

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 31st July, 2002

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.463

GOVERNMENT'S FULFILMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LENDING TERMS

Mr. Michuki asked the Minister for Finance:-

- (a) what the paid-up share capital is of the following international financial institutions: the World Bank; the IMF; the IDA and the IFC;
- (b) what Kenya's paid-up capital is in each of these four institutions; and,
- (c) why Kenya has failed to fulfil their internationally accepted lending terms.

Mr. Speaker: Is anyone here from the Ministry of Finance and Planning? We will leave the Question until the end then. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No.384

HELB LOANS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Kariuki not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No.408

UNDERSTAFFING IN RACHUONYO SCHOOLS

Mr. Otula asked the Minister for Education:-

- (a) whether he is aware that primary schools in Rachuonyo District are understaffed by over 380 teachers resulting in poor performance in examinations; and,
- (b) when this shortfall will be addressed.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) The Government is aware that primary schools in Rachuonyo District are understaffed by 380 teachers.
- (b) The shortage will be addressed during this financial year once the Ministry's Vote is approved.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank the Assistant Minister for the sincere answer he has given to this House. But could he tell us the exact date when teachers will be posted to those schools because, at the moment, a number of classes are going without teaching in most of the period?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will post teachers in those schools as from 1st September, 2002.

Mr. Musila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were delighted yesterday to note that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has, in fact, given the District Education Boards (DEBs) throughout the country a chance to recruit primary school teachers. However, the numbers allocated to districts do not seem to be fair in that we have some districts that have been given a chance to recruit large numbers of teachers, while others will only recruit very few. It looks like there was no fair distribution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House the criteria that was used in determining the number of teachers to be recruited in every district?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Ministry is very generous in some areas. The criteria used was 20 to 25 per cent of the teachers required in each district.

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry published, in the last two days, the number of teachers they will be recruiting. Could the Assistant Minister tell us how many of the 380 teachers lacking in Rachuonyo District will be recruited?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 71 teachers will be posted to Rachuonyo District during this financial year.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the recruitment exercise continues, I hope teachers will go to wherever they will be posted. However, a number of teachers will retire and others will definitely die. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that the Ministry will replace the teachers as they die and as they retire as soon as possible?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me assure this House the teachers will be replaced as and when they die and when they retire.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Dr. Ali.

Question No.398

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO
MR. MOHAMED'S DEPENDANTS

Dr. Ali asked the Minister for Vocational Training:-

(a) whether he is aware that the late Abdi Abdiralman Mohamed, who was an Adult Education Teacher III, died while on duty on February, 2001; and,

(b) when his terminal benefits will be processed and paid to his dependants.

The Minister for Vocational Training (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, the late Abdi Mohamed died on 8th February, 2001.

(b) His terminal benefits will be processed as soon as the legal dependants lodge a claim and proof with the necessary documents.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised the Minister admits that Mr. Mohamed died, but he is still waiting for the legal documents before he could process his terminal benefits. What legal document does he require to prove that Mr. Mohamed died? Does he think Mr. Mohamed is hiding himself somewhere?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member clearly understands that I do not expect Mr. Mohamed to bring the documents himself. I expect his dependants to come forward and lodge a claim, so that the necessary payments can be processed by the Ministry.

Mr. Kamolleh: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that whenever you are employed in a company or by the Government, you fill forms to show details of your next of kin. Mr. Mohamed died in February, 2001. It is almost one and half years since he died. The Minister wants the next of kin to lodge a claim. What claim does he expect them to lodge, other than him getting in touch with the family and paying them Mr. Mohamed's terminal benefits? Could he get in touch with the family and pay them Mr. Mohamed's terminal benefits immediately?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, usually when people fill in those forms, some of them nominate their fathers as their next of kin. Subsequently, they get married, like the hon. Member here, and, probably, the next of kin changes. Therefore, in that situation, we expect---

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Minister is imputing improper motive that I have nominated different next of kin because I have several wives. Could he substantiate this allegation?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we normally do not substantiate the obvious! But you can look at the forms filled by the hon. Member and you will prove what I am saying.

We expect somebody to come forward and lodge a claim because it has been noted over the years that details relating to the next of kin keep on changing in those forms that we fill. We also need evidence that the next of kin is actually around, and that the deceased did not have three other wives.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter and the Minister is taking it as a joke. Could he tell this House who the next of kin is in that paper he is talking about? I am aware that the relatives of the deceased have taken all the relevant documents to the Adult Education Officer in Wajir District, and I do not know why the Ministry has not processed the benefits one-and-half years down the road. Who is listed as the next of kin in the Minister's paper, and whom does he want to be the next of kin? Does the Minister have somebody else in mind?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member knows the next of kin, I will be willing to quickly assist in the payment of these benefits even next week. We are simply waiting for the relevant documents to be sent to us so

that we can process this claim. If the hon. Member can quickly bring them forward, I will make sure that the necessary action is taken.

