and we are willing to pay double or three times the kind of salary that is paid to our Kenyan qualified staff. This country will only be developed by Kenyans, not foreigners! The moment we realise this and begin to create an enabling environment to attract qualified manpower and retain them here in order for them to do research that is Kenyan, we will continue to be a country of beggars. That is why I urge that, we review our education policies. For example, we had 150,000 students who sat for K.C.S.E in 1997 and 32,000 of them got a minimum university entry requirement of a C+. Out of those 32,000, only 8,000 got places in public universities---

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nakushukuru kwa kunipatia nafasi hii nizungumzie Hoja hii ya Wizara ya Elimu. Kwanza, ningeiomba Serikali ifikirie sana kuhusu nyongeza ya pesa katika Wizara ya Elimu. Wizara hii inafanya hesabu bila kufikiria wananchi wanaoishi katika Kenya hii. Serikali inaongeza asilimia tatu au nne, ilhali watu wanazaa kwa kiwango cha asilimia 25 hadi 30. Pesa ambazo Wizara ya Elimu imeongezewa ni kiasi cha asilimia nne au tano, bali idadi ya watu inaongezeka kwa kiwango cha asilimia 25.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, leo ni siku nzuri ya kuzungumza habari ya elimu. Kilio cha watu wa Mombasa na Pwani kwa jumla ni kwamba, tangu tapate Uhuru, hawajajengewa hata shule moja ya upili. Ni kama Mkoa wa Pwani umesahaulika kwa ramani ya Kenya. Pia tungependa watoto wa ndugu zetu wanaotoka bara na wanafanya kazi kule Mombasa wapate elimu, kwa sababu ya umoja. Lakini inafaa tusaidiwe hata kama tunafanya Harambee. Kwa mfano, ninafahamu kwamba, mhe. Maitha, mhe. Kajembe, Mhe. Mwachai na mhe. Mkalla wanaandaa Harambee. Lakini inafaa wakati Serikali inafanya bajeti, ituongezee hata ikiwa ni Kshs1 milioni au Kshs3 milioni wakati tunafanya Harambee. Kwa sababu haifai kusomesha watoto kufuatana na kabila au mkoa. Wakati wa Harambee ndugu zetu wa bara hawatusaidii. Sisi wenyewe tunapambana kuchangisha pesa. Huu ndio umekuwa mwendo kila mwaka, lakini hatubagui. Tunaiomba Serikali ituongezee pesa fulani wakati tunapofanya Harambee.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, pia nasikitika kwamba, huku tukijaribu kuwapeleka watoto kwenye shule za upili, tuna taabu wakati wa kuenda chuo kikuu unapofika. Sisi wengi huwa hatuna pesa ya kutuwezesha kupeleka watoto hawa kwenye vyuo vikuu. Kwa hivyo, watoto wengi ambao wanaweza kuendelea mbele na elimu yao hawafanyi hivyo. Wao hujua kuamkua na kuongea Kiingereza kama mimi na mhe. Maitha. Lakini hawawezi kupata kazi yoyote ingawa wanajua Kiingereza. Kwa hivyo, kama hatuwezi kutafuta njia ya kuwepeleka hawa watoto kwenye vyuo vikuu, kutakuwa na taabu. Kuna watoto fulani ambao wamefanya bidii na kusoma kwa uwezo wao, na umaskini wao nyumbani, mpaka wakapita na hawana pesa za kuwawezesha kuingia kwenye vyuo vikuu. Kwa hivyo, inafaa Serikali ishughulikia jambo hili sana. Katika nchi zingine ulimwenguni, Serikali huchukua jukumu la kuwasomesha watoto kama hawa hadi wakamilishe masomo yao.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninasikitika kwamba tangu tupate Uhuru miaka 36 iliopita, tunaona haya kwamba kila wilaya ina chuo kikuu ila Mkoa wa Pwani. Na huku, watu wa Mkoa wa Pwani ni watu wazuri, wanaopenda Wakenya wote na wanaotangamana na Wakenya wote. Lakini, imani yetu haina maana. Inafaa tupewe chuo kikuu. Inafaa Wizara hii izingatie sana jambo hilo. Ndio mara nyingine nikizungumza juu ya majimbo, watu wengine wanakasirika. Sizungumzi juu ya mfumo wa majimbo kwa sababu ninataka watu wagawanyike; ninataka kila mtu apewe haki yake. Haifai manufaa ya kupata Uhuru yapatikane Nairobi pekee yake. Inafaa kila Wilaya ipate manufaa haya.

Tunasikitika kwamba, kuna baadhi ya wilaya ambazo hazina barabara, shule, na umeme. Je, manufaa ya Uhuru yanafaa kuwa Nairobi pekee yake, wala siyo kwa mhe. Maitha? Ningependa kusema kwamba, kwetu Mkoa wa Pwani, hatujapata Uhuru. Jijini Nairobi kuna barabara nzuri, lakini kwengine hakuna barabara. Jijini Nairobi kumejengwa bridges na fly-overs, na hata kuna watu wengine barabara za lami zinaingia mashambani mwao lakini kule kwetu kuna taabu.

Mr. Maitha: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Kulingana na matamshi ya mhe. Waziri katika Serikali ya KANU, anamaanisha kwamba, anaipinga Serikali yake ambayo haijaleta miradi hiyo yote. Je, anafaa kuilaumu Serikali yake?

(Applause)

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Pigeni makofi hata mara mbili! Lakini, mimi ninawaambia kwamba kuna watu wengine ambao huzungumza wenyewe, na

wengine hutuma maskini waseme. Kwa hivyo, simlaumu mhe. Maitha. Alitumwa aseme!

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nia kubwa ni kuhakikisha kwamba kila mtu anapata manufaa kutokana na Uhuru tuliopata. Tumechaguliwa kuja hapa Bungeni na huyu mhe. Maitha, lakini, ukienda kwake Kisauni, barabara haipitiki. Hii ni kwa sababu kuna Kenya moja, lakini maendeleo hayaelekei upande mmoja. Kama maendeleo yangukuwa yanaelekea kila pahali, mhe. Maitha hangukuwa na taabu. Lakini hivi leo, watu wote kule Kisauni wanalia kwa sababu---

Mr. Maitha: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ni makosa mhe. Nassir kusema kwamba watu wangu wanapata taabu, kwa sababu, hivi ninavyozungumza, barabara katika sehemu ya Kisauni zinatengenezwa na pesa zinazotoka kwa Wazungu, na hata yeye anajua hivyo.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hilo silo jambo la nidhamu. Endelea mhe. Nassir!

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mimi kuteta na mheshimiwa ambaye tunatoka naye upande mmoja ni vibaya sana. Ninamwombea Mungu amjalie, ili hayo anayoyasema yawe ya ukweli. Kila mara mimi ninasika Maswali yakiulizwa hapa kuhusu barabara na shule ambazo hazijakamilika. Tunaenda Bunge tukitoka na barabara ni ile ile. Kwa mfano, Barabara ya Lamu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa kusema kwamba, bajeti ikitengenezwa nchini Kenya, inafaa izingatie mahitaji ya kila sehemu. Haifai tutazame upande mmoja. Hata baba akiwa na watoto wengi huwatazama wote. Mama pia hunyonyesha watoto wote. Nimezuru mahali pengi hapa nchini Kenya, kama vile, Kisumu na kwengineko, na utafikiri kwamba, wao pia hawajapata Uhuru lakini kuna watu wengi wanotoka kule ambao walipigini Uhuru, kwa mfano, marehemu Odinga. Kule Bondo hakuna umeme, maji masafi na hospitali. Ndio maana ninasema kwamba, hata tukitengeneza bajeti Nairobi, tukipata pesa, inafaa tugawe, ili kila sehemu ipate kidogo kidogo. Kama hamtaki, nyinyi ndio mtakaoumia kwa sababu mapenzi yenu ni kupewa mke na nyumba tu. Kama hamtazami mbele, mtabaki hivyo hivyo.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono.