Capt. Ntwiga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has asked the Minister to tell us who the next of kin is according to the documents in his office or according to him. Let him tell us.

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot make a statement here to determine the next of kin of an officer. We expect the relatives of the deceased to come forward, and we will verify the facts. The chief must also verify that. This is a process which we have to go through. It is not just a matter of somebody coming up and telling us that he is the next of kin. The papers do not necessarily confirm that one is the legitimate next of kin. We expect the Provincial Administration, particularly the chief, to confirm that, that is the correct next of kin.

Dr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us what his office has done to make sure that the dependants of the deceased receive the benefits? While waiting for the next of kin to come forward, what has the Minister done? Has he talked to anybody or received any document? What does he have?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, that question should be directed to the hon. Member of Parliament who represents that area. Actually, he should be the one who should advise the family of the deceased to come forward and follow the necessary procedures to get the claims.

Dr. Ali: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have asked the Minister a question and he is telling me that I should ask myself that question. Is that right? He is the Minister for Vocational Training in charge of Adult Education. That is his job!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Cool down, Dr. Ali! Could the two of you have a little talk to help the family of the deceased? Please, Dr. Ali, could you move to the Front Bench and discuss the matter with the Minister?

(Dr. Ali moved to the Front Bench and consulted Mr. Ruto)

Question No.393

MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR OL KALOU

Mr. Gitonga, on behalf of **Eng. Muriuki**, asked the Minister for Transport and Communications:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Ol Kalou Town is not served by mobile telephone service; and,
- (b) what urgent measures he is taking to ensure that the people of Ol Kalou Town are provided with the service.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Ol Kalou Town is not served by mobile telephone service. This is due to the fact that Ol Kalou Town is not within the 20 kilometre radius of the main Safaricom and Kencell active cells located at Nyahururu and Gilgil.

(b) The Ministry has taken the following measures to ensure that the people of Ol Kalou Town are provided with mobile telephone services.

(i) The Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) has licensed Safaricom Limited and Kencell Communications Limited to operate in Nyandarua District. Following this, M/S Safaricom Limited, which currently has two active cells in Nyahururu and Gilgil Towns, has plans to construct sites in Ol Kalou Town between September, 2002 and March, 2003.

(ii) M/S Safaricom Limited is currently engaged in negotiations with their contractors towards the construction of the necessary facility.

(iii) M/S Kencell Communications Limited is currently putting up sites in North Kinangop and Ol Kalou Town which it plans to activate in September, 2002.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I thank the Assistant Minister for this very comprehensive answer, could I request that he gets in touch with Safaricom Limited, and urge them to complete these negotiations as soon as possible because people are suffering in that area?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that is what I said, but I will certainly do the best I can to have this service in place.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister now give an undertaking that he will issue a licence to Safaricom Limited so that it can provide mobile telephone services to those areas which lack those services? There are many areas which are not served by mobile telephone service, like Bamba and Kaloleni. Could the Assistant Minister confirm to this House that he will do that?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a mobile telephone service at Kaloleni, just for the information of the hon. Member. This area is served by Kencell Communication Limited. Even Ganze is served by mobile telephone service. But there are certainly other areas which are not served by mobile telephone service. I would like to say that licences have been issued to the two mobile telephone providers. Those services are available from the two companies.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the hon. Assistant Minister let us know the criteria used to determine where you should have a cell for these mobile telephones?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the criteria is based on commercial consideration.

Question No.404

LIST OF NEW KR EMPLOYEES

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

(a) whether he is aware that Kenya Railways Corporation (KR) employed and deployed staff to work as pointsmen and porters/sweepers; and,

(b) whether he could table a list indicating how many people were employed, by provinces, and especially from Coast Province.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the KR has in the past employed staff to work as pointsmen and porters sweepers.

(b) Pointsmen and porters/sweepers were last employed by the KR in 2001 through the absorption of nine casual workers. The distribution of the casuals so absorbed is as follows: Coast - 2, Western - 2, and Nyanza - 5.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked the Assistant Minister to table a list of those workers. I would like to know from him whether these people were casuals, as he has put it. If these people were recruited from various provinces, where was this exercise done? Was it done here in Nairobi or in those provinces?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a table for the nine casual workers here. I have here 74 casual workers.