Mr. Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. As we debate this Vote of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, I would like to say that the current education system is really ruining our children. Pupils are really suffering. They wake up very early in the morning to go to school and they sleep very late because the type of system we are having.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you find a child of seven years who is possibly seven kilogrammes carrying a bag of books weighing 12 kilogrammes. So, this education system is quite heavy for the pupils. We should revert to the 7-2-2-2-3 System of Education. With the current system of education, even the students who finish Form Four cannot proceed with education from home because most of the subjects are technical and the students do not have access to laboratory facilities. Even if they finished Standard Eight, they cannot proceed with their studies up to Form Four because they lack laboratory facilities. They have nowhere to do their practicals. So, we should revert to the old system.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in some areas, teachers and particularly headteachers are being frustrated by District Education Officers (DEOs) because of activity funds. Last month, we experienced a lot of problems in Busia District, where a DEO just decided to interdict headteachers because they had not submitted to him the whole of amount of activity fund. It was not the fault of headteachers, because some pupils come from poor backgrounds and they do not pay that money. Although the enrolment maybe 500 pupils in a school, only 300 pupils pay activity fee and the remaining 200 do not pay. Headteachers have been frustrated to the extent of taking emergency loans to pay for the money that they never misappropriated. So, the DEOs are really frustrating teachers on the ground. As the DEOs continue to frustrate headteachers because of activity fund, sometimes they do not take those pupils to participate in sports at the District Headquarters. They just use that money to benefit themselves. So, activity fund should be abolished because it makes headteachers suffer a lot. Even parents suffer in paying activity fund.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in some areas like Busia District, we do not have teachers and particularly in Budalangi Constituency. Teachers are transferred there, but they do not report on the basis that it is a hardship area. While most schools in my constituency have been named after His Excellency the President, the DEOs and the PDEO have decided to disregard those schools like Moi High School, Budalangi. That school was given that name by His Excellency the President himself. The PDEO is killing that school by not posting teachers there. The school lost five teachers. They have tried to transfer teachers to that school, but they are cancelled. We do not know who cancels them. The school is now on the verge of collapse. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development should make an effort to transfer teachers to that school.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we voted this money to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, and rightly as hon. Nassir has said, some areas have been neglected like Budalangi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had a disaster that led to the closure of 13 primary and secondary

schools a year ago. Those schools are still flooded with water and the pupils and teachers have not reported back and nothing is happening. The Ministry has not even allocated any funds to assist those schools. We do not know what will be done to help pupils from Budalangi Constituency to continue with their education. The Government should look at all areas in this country instead of sidelining others.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as every teacher and even the Administration knows very well, and we have passed it severally in the DDC, that teachers in Budalangi Constituency should be given hardship allowance. To-date, they have only implemented half of that recommendation and the other half has not been effected. All teachers in Budalangi Constituency should be given hardship allowance since it is a hardship area.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government has been quite unfaithful to Kenyans and even to teachers. This Government reached an agreement with the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) that they were going to offer teachers better salaries. Since then, it has remained a stumbling block. This Minister should remember that he was voted in by teachers and soon, he will be even stoned by teachers in his own constituency, unless he implements that agreement. We should also abolish Harambee funds in the development of primary schools. This Government should take up its responsibility. A Government that cannot provide infrastructure, education and health facilities is not a Government worth to be in leadership. So, in this context, we do not have a Government. These people have lost direction.

(Applause)

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member for Budalangi in order to say that this is a Government which does not provide infrastructure?

Mr. Wanjala: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because this Government cannot pay teachers' salaries. This Government cannot build primary schools. It has left the responsibility to parents and hon. Members, who are only earning Kshs10,000. I am in order to say so. We are asked to raise funds for the construction of schools in our constituency, some of which have more than 200 primary schools. We are raising money every Saturday and Sunday. This Government has promised to provide milk in schools. There are no schools apart from those ones in Rift Valley Province which receive milk. Can this Minister also tell us today why some schools are receiving milk while the others are not?

The Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the hon. Member for Budalangi name the schools in the Rift Valley Province which get the school milk?

An hon. Member: Do you mean they do not also get?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to confirm to them that this Government is not worth to be in leadership.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! Order! Mr. Wanjala, you are responsible for the accuracy of your statements. You have mentioned some things here and the hon. Member for Kapenguria has asked you to name any of the schools that you know that receive milk. So, go ahead and name them.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kabarak Primary School is getting milk!

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Wanjala, you are becoming frivolous and I think you had better take this House very seriously.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take it very seriously. None of us is a teacher there, so, I confirm that they are getting milk.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Wanjala, let me give you the last warning. I think you are interested in being sent out of this House. So, you must take this House very seriously. If you have no school in mind, just withdraw what you have said and apologise to the House.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have named the school that is receiving milk. Can they prove that they are not getting milk?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Which school did you name?

Mr. Wanjala: I named Kabarak Primary School, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy

Speaker, Sir. As far as I know, Kabarak is a high school.

An hon. Member: It has a primary section!

The Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. F.P.L. Lotodo): Just one school in Rift Valley Province getting milk! He has got to go beyond that.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! Order! Time is up!

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You did allow the hon. Member for Budalangi to get away with his very serious allegation. Kabarak Primary School is a private school which gets milk perhaps, from the farm of its sponsor who happens to be His Excellency the President.

Is he in order to mislead this House on the fact that, he does not know which schools in this country are under the School Feeding Programme and which are not?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): His time is up.

Hon. Members: His time is up.

Mr. Wanjala: My time is up and I cannot answer you.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! Well, Mr. Wanjala is in the House. Order, everyone. The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development is the one who has said that you are referring to a private school. Mr. Wanjala, I want to tell you to stay clear off such confrontations. Will you now confirm or withdraw and apologise to the House, if you stand by your statement?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has accepted that Kabarak Primary School gets milk and that is what I said. In fact, he has confirmed it.

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

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has accepted it and so, whether it is a private school or not, I do not want to know. It gets milk!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): But Mr. Wanjala, if it gets milk, where does it get it from?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that does not matter. It is up-to the Minister to tell us where it gets the milk from.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! Order! Mr. Wanjala, we cannot just sustain an argument like that. We are talking about milk based on the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development Vote. Is it getting milk from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government actually started a programme of providing milk to primary schools and it has not told us whether it has stopped it or not. So, when I saw those schools receiving milk, I knew that it is the Government that is providing it.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Wanjala, your statement was that there are schools in the Rift Valley Province, which are getting milk and you are not able to substantiate it here.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said and you asked me to mention one such school which I did. In fact, the Minister has confirmed it.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to request the Chair to have the hon. Member for Budalangi withdraw and apologise, because the money that we are talking about in terms of the School Feeding Programme is from the public? It is the money that comes from taxpayers and as a fact, Kabarak Primary School is privately sponsored. It is therefore not caught under the provisions of my Ministry's budget.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Order! Mr. Wanjala, you are at liberty to do the right thing. Mr. Wanjala, do not pursue a line of argument, while you know that you are actually not in the right. Will you withdraw your allegations that schools in any particular province are getting milk and others are not, since that is the imputation you made.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Minister will also table the documents to show that this primary school is a private one, then I will withdraw.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Wanjala, you have been in this House long enough, to know that you do not give the Chair any conditions. We are asking you to withdraw those generalised statements that you cannot prove. You are actually responsible for the accuracy of the statements that you make here. So, could you now take that challenge upon yourself and withdraw?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was very accurate until the Minister supported me that, Kabarak Primary School is being supplied with milk. If it is a private school, let him also table the documents to prove that.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghismo): Mr. Wanjala, I am now asking you to withdraw from the

Chamber for the remaining part of this day?

Mr. Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

(Mr. Wanjala withdrew from the Chamber)

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to contribute to this very important Vote. I think Kenya's education system has been very successful in that, most Members have said here that they have gone to different countries in Africa and have found Kenyan graduates there. This is a sign that we have trained personnel over and above the requirements of this country. These people earn this country a lot of money in form of income from those countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would say that those who are keen enough to follow what the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is doing, will agree with me that even the money that we will vote for it is not sufficient. This is because in this country since Independence, the number of primary schools have risen to over 17,000. The number of secondary schools have risen to over 3,500 and we have five public universities. This is a sign that the Government has been going in the right direction, as far as the provision of education for its citizens is concerned. When the general population is properly educated, it is very good for industrial take-off. So, this is a good sign and if you compare Kenya to our neighbouring countries, you find that our literacy level is very high. That is a plus for this country and it is because of the good leadership of His Excellency the President. It really bothers me whenever I see some very young legislators trying to invoke, abuse or show disrespect to the Head of State, when he has done this much. When you see a young Member of Parliament who has just come the other day--

Mr. Kajwang': On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Nyenze to refer to some Members of Parliament as young and yet, a Member of Parliament is a Member of Parliament?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Poghisio): Proceed, Mr. Nyenze.