(Mr. Keah laid the list on the Table)

That was a management decision which begun at the head office down to the districts. There was constant consultation between the provinces and the head office before such a decision was made. Therefore, it was not just the Head Office which carried out this exercise alone. Proper management or good governance requires consultations between the head office and the provinces. This is what happened in this particular case.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the Government parastatals are undergoing restructuring. If the Kenya Railways Corporation decided to retrench, why was it found necessary to hire casual workers once again?

Mr. Keah: It was due to operational reasons.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 74 casual employees were recruited in Nairobi and dispatched to Mombasa. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that casual workers required by the Kenya Railways Corporation will be recruited from their own provinces? The People of Mombasa could have provided those casual workers!

Mr. Keah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is erroneous for the hon. Member to say that the 74 casual workers were employed from Nairobi and dispatched to Mombasa. The breakdown of the 74 casual workers by province is here. It shows clearly that they were recruited from the provinces. I totally agree with him that there ought to be an equitable distribution of the workers in respect of where they come from. If there are casual openings, then they should be distributed equitably. That is what happening.

Question No.126

POOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ON
MWINGI-KALANGA ROAD

Mr. Musila asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) how much it cost the Government to construct Mwingi-Kalanga Corner Road;

(b) whether he is aware that the road has very huge potholes despite the short time that it has been in use; and,

(c) what steps he is taking to see that the contractor, Messrs. PUT SARAJEVO, repeats the sections which were not properly constructed.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The total cost of constructing the Mwingi-Kalanga Corner Road is Kshs1.075 billion.

(b) It is true that some potholes developed on some sections of the road.

(c) The contractor is not liable to repair it because the problem was the *El Nino* rains and the other reason is that the maintenance period had expired at that time. At that particular time, the maintenance period was six months but it has now been revised to one year. So, we were not able to follow the contractor. Necessary arrangements are being made to repair the potholes on the one kilometre stretch of the road.

Mr. Musila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you heard the figures which were quoted by the Assistant Minister. That road is only 48 kilometres. I am amazed that it cost over Kshs1 billion to construct that road. The Ministry of Roads and Public Works is notorious for blaming *El Nino* for the shoddy jobs that are done on our roads. I know that the handing over certificate of the road is dated 23rd December, 1999.

To the best of my knowledge, the last *El Nino* rains were in January, 1998. Could he, therefore, tell us how the construction of that road was affected by the *El Nino* rains, when the *El Nino* rains ended in January, 1998, and the construction of the road continued throughout 1998, until 23rd December, 1999?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kshs1 billion is for the construction of the road all the way to Garissa, and not only up to Kalanga Corner. It is true that the *El Nino* rains affected the road. It is also true that we had a problem between Kilometre 4.4 to Kilometre 5.4. But the contract started in April, 1995, through the National Youth Service, and completed in January, 1999, and we took it over in December of that year.

Mr. Kihoro: Could the Assistant Minister explain why the Government agreed to pay Kshs1,075,000,000 for only 48 kilometres of road, which comes to Kshs170 million per kilometre? That road is badly constructed. Why did the Ministry agree to pay so much money for that road? Does it mean that they do not have a matrix on the rates that they should apply on the payment of contractors?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had corrected that figure. That money is for the entire road from Mwingi to Garissa. The total cost is Kshs1 billion up to the Garissa Bridge.

Mr. Speaker: How many kilometres?

Eng. Rotich: From Thika, it is about 250 kilometres.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Speaker, Sir, assuming that the Ministry allowed the road to be constructed, what was going to be the life expectancy of that road? It started having potholes after only one year!

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the life expectancy of a road is ten years and we are supposed to recarpet it after every five years, which we did not do.

Mr. Musila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has not answered my question satisfactorily. He has not reconciled the fact that the *El Nino* rains ended in 1998, and the road was constructed two years later. How does the issue of *El Nino* rains come into this matter? This Question came before this House two months ago and the answer which the Assistant Minister is reading now was made available to me. That day, he said the necessary arrangements were being made to repair the potholes as soon as possible. Last weekend, I was on that road and nothing had been done, two months after the Assistant Minister read that answer in this House. Could the Assistant Minister give us a definite timeframe when he is going to ensure that the road is repaired? It is a disgrace that the contractor did such a shoddy job on such an expensive road.

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the money will be sent to Embu in the next two weeks. The meeting which is deliberating on how the money should be released is going on now.