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would wish the education system in this country to be the way it has been. So, there is very little room for improvement. However, I would urge the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development to consider setting funds aside, for the completion of building Kitui Teachers Training College.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Ukambani there is only one teachers' training college which is the Machakos Teachers' Training College. Three quarters of Kitui Teachers' Training College has been complete but it has not been completed and yet, some colleges that were started at the same time are already admitting students. So, I am appealing to my colleague, the Minister to consider that, so that we can train our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the School Feeding Programme has been a very big success, especially in marginal areas like from where I come from and that is Kitui. Were it not for that relief food, surely many children would have dropped out of school. Whenever I hear Members saying that instead of the feeding programme, we substitute it with textbooks, I get worried. Let them also know that we do not all come from areas where there is sufficient supply of food. So, this feeding programme has done a lot of good especially in the district where I come from and in Ukambani region in general. It should not be discontinued; it should even be supported more. The School Milk Programme has also provided our children with the proteins that they need and we should hope that the economy improves. That is why we should allocate more money to the Ministry, so that more children are provided with milk for their rapid growth which would be very good.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ordinary wananchi are finding it very difficult to educate their children. One of the reasons is because those who come from the drought-prone areas have sold nearly all their livestock. You find that it is very difficult for them to see their children through school. A way should be found in providing different rates for paying school fees, especially for parents from the agriculturally poor areas. I can see that very many children have dropped out of school. Their parents would want them to get good education but they cannot afford to do so. That is why you see us holding Harambees every time, in order to raise funds to educate these children. You may also have noticed that the performance of children from these regions has been dropping. The reason is that they cannot even be provided with books. That is why I am saying that instead of uniform charging of fees, some way should be worked out to help these people who are also Kenyans. That will be very good for our people in the arid and semi arid regions. I would say that it is good to thank the teachers for having realised the bad economic situation in which the country was; they were understanding. I am appealing to hon. Members on the Opposition side not to incite teachers or anybody else, because we want to move together and improve the economy. The signs are now good. Tourists have started coming into the country. The economy can jump-start anytime from now.

Mr. Wambua: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to say that

hon. Members on the Opposition side incite teachers? Could he substantiate that claim?

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not said that hon. Members on the Opposition side incite teachers. I am just appealing to hon. Members not to incite teachers.

Hon. Members: Withdraw! Apologise!

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw that.

I would also like to talk about primary schools which lack basic facilities. I did not know that this is a big problem before I visited some areas in my district. I visited some schools in the furthest constituencies and found that the state of some classrooms was appalling; some children were learning under trees. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Ministry to consider allocating some resources for putting up some classrooms in areas where parents cannot afford to do so. If done, this will put all Kenyan pupils at par in as far as learning is concerned.

I would also like to talk about the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). Many university students have approached me about this matter. I am sure that they have also approached several other legislators of this House. Many of those students come from very poor families. Some of them have dropped out of school and have cited lack of adequate funding for their education. I would like to appeal to the Ministry to especially consider children from poor families who cannot pursue their degree or diploma courses because of poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this problem is big problem; every now and then, hon. Members have bought space in newspapers, and announced harambee fund-raising meetings for various university students associations. It would be better to address this problem at the Ministry level so that the background of some the affected university students could be ascertained with a view to assisting them. University students are our hope for the future. I would like to appeal to my hon. colleagues that, as the country starts to gear up for industrialisation, we should co-operate; let us not witch-hunt each other. Let us give the present Government a chance and work with it.

With those few remarks, I support.

Mr. Wambua: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to the Motion on the Vote of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.

I would like to start by saying that this is one of the most important Ministries in this country. It serves a very wide range people in the country. It serves teachers and students who are, of course, young people who should be brought up well. Also, the Ministry serves parents in a way that makes their families well off. Without education, some parents cannot bring up their children well.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some things the Ministry should take very seriously. For instance, there are lots of problems in the Ministry which are affecting some teachers. Some teachers are performing very well; they have proved that they are competent in their work. However, they suffer in the hands of some people who call themselves "sponsors". There are some people who say that they are sponsors, but we do not know what they usually do. The so-called "sponsors" only sponsor students with their mouths. Parents build schools, pay school fees for their children, and handle all the problems that affect schools. Because those people are, probably, missionaries they call themselves sponsors.

If a missionary happens to have a problem with a teacher, even if that teacher does very well in a particular school with regard to academic, discipline and administrative matters, he suffers. When these things are reported to the Ministry, they are sometimes termed "interference". I have a similar case in my constituency, which I would like to give as an example. A teacher at Kyua Secondary School "moved" that school from nowhere to position seven in the district. However, because that teacher had differed with one priest, he was transferred without any reason. When I contacted the Ministry, I was told that it would take over the matter. I was even surprised when I found that even the Minister could not make a decision on that matter. I talked to him about the matter and he told me that he was going to look into it. I thought that, as a colleague, he could listen to me with regard to the problems affecting my constituency. However, at last, I found that the priest carried the day, because nothing happened.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Definitely, it is not my wish to interrupt the hon. Member for Yatta. However, is he in order to mislead the House that the Minister did not take a decision on the matter he has raised when a decision was, indeed, taken, and when he has, himself, affirmed it?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is misleading this House. He never took any decision on the matter because that teacher still remains transferred without any reason.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): What decision did you expect the Minister to take?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expected the Minister to intervene and have that teacher retained in that school because the parents and I complained. We wanted the teacher to remain at the school because he was doing very well.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is on record of being a serious assailant of school teachers. Besides that, he took his decision on that matter that the teacher should have remained at the school, and the Ministry took its decision that, that teacher be transferred.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very surprised. Because I have a problem with the Minister, I know that he can say anything. However, I do not care what he says, because the people of Yatta know the hon. Member who represents them well.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about strikes by students in schools. Some students strike because their problems are not addressed to. In this regard, I would like to request the Ministry to ensure that whenever a problem crops up anywhere, it is taken seriously. Some of the students who complain are not children; they are grown up people. So, they should be listened to when they raise complaints. Some of the problems are created by the Ministry's officials and some other officers in the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some schools in my Constituency which are almost being closed down because of lack of water. These are Ikombe, Makibeni Girls, KyeKioni Girls and Kitheoni secondary schools. These schools are almost being closed down because there is no water. The students in these schools have been complaining for many days. The source of water to these schools has been deviated by the Minister himself to water bananas while the children are suffering without water. The Ministry is not serious! When the Minister says that I am on the side of teachers, I am not, because he knows whatever he is doing. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, imagine a Government Minister deviating the source of water from secondary schools and leaving students to suffer! Some of these complaints must be taken seriously. For instance, some students complain of bad food and lack of adequate water. If boarding secondary school girls have to trek for five kilometres to fetch water, this is serious! The Minister should release water which he is using to irrigate his bananas so that these schools can get water.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Order! Mr. Wambua, I am really beginning to get tired of listening to you fight each other on this Motion. Let us be relevant to the Motion. We are here to discuss the Vote on the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. Let us stick to that and also let us be reminded that you really have to be responsible for the accuracy of what we say. Proceed, but stick to the Motion.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before we pass the Vote, we have to give reasons why some things are going wrong in the schools.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this hon. Member to impute improper motive to a fellow legislator without bringing a substantive Motion before the House? Will I not be in order to request that he withdraws all that "banana talk" that he has brought to this House?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not mention the Minister's name!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Mr. Wambua, you do not need to mention the Minister's name. There is definitely a line of imputing improper motive and you should steer very clear off that. You have not named the Minister, but we know who you are talking about because you have already mentioned it. The issue that you are talking about has nothing to do with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development; it has more to do with the Minister as a person. If you impute improper motive on that hon. Member, you are required to bring a Motion right here. I want you to proceed, but steer clear off that line.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very clear because--- why are you trying to consume my time?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Karauri): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member said that the Minister is taking water from the pupils and giving it to bananas. Is the hon. Member in order to impute that bananas can also drink water?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am in order. I mentioned some schools which are suffering. The Minister is the head of the Ministry and we should, at least, give reasons why strikes are coming up. Those schools are going to be closed down, there will be strikes and students are going to burn the schools. In that case, I am mentioning Mr. Kalonzo himself because he is here and he can defend himself.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Order, now! I am going to require you to withdraw and apologise! Mr. Wambua, you have been in this House long enough to know that you cannot name a Minister or another hon. Member, for that matter, without bringing a substantive Motion here. So, you are required now to withdraw those remarks and apologise to the House!

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was contributing on the matter which is touching the Ministry and I do not see the point why I should apologise. The Minister is here and he can defend himself.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Your time is up! Mr. Wambua, you have named

hon. Kalonzo Musyoka here and it is not going to do you any harm to do what is right by withdrawing your remarks and apologising. You cannot get away with it!

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, can he deny or accept that he is not taking away water to irrigate his bananas?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Mr. Wambua, it is not an argument between you and the Minister. You are arguing with the Chair! Are you withdrawing or not?

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if the Chair is ruling, I do not think it is right for me to apologise for a fact.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Mr. Wambua, for that matter, I am going to ask you to leave the Chamber!

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we still need water!

(Mr. Wambua withdrew from the Chamber)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Hon. Members, I am now going to call upon the Minister to reply.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a lighter scale, it is true I grow a few bananas; not very many bananas, and I do not water those bananas. It just goes against the law of good sense to imagine that this Minister can use water meant for students to water bananas. It just beats common sense! However, thank you for the ruling.

May I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Members who have contributed so ably to this Ministry's Vote. May I thank the hon. Karauri for seconding the Motion, the hon. Member Matu Wamae, the "Shadow Minister" for Education and Human Resource Development on the other side, Messrs. Owino Achola, Mahmuud Mohamed, Stephen Ndicho, Poghiso, Khamasi, Kimetto, Dr. Murungaru, Mr. Affey, Dr. Ochuodho, Mr. Angw'enyi, Ms. Martha Karua, Messrs. Shidie, Maore, Sasura, Raila Odinga, Shariff Nassir, Wanjala, Nyenze and Francis Wambua all of them numbering 21 hon. Members. I want to thank all of them, and others who may have wished to contribute to this fairly important Vote because education affects us all.

With your permission, I could attempt to touch on some of the issues that the hon. Members raised. May I begin by agreeing with the hon. Stephen Ndicho when he paid tribute to His Excellency the President and the particular role that he has played in enhancing and promoting education in this country for the benefit of this country's children. Indeed, I take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President. The people in Nairobi, for instance, owe him a lot of gratitude because he has personally taken very keen interest, even in the crucial area of girls education; talk of affirmative action. We can see it when we go to St. Georges, Pangani Girls, Moi Girls Nairobi, and many others, to name just but a few.

May I also take this opportunity to highlight some of the areas that the hon. Members have shown a keen interest in. I can categorise the various observations and criticisms in three categories. The first has to do with the management of schools. Indeed, some Members like the hon. Raila and hon. Karauri addressed the question of democratisation of education institutions. I heard the hon. Raila very eloquently talk about the need to democratise even our public universities to the extent that, we can even have election of deans and others. This is an area that will get addressed by the Davy Commission. I also heard him doubt the qualification and felt that in chairing the so crucial a Commission looking into education in our country, he would have preferred to have an educationist. The hon. Raila Odinga may perhaps have overlooked the fact that the Chairman of this Commission, Dr. Davy Koech, is indeed a trained secondary school teacher. That is where it begins.

Currently, he is serving as a visiting professor to several universities in the country, and even those ones in the USA. I do not need, of course, to convince anybody that the Joint Secretaries of the Commission, Professor Some and Professor Mungai, are renown-educationists. I also believe that I do not need to convince anybody that Mr. Kang'ali, who was until recently the Secretary to TSC has a lot of experience in educational matters, with regard to welfare, training, promotion and all that goes with the TSC. Others are: Mrs. Okudo, Dr. Ndurumo, Mr. David Dimbiti - indeed a renowned educationist - Mr. Chepkener, who is the serving Provincial Director of Education in Rift Valley, Mr. Gatiari, the Chairman of Secondary Schools Heads Association, as well as the Principal of Nairobi Secondary School, Prof. Al-Busaidy, Prof. King'oria, Prof. Mumo, Mr. Abdisalam and Prof. Indire. The names themselves do confirm one thing: That, indeed, they strike a chord in everybody's mind as very serious educationists. I did not want to demolish

the argument by hon. Raila, but I wanted to say that the current Commission looking into the 8-4-4 System of Education comprises of men and women who are very qualified in the area that they have undertaken.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is hoped that in the near future, because I think it was the Member for Kieni, Dr. Murangaru, who felt that the Commission should expeditiously conclude its work and I do agree with him, the Commission will finish its work. I want to confirm before this House that the Commission is working hard, almost round the clock, to ensure that the Report of its findings will be made available before the end of October, or thereabouts. Of course, they have to report first to the appointing authority, who happens to be His Excellency the President. It is hoped that, soon thereafter, this Ministry will be able to come to this House with the necessary documents - Sessional Paper - in order to prepare our children for the next millennium. I hope I will receive the co-operation and the support of all hon. Members. So, the Commission is working as it should be.

Indeed, many of the issues that were raised during this debate do point out one thing: That hon. Members may not have had the time to appear before the Commission which went round in all the districts. I believe that there is still time to appear before the Commission should hon. Members strongly feel about some of the issues that they raised in the House. I recommend that these hon. Members make an urgent appointment to visit the Commission. I know that the Commission had a Session within the precincts of this House and its Commissioners were able to listen to the opinions of the various political parties and hon. Members.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had a lot of representations with regard to the question of access, retention and equity of education. I want to confirm that my Ministry is very concerned about those issues. We want to reclaim the enrolment figure, which has dropped significantly to about 75 per cent. We want to have that percentage increased up to 95 per cent and beyond. The Ministry does agree with some of the sentiments expressed with regard to the need of looking at education as a basic human right. Indeed, it is our hope that by the year 2005, we might, as a Government, be in a position to declare compulsory free primary education. We hope by the year 2015 we will be able to have a universal education. Therefore, we are committed as a Ministry and as a Government to quality education and the delivery of quality education services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard a lot about the administration of our universities. Though from your point of view, the gentlemen sitting to your right and left may be in the category of strangers, they have been taking notes of what hon. Members have said with regard to our Ministry's Vote. I know that after this, we will be having our regular consultations to be able to go into the details of all the points that have been raised by hon. Members who contributed, including you.

Kacheliba is, indeed, one of those areas which qualify as a pocket. So, when we are looking at the question of posting school teachers and being able to maintain them and have them perform their duties properly, it is also important to look at some areas that have particular hardships. I know that personally I look forward to visiting Kacheliba and see the particular schools you have referred to. Kacheliba will need some affirmative action in the area of delivery of education services. I am not singling out Kacheliba without having regard to the other areas.

For instance, in the North Eastern Province (NEP), this Minister is concerned about the plight of the girl-child education. We want to have greater emphasis placed on education of the girl-child in that area. Also, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate some of the NGOs that have been working very closely with my Ministry to ensure that there is affirmative action. I have in mind, for instance, the Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE), which just concluded its Fourth General Assembly at the Safari Park during the last few days. I know that they are very particular about that issue; I was able to give them a particular challenge, with regard to the question of the education of the girl-child in the NEP and a few other disadvantaged places.

I know that hon. Members have been able to come to the Ministry over various issues. In fact, some of them have been kind enough to raise those issues from the Floor of the House. We will continue to make it possible for hon. Members to come and openly consult with us in the Ministry, and our doors will remain wide open for any hon. Member who has a particular need to consult with the Ministry. I want to confirm that the Ministry will be very welcoming, because we realise that we are, indeed, partners in the development of education for the benefit of the Kenyan child.

I also want to confirm that teachers' training will continue. It was hon. Khamasi who said that as far as Kakamega is concerned, they can do with a lot more teachers. That is true, and we will want to look at all the figures. As I said before, when I was moving the Vote, the training of teachers will be demand-driven. However, we also recognise that there are pockets - we are very particular about that - of areas which do not have enough teachers. You can call it positive discrimination, but we are prepared to do that to ensure that we do not have disadvantaged children. Indeed, in some of the areas like Nandi District, for instance, Miteitei, it is also a victim of lack of teachers. One can argue that Nandi District is not one ASAL areas, but you will find that within that district, there are pockets of disadvantaged schools and school-children. We will be able again to apply the principle of affirmative action in the disadvantaged areas.