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

Question No.463

GOVERNMENT'S FULFILMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LENDING TERMS

Mr. Michuki asked the Minister for Finance:-

(a) what the paid-up share capital of the following international financial institutions: The World Bank; the IMF; the IDA and the IFC is;

(b) what Kenya's paid-up capital in each of these four institutions is; and,

(c) why Kenya has failed to fulfil their internationally accepted lending terms.

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise for

coming to the House a bit late. However, I beg to reply.

(a) The paid-up capital for the four institutions is as follows:

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), that is the World Bank, US\$159.09 billion; the International Monetary Fund (IMF), US\$285.66 billion; the International Development Association (IDA), US\$12.9 billion; and the International Finance Corporation, US\$2.45 billion.

(b) Kenya has paid-up share capital in each of these four institutions as follows: The IBRD, US\$246.1 million; the IMF, US\$2.914 million, IDA, US\$33.882 million; and the IFC, US\$4.014 million.

(c) Kenya has not failed to meet her internationally accepted lending terms. We are in good relations with the donors and we are receiving their good support. The IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank and other bilateral donors provide support to this country. To date, this country has had a total of 13 credits with a budget of US\$711 million supported by the World Bank.

In addition, the IMF approved a three-year poverty reduction and growth facility for US\$198 million in August 2000. However, currently, both institutions have suspended their programmes because of certain set conditionalities which have yet to be fulfilled. While the Government has done everything possible to ensure that the two programmes are restored, the fulfilment of some of the conditionalities, particularly those that require legislation and approval by Parliament, have been slower than initially envisaged. This is because most of them are either delayed due to drafting capacity constraints in the Attorney-General's office or require action by Parliament. While the capacity constraints in the Attorney-General's office are being addressed through additional funding from Treasury, parliamentary business is outside the realm of Government control in line with the principles of separation of powers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the major outstanding conditionalities that are yet to be fulfilled include the following: One, the approval by the Judicial Service Commission, or the Judicial Service Commission Code of Conduct.

Two, Civil Service Reform, where pending issues relate to the deepening of the rationalization and elimination of duplication of functions between Ministries, divesture of functions, the re-alignment of organizational structures, introduction of result-oriented management and maintenance of optimal staffing levels.

(b) The privatisation programmes for key parastatals, such as Telkom, the Kenya Commercial Bank, the Kenya Railways Corporation and the Kenya Ports Authority.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, progress on the above pending conditionalities is, however, being made. Review of other conditionalities, such as micro-economic management, is a continuous process. Meanwhile, dialogue between the Government and the Bretton Woods Institutions is progressing well and there is optimism that this may soon translate into the restoration of the two budget support operations. The Government is totally committed to the reform process and continues to enjoy cordial relations with the two institutions and other donors, both bilateral and multilateral.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is saying that some of the delays in meeting the conditionalities required so that foreign aid can resume are due to the failure to act by this Parliament. Could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that KANU actually controls the Committee that sets out the business of this House?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I totally deny that. The Committees of this House are controlled by the House.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the constraints that the Assistant Minister mentioned that are causing delays in fulfilling the conditionalities was that the Government has not been able to avoid duplication of duties among Government Ministries. What stops the Government from allocating duties to the correct Ministries, instead of allocating so many of them in one office? It is the same Government which is doing that, and they do not have to go to anybody else! What causes that particular constraint?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that should not really be a constraint. I think issues of the management of this country should be for the people and the Government of this country. Unfortunately, some of our people have gone and colluded with those who would rather work against this country.

Mr. Keriri: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Chair convinced that the Assistant Minister has answered my question? This is because he said, "failure to allocate duties properly and failure to avoid duplication of duties in the Ministries is one of the causes of not fulfilling the conditionalities." Now, he has stood up and talked about some people interfering somewhere. How can anybody from outside the Government interfere with Government matters? I do not think that he has answered my question.

Mr. Arap Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that what I said and what the hon. Member is repeating is merely the interpretation as seen from the eyes of these institutions that have set this House as a conditionality. In their eyes, they think there is a duplication of duties. Unfortunately, some of the hon. Members from across this House would rise up and say "yes", there is no duplication of duties. What we have is, in fact, Government Ministries working in tandem to support programmes made by the Government.

Mr. Twaha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we complain every time in this House about dumping of *mitumba* cars, tyres and clothes. We are told that we are affiliated to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that future negotiations with WTO will involve free movement of labour as well as capital and goods? We produce surplus labour here in Kenya, and we think they should lift those restrictions so that our young men and women can go and look for jobs in their market, if we are going to accept their goods. Could the Assistant Minister assure this House that future negotiations will include free movement of labour?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand the relevance of the question to the issue at hand.

Mr. Twaha: Then you should resign!

(Laughter)

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know, you are the custodian of the authority and dignity of this House. You heard the Assistant Minister passing the buck to the House. He said that Parliament is somehow responsible for the failure to have aid released to the country. So, could he tell the House what proposed legislation he took to the House Business Committee, which the latter failed to bring here for debate?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Member is asking me to provide evidence of how this House has blocked the effort by the Government to have aid released to this country. One very glaring example is the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority Bill, which this House, through the very strong effort from the Opposition, rejected. By then, our discussions with the Bretton Woods institutions had reached an advanced stage.

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

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not need his information. I am very well informed.

Mr. Speaker: Could you ask the last question, Mr. Michuki?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that this House knows that Kenya is a stakeholder in the Bretton Woods institutions, in that it has invested almost US\$300 million by way of equity shares, who represents Kenya on the boards of these organisations, so that we know whether he actually puts the Kenyan case correctly before those institutions' boards? Otherwise, everybody, including the President of this Republic, is complaining.

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am gratified by the concern shown by the hon. Member, that this country's case should be effectively put to the boards of these institutions, because it is apparent that, that has not been the case. Having been a Permanent Secretary at the Treasury for quite some time previously, the hon. Member should be aware that the representation of our country on the boards of the Bretton Woods institutions is done on constituency basis. I do not have the details with me here, but this is done on a rotational basis. Not so long ago, a Mr. Abdalla represented us on the board of one of the institutions. When our turn comes, we will have a Kenyan to represent us again on one of the boards of these institutions. I do not have the details, but I think our constituency is currently being represented by an Ethiopian or an Eritrean.

Mr. Speaker: Let us proceed to Mr. Kariuki's Question.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that I was not here when you called out my Question the first time.

Question No.384

HELB LOANS TO NEEDY STUDENTS

Mr. Kariuki asked the Minister for Education whether, in view of the fact that some university students have poor and unemployed parents, or are orphaned, and are forced to drop out of college because they cannot afford to pay fees, the Higher Education Loans Board could consider giving full loans to deserving cases recommended by District Education Boards (DEBs).

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

In its endeavour to award full loans to university students from very poor and unemployed parents, or orphaned students, the HELB has always identified and awarded full loans and bursaries to all deserving students in our universities since its inception in 1995, based on information supplied by the parents, assistant chiefs, district officers as well as local religious leaders and head teachers of the schools the students last attended. Recommendations from the DEBs are also welcome.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, theoretically, the Assistant Minister's reply is very good, but in practice the rate of student dropout from our universities is very high. Could he table the list of students who did not take up their places in the public universities and indicate the rate of dropout of continuing students from our universities?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I do not have the names, but I would like to explain the criteria used

in awarding bursaries to deserving cases. As you may be aware, we have a total of 40,000 students in all public universities, and another 5,000 students in chartered private universities. Out of these 45,000 students, about 35,000 of them apply for loans every year, and about 32,000 of them are awarded loans. A mean testing formula, which is computer-based, is used in analysing the level of need of each applicant. This computer assessment is also collaborated by information of each applicant's ability to pay fees while in secondary school. A specific amount of loan is awarded to a student depending on his or her level of need. There is also a board which seeks independent information about the applicant's ability to pay school fees at his or her former secondary school. This independent survey has enabled the board to identify many students who tried to give false information in order to make financial gains.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be unfortunate for the Assistant Minister to give the impression that the computer could be the one that is responsible for the Government's failure to fairly award bursaries to university students. Be that as it may, since it is evident that chiefs tend to recommend their relatives for bursary awards, why can the Ministry not consider establishing district bursary committees, elected by the people, to recommend the students to be given support?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the university loan application form for each student must be countersigned by the local assistant chief, the chief and the district officer, as well as the local priest or kadhi, to ascertain that the information given by the students is correct. So, the applicants are not only recommended by chiefs as the hon. Member has alleged.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister assure this House that students from very poor families, and orphans in particular, are given 100 per cent loan facilities, rather than being given 20 per cent or 30 per cent of their needs, when they cannot afford to raise the balance of the fees?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I assure this House that students from poor families will be getting 100 per cent loan.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ACTION AGAINST MINOR'S KILLER

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that on 9th July, 2002, a minor was defiled and her mutilated body thrown into Githobokoni River in Gatundu North?