I want to thank hon. Members who suggested that the TSC build its own Headquarters, because it is, indeed, expensive to continue paying rent. I hope this Parliament will be able to support this move when we have the item, hopefully, reflected during our next Ministry's Budget. As at now, it is not in the current Budget; however it continues to be a priority project. I hope that when funds become available, the TSC will be allowed to build its own Headquarters. Indeed, it is our wish that there could even be extra budgetary provision to have the TSC moved to its own Headquarters. The TSC has already got a plot of land in the Upper Hill area and if funds were made available, they would certainly be able to undertake that very important project.

Hon. Members have been able to talk about the role of both the private and public universities. Indeed, I do share the sentiments of some hon. Members that we do need to be able to do something about the feeding programme at our public universities. I feel that students do get their money, but do not use it to buy food. Recently, I was privileged to visit the Peoples' Republic of China, where I saw some very important and useful ideas on the cafeteria system and students being able to use a card. It is just a simple card, and when put in the computer, it will tell you the balance of the money that you can use to buy food so that we do not have students cooking in their halls of residence because, indeed, that can be hazardous. It also does not reflect the dignity of our university students. Therefore, I think we should continue having dialogue on that matter. Private universities are doing very well.

It is the intention of the Ministry to make this country a hub for education purposes. It is our hope that, as soon as the results of the Davy Koech Commission are out, we will use them as a magnet to attract more foreign students to study in our public and private universities. We believe that we have the resolve and the capability to offer quality education to other countries in our sub-region. Just as we believe we can export manpower, our mandate is to develop relevant manpower for this country, to propel it into the next millennium. Indeed, it is a challenge. On occasions, I know that the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM) do advertise for positions that are available within the Eastern and South African region, COMESA and the IGAD region. I would like to thank the parents in Tanzania who feel that our education system is very good, to the extent that they entrust their young ones to our institutions. I wonder how many Kenyans know that Tanzania contributes close to Kshs1 billion annually, for their children who study in our private schools in and around Nairobi. This should be our philosophy; that we would want to make this country a centre of excellence, for purposes of education. I believe that Kenyans should also develop a habit of believing in their own education system.

We have heard a lot of criticisms about the 8-4-4 Education system. I do not want to pour any scorn on the contributions made by hon. Maore, for instance. He suggested that some evil political intentions were behind the starting of the 8-4-4 Education System. May I report that some of our 8-4-4 Education System graduates have their names reflected in their Dean's lists all over the world, including in universities like Oxford, Yale and elsewhere. This is because they do well. So, we should not just condemn a system for the sake of it. But I have said that I do not wish to pre-empt the findings of the Commission in this particular area.

I do share the sentiments of Members who feel that after Form Four, our students may not gain direct entry into our universities. Some figures have been given like 150,000 students sitting for KCSE, and only 8,000 are able to gain direct entry into the universities. Some Members have also been able to pay tribute to the fact that, our universities have now started a system of parallel degrees. In fact, the hon. Member for Juja, hon. Ndicho, if I heard him correctly, is a beneficiary. I heard him say that in September, he will join the Faculty of Law in the University of Nairobi, to study under the parallel degree programme. I wish him well. I wish well for a lot more others who are willing to learn.

Mr. Achola: But he failed miserably!

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I am told he failed miserably, but I do not know! I leave that to the judgement of the relevant faculty. But if I heard him correctly, he is very serious about joining the University of Nairobi to study law under the parallel degree programme.

Therefore, the vision and the mission of our Ministry was well-set out in my opening remarks. I also heard hon. Members who felt very strongly about the plight of the teachers. It is clearly the intention of the Ministry to make sure that our teachers are properly remunerated. I know it is very easy for hon. Members to address their constituents from the Floor of the House. But I think the practical reality was highlighted when I suggested--- I was amazed to hear the Member for Langata suggesting that we need to have a re-look at the provisions of the Teachers Service Commission Act. I believe in that. But if I dare touch on that Act, it is like an invitation to members of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), to demonstrate in the streets. I believe that before we ever bring that Act to Parliament, we need to conduct a series of awareness seminars to get the consensus and the support of the KNUT. That way, they will not think that there is a sinister motive---

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to explain before this House that, we are under duress, blackmail and threats of the KNUT, that he cannot have guts to bring an appropriate legislation before the House?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I have a confirmation by the hon. Member that, the next time the KNUT comes near the precincts of Parliament, he will not go there and conduct a choir for those teachers, I will have the guts to bring that amendment again.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order not to know hon. Members? There are those hon. Members who jump over the fence to do what he is saying. This hon. Member is not one of them!

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the hon. Member because he was not one of those hon. Members who conducted the choir for the teachers. The point is that I take him very seriously. This Minister is not afraid and is not acting under any duress. We are just saying it as it is. The KNUT and the teaching profession has been politicised. My appeal is: Let us, for goodness sake, de-politicise the teaching force in this country. I think it is good for the children and hon. Members. So, when hon. Members come to me and demand the transfer of a particular teacher who is opposed to them, it will be very difficult. It is the responsibility of the Ministry to protect teachers who get victimised in terms of professional practice. I have not heard the Member for Ntonyiri requesting us to transfer any teachers. But we have general complaints from political colleagues who differ with teachers to have them transferred. Please allow the teachers to continue teaching because it is good for us and the children.

I would like to thank the hon. Member who is sitting next to hon. Maore for bringing the issue of AIDS. I would like to accept that we have lost a lot of teachers due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. As a Ministry, we feel very strongly that what has been happening in terms of awareness campaigns is in the right direction. I want to thank His Excellency the President because he recently addressed an awareness seminar in Western Province. This, to us, is a big challenge. We want to keep all our teachers so that they can continue performing as dutifully as a lot of them do, in terms of bringing up our children.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that I should ideally be concluding. If I have not done justice to all the remarks that were made by the 21 colleagues, I want to assure each one of them that, we have taken detailed notes. We will be willing to continue discussing with them. Hon. Ms. Martha Karua felt strongly about the quota system. I want to say that when it comes to university intakes, it is done purely on merit. But I think it is important to accept, because she is also a believer in affirmative action, that we do need to have an affirmative action in arid and semi-arid areas, which are disadvantaged.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to call upon the private sector to support our schools in the area of computerisation. I want to confirm that I heard the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, when he was campaigning for the Labour Party, saying that it was the intention of the Labour Government to ensure that every British child aged 12 years, will be able to access the internet. It is not the case here. Indeed, I myself is undergoing computer lessons. You can imagine the plight of my colleagues, if the Minister himself is trying to get educated on the internet. Some of them are getting amused by that admission. We have to be serious and I call upon all the Ministries to take the area of information technology very seriously. If Dr. Ochuodho could work with us, to ensure that we get five computers for every secondary school, it could be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Member for Langata Constituency, Mr. Raila, because he has taken some affirmative action towards computerisation of schools in this country. I know that he has provided computers to some of the schools in the country, particularly in Nyanza Province.

A lot has been said about the HELB. We have taken all those suggestions by hon. Members very seriously. We know that students who get C-plus and are unable to join universities when they are admitted under the parallel degree programme, a lot of their parents find it extremely difficult to pay for their school fees. We will continue to have dialogue on this matter.

As I said, we will continue to discuss various issues raised by hon. Members, as I may not have time to comment on all of them right now. Once again, I want to thank all hon. Members for the contributions they have made on this Vote. Indeed, if it were ever possible, this Ministry would do with a lot more money because the average budget for last year was only four per cent. We want to assume that the Ministry's budget this year has grown by a mere four per cent; then you will realise that we need a lot of money and support. So, I hope that when it comes to the Committee Stage, we will be able to move very quickly. Give us the money that we are asking for so that the children of this country can continue to benefit. We have nearly six million pupils in our primary schools. We have about 17,000 primary schools in this country. We have to accept that the Government cannot build primary schools in every location. I happen to know that hon. Nassir has strong feelings about a secondary school in the Coast Province. The other day I was in Changamwe Constituency where there is a beautiful school which was put up by the Government with the assistance from our partners. It is doing well in national examinations. I think it is a model school. The Government will continue to build schools where it can, particularly in the North-Eastern Province. I hope that the

maintenance of those institutions will also be taken seriously. I, therefore, feel that although Treasury has been able to support us, we would like to pray that they continue to do quick disbursement.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the school-feeding and milk programme deserves support. Indeed, the milk programme is an integral part of the school feeding programme. There are those children currently under stress because they are not able to get a square meal per day. I hope that hon. Members will be able to appreciate the fact that in the whole of North-Eastern Province, larger parts of Northern Rift Valley Province and many districts in Eastern Province, for example, Mbeere and Mwingi, there is a serious famine. We really sympathise with children from those areas. Surely, anybody advocating that we do away with the school feeding programme in this country will be spelling doom for children who need every assistance to be able to concentrate throughout the day. Right now, even their parents do have a lot of difficulties.

I want to thank each and all for supporting my Ministry's Vote. Thank you all.

The Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. F.P. Lotodo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My point of order is this: About 11 minutes ago, "a stranger" came through this door and passed a document to the other side. Then he went to that side and back again, this time using the right door. May I request that you draw the attention of the Speaker to this issue so that we can have one of the Parliamentary staff deployed at that door to guide civil servants who may not have been here before, because next time you will find somebody coming and sitting on the Chair of State.

Hon. Members: You are right!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! I am glad that you have noticed that too. We have already been communicating here and dealing with that particular issue. It is very serious. It happened twice! Officers from the Ministries are strangers in this House. It is actually very serious that a stranger can come right here and bypass the Chair. That issue is being dealt with. It will be appropriately communicated to the Ministries that it is really a privilege for officers to come here. However, this privilege should not be abused by people who have no idea of what we do here. So, appropriately, I think the message is clear.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. Musila) took the Chair]*

Vote 31 - The Ministry of Education
and Human Resource Development

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Kalonzo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, a sum not exceeding K£1,128,080,450 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2000 in respect of:

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education
and Human Resource Development

(Question proposed)

VOTE R31 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 835 - Headquarters Professional Administrative Services

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 1532, under Head 835, Item 050, our

understanding is that the Ministry is reducing staff and that has been its intention. But I can see that house allowance is now increasing from K£188,452 to K£455,481. Could we have some clarification as to why this is the case?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the main reason has to do with the fact that our education attache's who were remunerated there before under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have now been brought back to the parent Ministry. This is a simple explanation.

*(Heads 834, 835, 836, 837, 838,
839, 841, 862 and 863 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On page 1538, Head 846, Item 161 - Purchase of School Milk - I would like the Minister to explain to the House why the whole Head 846 has been lumped with the expenditure of Headquarters as opposed to being shown under the various districts? What will stop the Minister from taking all this milk to Mwingi District and deny it to Migori District? If he does that, I will not be able to query it!

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is not the intention of this Minister to do such a thing because he is a believer in equity. But I hope that hon. Achola also recognises the fact that there is serious reduction of the provision, indeed, from K£3 to about K£1 million. This shows that there is need to have proper administration of the provision. In fact, it was similarly treated even in the last financial year.

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 844, Item 000 on page 1538, I believe that probably the increase is because of what the Minister has explained, but I would like him to confirm that. However, under the same Head, Item 221, about K£100,000 has been set aside for the purchase of lightening arrestors. We had some schools in Kakamega District where it was promised by none other than an Assistant Minister that they were going to instal lightening arrestors, and upto now nothing has happened. Could we have some sort of explanation for this?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I believe that the small figure the hon. Member is talking about will have something to do with that promise.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, there is still another question about Head 844, Item 000 - Personal Emoluments. In fact, Mr. Khamasi had asked you two questions. There was the increase of personal emoluments from K£14,000 to K£157,000.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Sir, I thought that the hon. Member answered that question on my behalf.

Mr. Khamasi: Sir, just want the Minister to confirm it.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is more or less the same. That movement of staff from a foreign office to the Ministry has a lot to do with that, although it might look as if it is under primary schools, this is it; many officers come and got to this Department.

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Head 846, Item 161 - Purchase of School Milk. There has been substantial decrease on the amount of money allocated for the supply of milk from K£3.659 million to K£1 million in the current financial year. Could the Minister give this House the reason for the decrease, and how he will distribute milk all over the country with only Kshs20 million? For example, we have not had milk in Mandera District for the last five years. Since this amount of money is very small, could the Minister probably give an explanation?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I said that we have to do some "wrestling" with the Treasury over this matter. In fact, this is all that the Treasury could approve for our Ministry. I wish we could, at least, get to the previous year's allocation, but we will do the best we can with the current allocation, so that the children in those areas, including Mandera District, where the

hon. Member comes from, at least, do get school milk.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, still on Item 161, the Minister has just said that last year, we gave this particular Head the same treatment but that was not the case! If you look at page 1539, you will find what the districts which are shown there got last year. Really, his explanation that the same treatment was given last year is not true.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will stand corrected, but I would like Mr. "Ochola" to repeat what he actually said.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, to start with, my name is "Achola" and not "Ochola".

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Achola, I beg your pardon. "Ochola" and "Achola", to a Kamba is the same name.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, those are two different names. "Ochola" is just like "Musyoka". I do not know how I would pronounce his name with letter "O" at the end. However, I am saying that the Minister gave us an explanation when I complained that he has lumped all the expenses under the Headquarters under Head 846. Last year, every district had its own budget, and so it was easy for hon. Members to know whether the amount of money provided was being spent in the relevant district, but this year the money has been put together. When I asked why this has been done he said that this is not something new because last year we did the same. But I am saying that we did not do the same last year, because if he looks on page 1539 he will find that every district had its own allocation.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, without jumping the boat, you will realise that there will be many blanks because of this consolidation. I believe that it will still be possible to work that out. I said earlier on that I stand corrected by the hon. Achola and, indeed, I would like him to work with me in this area. I am sure that he would like to know whether his home district has got a specific provision under this Item or not.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to assure him that maybe there is no school feeding programme in his home district. I think where this is applicable we will provide money for it. However, as you can see there are many blanks which are appearing here and I have sought explanation. The reason for this is that there has been a consolidation so that the figures really look the same, but itemising will be done separately.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Indeed, this is what has been going on and we have seen it in other Ministries which we have dealt with so far. The total is the same, because it is not itemised. I believe that last time the Chair did make a ruling that the Treasury will explain this to the House.

Mr. Achola: I am sorry, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. It is not a question of the Treasury explaining that to the House, but availing a schedule of how they will spend this amount of money. In fact, that is what the Chair ruled last time.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Musila): So, we will go by the ruling which was made by the Chair last time.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On page 1538, Head 845, Item 221, could the Minister assure Maragwa Constituency people that they will benefit from the purchase of school equipment since we have never benefited from this provision for the last five years or so?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you realise that, indeed, there is an increase on that figure from K£11 million to K£13 million. I hope that this time Maragwa constituency will benefit.

Mr. Angwenyi: Can the Minister under item 221, allocate some funds to purchase equipment and other items for every constituency so that we are able to trace whether they have been delivered or not and then report back to this House?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I think hon. Angwenyi has a valid point and it is incumbent upon hon. Members of Parliament to really ensure that these textbooks do get to the primary schools. My Ministry will work with such hon. Members to find out the movement of the textbooks.

(Heads 844, 845 and 846 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 311 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 312 - TEACHERS EDUCATION

(Head 847 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 312 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 313 - SCHOOLS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

(Head 852 agreed to)

(Sub-vote 313 agreed to)

Sub-Vote 314 - Miscellaneous Services

(Head 853 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 315 - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Head 816 Training Field Services

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if you look at the history of early childhood education and the figure being asked for you will notice that we do not know where the Minister is going to take them to. Does he actually have an institution in charge of this one or is he talking about teacher training colleges? Where does he take the money to?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if I understood the Member for Ntonyiri correctly, early childhood education is mainly targeting the pre-primary schools, nurseries and all schools where we are working very closely with the World Bank. In fact, if you look at those figures they do not look as colossal and that is why we have a lot of partnership with the World Bank.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if you look at early childhood in terms of DISESE programme or pre-primary schools, you will realise that we are talking about the fact that we need to reach the children and not so much with regards to the training of the teachers as such.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we do not know which institutions are falling under the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. If he is saying that they are doing feasibility studies with a view to taking them over from the local authorities or from the private sector and the parents, we can understand that. As of now, we do not know where he is taking the money to.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): This money is going towards what I have called the DISESE programmes. I hope the hon. Member has heard of DISESE. Under this programme we have to target those little children of this country who have not even been to primary school yet. We are talking about early childhood. The question of where we take the money to is very clearly spelt out. I do not understand the difficulty that hon. Maore has.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 816, can the Minister name which school in Central Kisii District or in any other district in the country is being catered for?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I would want to welcome hon. Angwenyi because I do not think that it is fair during the time allocated to this House to go into the details about the schools under early childhood programme. We are actually targeting teacher training for these children at that stage.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): So, now you understand this money is meant for training nursery school teachers and not for other schools.