(b) What action has he taken to have the killer arrested and prosecuted?

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

(a) I am aware.

(b) Investigation file No. CR/247/2002 was opened and one suspect, Mr. Kamau Ndungu Kabuku, who was a *shamba boy* of the deceased's father, is being pursued by police since he disappeared after the incident, with a view to charging him with the offence of defilement. The case is pending, awaiting the arrest of a known person.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not sure whether the Assistant Minister is aware of the gravity of this matter. First the minor in reference is a three-year old girl. The suspect was an employee of the deceased's parents. In the absence of her parents, the man raped the very innocent girl---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Muiruri, that is not the point. Ask the Assistant Minister what he is doing to bring the culprit to book.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me explain the way the little girl was assaulted. After the assailant raped her, he threw her into River Githobokoni.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Muiruri, do not make a statement.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides this case, the suspect is serial killer.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Muiruri, you must ask your question now!

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the young girl was defiled and murdered, and the serial killer is still at large. The Assistant Minister comes here to say that the police are looking for the suspect, so that they can arrest and charge him with defilement when the child is dead---

(A cell phone rang)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Whose cell phone is that? Hon. Members, could you put off those gadgets? Proceed, Mr. Muiruri!

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suspect's name is Mr. Grishon Kamau and not Mr. Kamau Ndungu Kabuku. The name "Kabuku" is a nickname in kikuyu, which means a "hare".

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muiruri! You think we have a whole day to deal with just one Question?

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that the police are looking for the suspect to charge him with defilement and the girl is dead. Will the girl rise from the grave to give evidence against her defiler?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muiruri! Mr. Kochalle, will you answer the question?

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware that on 9th July, 2002, the body of a three-and-half-year old minor, namely, the late Naomi Mukami Maina, was found floating in Githobokoni River with no physical injuries. The body had apparently been anchored with stones in the river to prevent it from floating.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suspected defiler, Mr. Kamau Ndungu Kabuku, who has been a farm hand of the deceased's father, disappeared after the incident. He is being sought by the police. He has not yet been found and so, the police are looking for him in order for him to be arrested and taken to court.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, are you satisfied that my Question has been answered? Is the police looking for the suspect to charge him with defilement or murder?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kochalle, what are you looking for the suspect for? Will you charge him with murder or defilement?

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are looking for the suspect to charge him with murder.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I attended the burial of this young girl and everybody was in tears because a sane person killed her and has been allowed to walk free by this Government! Could the Assistant Minister make all the necessary efforts to have this man arrested? The suspect's home is known; it is situated somewhere in Kandara Constituency. The Assistant Minister should ensure that the child killer is arrested. He could even mount a manhunt for the suspect.

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could have also cried if I attended the girl's burial because I really sympathise with the late child. I will make all arrangements to look for the killer and then charge him with murder.

PROVISION OF EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES TO PASTORALISTS

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that thousands of pastoralists are facing severe food shortage due to the phasing out of relief food projects?

(b) What immediate action is he taking to provide emergency food supplies to the pastoralists?

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

(a) I am not aware that thousands of pastoralists are facing severe food shortage due to the phasing out of relief food projects.

(b) Turkana District is currently among the districts that are under emergency relief food operations being implemented jointly by the Government and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Government is committed to continuously monitor and assess the food needs in the district, using the existing drought early warning system structures and welfare indicators on the ground. A review of the emergency operation is on-going and the results will determine the future of the programme.

Mr. Munyes: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has not told us the truth about relief food projects in pastoral areas. I know of areas in this country where relief food projects have been phased out. Last time, I filed a Question in this House about some urban centres where relief food projects were phased out. I know of an area where I lost over 30,000 beneficiaries of relief food projects. Relief food projects are being phased out in my constituency. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House when relief food projects will be phased out? We do not know when relief food projects will be phased out.

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the emergency relief food operation has not stopped. The Government is in agreement with the partner relief agencies that the programme should be phased out by September, 2002, and pastoralist communities allowed to fall back to their traditional drought management mechanisms.

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year, we have incidents of drought in northern Kenya region. It is a shame that after 40 years of Independence, we are still begging for food.

Could the Assistant Minister provide alternative means of coping with drought, for example, irrigation schemes? If people of northern Kenya are provided with water, they could grow some crops. The Government spends a lot of money every year on relief food supplies, yet this is not a permanent solution to the problem. We do not want

to have a dependency syndrome in Turkana District.