Mr. Angwenyi: This early childhood education is very important in laying the foundation for our children. If this programme has been taken over by the Ministry, maybe they should have allocated more funds for it. Apparently, I do not know of any one place. Even a teacher training college which trains such teachers. I do not know of a single one.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I would want to invite hon. Angwenyi to join us and visit such institutions even during the school holidays. Under this programme we have been working very closely with our partners. This programme is going to have an effect very soon. During school holidays we hope we will be able to train a lot of these teachers.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, the Minister says: "As we are working with our partner".

If they were working with their partner then the amount would have been shown here as "Appropriations-in-Aid". What has been shown here belongs to the Government.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a Government component that is why it is not shown as Appropriations-in-Aid. That does not exclude the fact that we are still working with our partners.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): UNICEF is there.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Thank you for that. I am talking about the general terms. These are very smart minds.

(Head 816 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 315 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 316 - SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 800 - Board of Governors Maintained Schools

Mr. Khamasi: I would like to have some clarification on Head 800, Items No.182 and 187. What is the difference? I would also like the Minister to explain to us which vehicles are insured. Have these vehicles been bought by the Board of Governors of approved secondary schools or what?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Quite frankly, it looks to me that like it is one and the same thing. Those figures look exactly the same. In fact, if you look at the first Item 182, vehicle insurance and Item 187 you will see they are the same.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): No.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Am I looking at the wrong figures?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): You have gone one down.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I hope hon. Khamasi will have realised that all the vehicles owned by our public secondary schools have their registration plates indicating that they belong to various parastatals. Therefore, the Ministry does cater for insuring all of them.

Mr. Achola: Could the Minister look at Head 800, Item 311; why do we have such a huge amount of pending bills, amounting to K£10 million? How were you able to run this system if you have to cater for pending bills in this Budget?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are equally concerned as hon. Achola is with this matter of pending bills. I think this matter is being handled elsewhere, particularly in the area of university education. It is also an eye-sore to us, and we are doing the best we can to wrestle with it.

Mr. Maore: Sir, but we are not yet on the university education!

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): But he is talking about pending bills and I want to tackle it globally.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, this refers to Item 311, Grants and Grants in Aid Bursaries - Pending Bills of K£10 million.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am informed that these pending bills figure of K£10 million has a lot to do with the bursaries that were carried over from the previous financial year, 1998/99.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, then the Minister is misleading us, because that would appear under bursaries! This is appearing completely under a different item.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Achola, that is under bursaries and it is okay.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, they have said that they are going to pay pending bills. Does it mean that they did not disburse money to schools during the last financial year?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think I explained that point that, this has to do with bursaries carried over in the previous Budget. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Angwenyi: If you have given bursary to a student in a secondary school, can you carry it over to the following year?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): I can well appreciate the sense of bewilderment on the part of my friend, hon. Angwenyi but it is quite possible that these bursaries were approved but we not disbursed because of non-availability of money from the Treasury.

Mr. Angwenyi: Are we saying, therefore, that there was money returned to the Treasury from the last year's Budget upto the tune of K£10 million?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): What I am saying is that money was approved, but it was not released.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 316 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318 - UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Head 829 - Kenyatta University

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, about a year ago, the police arrested officers from Kenyatta University. So, we would like to know whether, under Grants and Grants in Aid, the Government was able to recover any money that the university obtained through the printing of fake degrees?

(Laughter)

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I believe that the hon. Member knows that I cannot even answer that question!

HEAD 832 - UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LOAN SCHEME

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 832, Item 314 - University Students Bursaries, could the Minister explain the difference between Item 314 and Item 500? Item 314 talks about bursaries while Item 500 talks about loans to students. Whom do you give the bursaries? Your friends or who?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Definitely, not my friends! I would be privileged to have so many friends but this certainly, is not the case, hon. Achola. But university students bursaries, as you well know are administered by the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB).

Some of the students do get bursaries while others get loans. We do also send bursaries to students abroad. If you want me to give a list of my friends who have benefited from this, you will be amazed!

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Who are you informing, Mr. Angwenyi? The Minister has already sat down and he does not need your information?

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we do not feel that the manner in which bursaries are given out to various students is transparent. I would like to appeal to the Minister to ensure that the bursaries are given out in a transparent manner.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will take that suggestion, but I want to just affirm that these bursaries have got a lot to do with our students who are studying abroad. We cannot give them loans but we do give them bursaries. The loans are administered under HELB. I want also to confirm that the administration of the loan is done as transparently as possible. If the hon. Member has got any queries, he is welcome to come and discuss with us.

*(Heads 827, 828, 829, 832, 833, 840,
842 and 867 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote R31 agreed to)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Hon. Members, that concludes the Recurrent Expenditure and we now move to Development Expenditure.

VOTE D31 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 839 - Kenya National Examination Council

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 839, Item 400, Construction of Buildings - Non-Residential, I would like to know what kind of buildings these are, which will cost K£200,000 and where are they situated?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is for Mithani House and it is an initial allocation until they actually go out to tender. I think the hon. Member knows that during the unfortunate incident of August 7th Bomb Blast, the Kenya National Examination Council was particularly affected.

Head 836 - Curriculum Support Services

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under this Head, I would like the Minister to look at Item 413 - Strengthening of Primary Education, which has been allocated K£2.4 million. How is this going to be used?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not know whether the Hon. Angwenyi wants me to give him the details. But I want to tell him that this is one of those very important areas where we are working with the British Government in order to strengthen primary education by way of, for instance, in-servicing our teachers and head-teachers. But the whole idea is to strengthen primary education. I would be prepared to have him come over for a detailed briefing.

Head 841 - Construction of Buildings - Non Residential TSC

Mr. Waithaka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am concerned with Head 841, item 400, Construction of Buildings-Non-Residential-Teachers Service Commission. This has been allocated K£20,000.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): That question has been asked and answered. Do you want to ask the same? Sorry, continue, Mr. Waithaka.

Mr. Waithaka: This amounts to about Kshs400,000. I would like to know which houses for the Teachers Service Commission this money will be used to construct and where, because Kshs400,000 is too tiny a sum.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, during debate, Members expressed the need for Teachers Service Commission to consider putting up their own Headquarters, because right now, it is paying a lot of money by way of rent. This is just but a token provision to enable them continue with architectural drawings and planning. I believe this is not a figure that would be taken seriously as enough to put up a building.

Head 836 - Curriculum Support Services

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On Head 836, page 723, item 417, we are allocating about Kshs20 million on Practical Subjects in Primary Schools. Since the introduction of the 8-4-4 education system, the emphasis was for pupils to be trained in practical subjects. That apparently, did not go on very well. I think it failed in every respect. I would, therefore, like the Minister to explain to the House why we are allocating this money for practical subjects in primary schools. What is it for? What is it intended to do?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I really admire the amount of depth into which some of my colleagues go in seeking clarification. But may I inform the hon. Khamasi that this is one of those donor-funded projects by the Germans in particular and our requirement was to be able to put that figure. So, I think I will personally want to get into the details of it and if need be, either through a Question in Parliament and I will be able to explain the particular usage. But as of now, I can only say that this is one of the requirements by the Germans.

(Heads 834, 835, 836, 839 and 841 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 846, item 164 - Assistance to Disadvantaged Urban Children. Where is this done? Is this a new thing?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Yes, indeed. This is because, as you can see, there was no provision for it during the previous Budget.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, I had raised this issue during my contribution; Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme-Food and Assistance to Primary and Pre-Primary Schools. Where is this milk and which school is getting it?

(Laughter)

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Member for Langata should really thank the Ministry because last year, we made absolutely no provision, for giving assistance to the disadvantaged urban children and now, there is provision as he can well, appreciate. But to answer his other question, the school feeding programme has been very active in some areas of the country. He was not here when I was replying to the debate, because then, he would have known that there are those parts of the country, for instance, the whole of North Eastern Province, huge chunks of Eastern Province and many places in the Northern Rift Valley and even other pocket areas, that are able to benefit greatly from this programme, particularly this time when there is great famine in some of those areas.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Achola, is it a point of order or you want to ask a question?