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a good suggestion from the hon. Member. We will put in place alternative means of ensuring that residents of North Eastern Province and Turkana do not depend on relief food supplies. We will look into the issue of initiating irrigation schemes in the region.

Mr. Achuka: Bw. Spika, sijui kama Waziri Msaidizi anaelewa kwamba jamii zaidi ya 300 za Waturkana hazina kitu cha kutegemea. Kwanza, ng'ombe wao waliibiwa, na waliosalia walikufa kwa sababu ya ukame. Sasa Waturkana wanategemea msaada wa chakula. Ikiwa huu msaada wa chakula utasimamishwa mwezi wa tisa, hawa watu wataishi namna gani?

Mr. Kochalle: Bw. Spika, ninaonea huruma jamii ya Waturkana kwa vile mifugo wamekufa kwa sababu ya ukame, lakini sisi wafugaji ni lazima tutafute njia ya kupambana na ukame. Msaada wa chakula bado haujasimamishwa, lakini ukisimamishwa, tutatafuta njia nyingine ya kupata chakula.

Mr. Munyes: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the Office of the President, the indicator for phasing out of relief food projects has been the fact that the country has received some rainfall.

How does this indicator apply to the poor fishing communities along Lake Turkana, who have been surviving on relief food? How will it affect those who do not have livestock? The assumption is that the region has received some rainfall and, therefore, there is enough pasture for the livestock. What indicator is there to show that the poor fishing communities have recovered from the last drought?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Munyes, if I understand your question to the Assistant Minister, you are asking to be given famine relief food for ever!

Mr. Munyes: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to understand why the relief food projects will be phased out in September, 2002. How will this affect the poor fishing communities along Lake Turkana, if the assumption is that we have received enough rainfall in the country?

Mr. Kochalle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Kenya, in collaboration with the WFP, development partners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), launched the largest emergency relief operation in Kenya. So, these agencies will look into the situation and decide whether the operation should stop or continue.

Mr. Speaker: Due to lack of time, the next Question by Private Notice has been deferred.

VIOLATION OF STUDENTS' FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

(Dr. Ochuodho) to ask the Minister for Education:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that some students of Kapsabet Girls High School were recently suspended for refusing to sit examinations on Sabbath Day?
- (b) Is he further aware that the students' freedom of worship was violated?
- (c) What action has he taken to ensure that such violations do not recur?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

(The Minister for Education, on 30.7.2002)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 30.7.2002)

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor? Mr. Kibichio!

Mr. Kibichio: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should ensure that all children in Kenya learn in classrooms with desks. If you travel to some parts of this country, you will find it very cruel to find a child learning under a tree. In cases where the children or the parents are unable to construct structures, even if it is at the Coast Province where only mud and thatch grass are required, this Government should provide building materials.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now common knowledge that enrolment in schools has dropped. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology knows the reason for this state of affairs, and it is because Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs) have come up with levies which some poor children are unable to pay. Levies imposed by PTAs for maintaining and developing schools must be monitored and must be such that in extreme cases of poverty, a child ought not to be sent home simply because his or her mother is unable to pay that levy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency there are several orphaned children, and some of them have been sent home due to their inability to pay these levies. Some of these levies are imposed in collusion with very junior officers in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I know for sure that no school should impose any levies without the consent of the District Education Board (DEB), but in the absence of strict supervision and inspection, there are some schools where you find PTAs imposing levies which have made some children to be sent away from school.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country must tap the talents of all Kenyans and one cannot tap the talents of all Kenyans if some children are not accorded education simply because they are poor. The Minister has set aside huge sums of money for bursaries. A criteria must be put in place by the Ministry of Education so that the best talents, who are poor can benefit from this fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I see that I am about to run short of time, I will revisit the matter I touched on when I started supporting this Vote, and this is the policy on science and technology. I urge the Minister to come up very quickly in this House with a Bill which will give a guideline on how this policy can be formulated. I did say yesterday that science is the only thing which is going to make this country feed itself and overcome unemployment. However, I do understand that science *per se* without huge investments may not do the trick. I know that the constraint in this country is money, but look at it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some expatriates from one country come into this country without money with the aim of giving us communication facilities. They just come and draft a Paper and get some money. Why does that not make the Minister come into this House and create bodies under the National Council for Science and Technology, so that it can be able to borrow money either through the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), or some other body even if the national debt would go up by Kshs10 billion? Even if that Kshs10 billion was to be invested in research, and if that research was to benefit this country, it is worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will come to what is going on between the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. It is very sad to see the frustrations which the teachers are going through at the hands of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the TSC. Teachers in Kenya cannot be expected to offer their best when they are frustrated. Even if those negotiations are going on, the teachers must know what they are expecting from them. However, it looks as if, very soon, those negotiations are going to break down and the teachers will have no salary increments. When you demoralise teachers you destroy a child. People in my district grow coffee and tea; they are not extremely very poor. They are, in fact, removing their children from public schools and taking them to academies. What about those who cannot afford to take their children to academies?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is so sad that when you go to a school, you find that the wife of the headmaster is a teacher there, and both of them cannot allow their child to learn in that school because they have no faith in the standards offered in that particular school. Is that the type of education we want to offer to our children? This country demands quality education, which should not only come from the commercial schools, but from public schools because we do not know where the best talents are. The best talents may not necessarily come from those people who have got money to pay.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support what other speakers have said on higher education. The greatest problem that hon. Members of Parliament face is that of university students coming to us and telling us that they have not been given loans, and when you look at those students who have been given loans, you find that some of them come from very rich families. The criteria for awarding bursaries to those university students must be known. It must be transparent. There is nothing more frustrating than a person who wants to pursue education, but his ambition to read is curtailed simply because he cannot pay for it. Those officials in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology who are about 50 years old know that they have benefitted because the system worked during their days. The system does not work today.