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Chairman, Sir. On the same Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme, could the Minister explain to this House why he has Item 163 and 164 instead of having them under Recurrent Expenditure? This is because, you remember, we only had K£1 million under Recurrent Expenditure. My argument is that, this Item ought to be covered under Recurrent Expenditure.

The Minister for Education and Human Resources Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I really admire that. I want to confirm to my friend that, because it is under World Food Programme, which is a donor-funded programme, it cannot appear under Recurrent Expenditure. I hope hon. Achola will take that. This is precisely the main reason it is appearing under Development Expenditure and not under Recurrent Expenditure.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very funny way of arguing because even on the Recurrent Expenditure, we had UNICEF which is donor-funded.

(Mr. Awori passed a paper to hon. Musyoka)

He has just given you an answer. Can you give it to me please?

(Laughter)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, do you have an answer?

The Minister for Education and Human Resources Development (Mr. Musyoka): Oh, yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman! I must thank my Assistant Minister because he is able to liaise with the team on that side. All of us are here so we are able to communicate. What my Assistant Minister has told me is simply that, this is for gazetted districts. So, it is that specific.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, are we therefore saying that, this is a specific programme and it is something that will not recur? Is that what the Minister is saying? We better be sure.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy

Chairman, Sir, I thought hon. Achola actually knew that I do not like the word "donor" myself. I call them partners. Partners cannot finance your Recurrent Expenditure. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, still on the same Head, Item 164 has not been provided for in the last financial year. But we have been told that in this financial year, K£7.78 million has been approved. I am happy because he said that this is supposed to go to disadvantaged children in urban areas. However, could he explain which new thing he will provide to these disadvantaged urban children, because this Item was not there in the last financial year?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I just said that, this is a programme with our development partners and it is targeting the urban children. That is why I said that the Member for Langata will be very pleased with it. It is a new programme which will be able to provide assistance to the disadvantaged urban children. We cannot have a better programme.

(Heads 844 and 846 agreed to)

(Sub-vote 311 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 312 - TEACHERS EDUCATION

(Heads 803, 807 and 847 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 312 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 313 - SCHOOL FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Head 810 - Post Primary Schools

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I notice that the amount allocated for Head 810 is K£69,000. This looks like peanuts. Could the Minister undertake to increase this amount during the revised estimates, for this special category of our children?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member. I think he has made a very valid observation.

(Heads 810, 848 and 852 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 313 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 315 - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

(Head 816 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 315 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 316 - SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 800 - Board of Governors Maintained Schools

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 800, Item 408 - Construction of Strathmore Education College, I know that it is the Government policy not to continue financing teacher training colleges. Why are we providing so much money for this item?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this particular item happens to be funded by the European Union; it is one of those donor projects and we have to do our component. I think this is the provision for the GOK component.

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 800, Item 223 - Purchase of Science Laboratory Equipment; this item is very important especially in areas like North Eastern Province. We have schools from Form One to Form Four which have no single laboratory equipment. Here we are being told that there is no

money allocated for this item, this Financial Year. Several secondary schools in my constituency have no laboratory equipment. What does the Minister want us to do? Does he want us to ask parents who are already disadvantaged to provide them? Where will they get the equipment?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Shaaban): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member, but unfortunately, this was a programme with the African Development Bank and the financing arm of it, ADF. Unfortunately, they have stopped and this is why there is zero provision.

Mr. Kamande: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 726, Head 800, last year we had---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Kamande, which item?

Mr. Kamande: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is on page 726, Head 800, Item 295 - Rehabilitation of Secondary Schools. Last year we had no provision for rehabilitation of secondary schools, and this year we have it. Could the Minister consider allocating some money to Ichagaki Secondary School in Maragua, which was burnt down last year?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member will appreciate that, we have already asked for a lot more and all we could get was just K£9,000. I hope it will be able to do something for those ASAL areas. For instance, we talked about maintenance of some of these GOK constructed schools in North Eastern Province where maintenance is a problem. How I wish we could have a lot more, then we would be able to cover not just that school, but a few others in the same Maragua District.

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the Minister about the purchase of laboratory equipment. He is asking us to vote K£40 million for the construction of a new college which had been allocated another K£40 million in the last financial when schools in most disadvantaged areas do not have science laboratory equipment which is important. We are telling Kenyans that we have to be industrialised by the year 2020. How is he going to justify that when our schools have no laboratory equipment?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Mr. Shaaban, I think you have asked your question, let it be answered.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I sincerely share that sentimental concern by my very good friend. But the fact of the matter is that this particular item; Laboratory Equipment, was agreed between us and the African Development Bank. Now, there is no money available. The college which he is complaining about has already some money available by the European Union. That is the difference. There is nothing the Ministry can do because it is under Development Expenditure.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 316 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318: UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Head 827: Commission for Higher Education

Mr. Odoyo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On Head 827, page 727; the gross expenditure on University Education has fallen from K£52 million to K£1 million. That is a huge disparity. Could the Minister explain why there is this huge fall of nearly 98 per cent?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, last year which explains a huge difference, it was all World Bank money and now it is just the GoK component.

Mr. Odoyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Could the Minister explain whether such a big drop from K£50 million to K£1 million is going to affect our University Education?

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): No, it will not, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Yes, there would be certain difficulties. I hope when I was replying to the debate, I did talk about parallel degree programmes which are already turning out to be very handsome income generating projects in addition to what I think one hon. Member was talking about the University of Nairobi being able to sell its computers. They are doing very well. I think it is also important to realise that we are dealing with the Commission for Higher Education itself.

(Heads 827, 828, 829, 833, 840, 842 and 867 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote D31 agreed to)

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

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

REPORT

VOTE 31 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding K£1,128,080,450 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to meet the sum necessary to meet the expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 2000 in respect of Vote 31 - Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Musyoka): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Minister for Environmental Conservation (Mr. Nyenze) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Kenyans should get a different approach in the current Financial Year from what we have been having before. We want to hear of an awakened Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, that is going to have a vibrant activity happening all over the country. This is so that, we do not get "business-as-usual attitude" that has brought the morale of the country down and not just education alone.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Shaaban: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this is a very important Ministry and it is important that it maintains very high standards of education. The hope of this country is that, we need very high quality manpower. If we do not have it, then we will not get anywhere. Having said that, I am particularly concerned about the disparity of education in this country. We have well-established schools in this country and at the same time, we have schools that do not have the minimum requirements, especially in disadvantaged areas. In my constituency, there is a secondary school that has lacked science teachers for four years now and yet, it is supposed to compete with the rest of the schools in this country. The pupils in these schools are also supposed to sit the same exams with the rest of the pupils in Kenya. How are we going to compete? This is a serious disparity.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I just want to make one appeal to the Minister on the School Milk Programme. We have just given the Ministry K£9 million. I would appeal to the Minister to ensure that we get this milk in schools. This is because last week when I raised this Question here, virtually every Member of Parliament was up on his feet confirming that the milk does not actually reach his various schools. So, I am appealing to you, Mr. Minister to ensure that the School Milk Programme is working, otherwise scrap it and transfer that money to school equipment.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. While I thank the Ministry in preparing a very good budget, I would like to make the following observations. The secret is that this Ministry is not working effectively. You can find a school which has not been inspected for five to six years. So, the teachers and the students

do not gain from the inspectorate team.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the other thing that I want to comment on is what has been raised by my friend hon. Achola and that is the school milk programme. I will propose that for my constituency, you transfer the funds from the school milk programme to the purchase of textbooks and laboratory equipment. I am prepared to convince the parents in my constituency to accept the textbooks and laboratory equipment instead of the School Milk Programme. Finally, I would like to urge the Ministry to control the management of our schools, especially the secondary schools and remove them from the sponsors. The sponsors are interfering with our schools and yet, they do not promote those schools.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add one point to hon. Angwenyi's point with regard to textbooks. Our schools are suffering. You will find that a textbook for teaching Christian Religious Education (CRE) in Standard One costs Ksh285 while a textbook for teaching CRE in Standard Eight costs Kshs85. This disparity is too much, and parents are suffering. I would like to appeal to the Ministry that since most of the textbooks are published by the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), which is a Government body, it should rationalise the cost of textbooks, so that they can be affordable to parents and schools.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 6.40 p.m.