I support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Col. Kiluta): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance. I stand here to support the Minister's request for his budget. While doing that, I would like to make a few requests that he should look into. One of the issues that probably may not have been addressed is the issue of secondary schools. A lot of secondary schools in this country have continued to perform very poorly, while the primary schools have continued to perform very well. We have had very many cases of unrest in schools and universities, and I do not think this problem has been addressed very adequately.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the reasons why we have these problems are fairly basic. Most of the unrests in secondary schools emanate from the headmasters. Some of the headmasters have overstayed in schools for over ten years. You will find that the performance of a school has gone down and yet the headmaster is still there. Headmasters have become big-headed. They will not listen to even simple problems from school kids. They behave in such a manner because they have godfathers and they have actually bought their way to move to where they are. In order to be a headmaster in a secondary school these days, you only need to have Kshs20,000, or Kshs60,000 on the higher side, and you are made a headmaster. If buying oneself to headship is a qualification, then we expect these riots to continue in schools. So, we should re-look into how we promote teachers to become headmasters. We should re-look into how to make headmaster appointments in secondary schools. We should look into ways of solving the schools unrest.

Mr. Kitonga: Asante, Bw. Spika, kwa kunipa nafasi niunge mkono na kusema kwamba Wizara ya Elimu inafaa kupatiwa hizi pesa wanazoitisha. Ningependa kusema maneno machache kuhusu Wizara hii. Tunajua kuwa hii ni Wizara muhimu sana inayotumikia Wakenya. Wizara hii inasaidia katika maendeleo na kuweka mambo ya masomo mbele katika nchi. Bila elimu hatuwezi kuendelea mbele kama taifa. Ningependa kumuunga mkono mwenzangu, Col. Kiluta, kwa yale aliyosema, na pia kumpongeza kwa kusema ukweli. Yeye akiwa Naibu wa Waziri amekubali kwamba Serikali yake ni ya hongo. Pia amekubali kuwa hata polisi huhongwa. Nimeshangaa kwamba Naibu wa Waziri anaweza kukubali kuwa ile Serikali anayoitumikia ni ya hongo. Hii ni ajabu! Lakini vile vile, ningependa kumpongeza.

Shida ya ukosefu wa walimu katika sehemu tunazowakilisha hapa Bunge imekuwa kubwa sana. Utashangaa kupata walimu watatu tu katika shule kule kwangu, Mutito. Ukienda sehemu za Mwitika, Mutito na Katikone utapata walimu watatu wakifunza darasa la kwanza mpaka la nane. Mara nyingine inatubidi sisi wazazi tuajiri walimu. Kama vile mnavyoyua, Ukambani ni mahali ambako kuna matatizo ya kipesa au uchumi, na hatuwezi kuajiri walimu katika hali kama hiyo. Ningependa kuuliza Wizara itupatie walimu wa kutosha katika pande za Ukambani kama Mutito kwa sababu tuna walimu wachache na shule zingine haziwezi kufuzu katika masomo.

Mara kwa mara habari zinaenea kuwa wazazi hawatalipa karo ya shule, lakini wazazi wanalazimishwa kulipa pesa nyingi sana kwa njia zingine. Ni afadhali tuambiwe kuna karo ya Kshs500 ama Kshs1,000, kuliko wazazi kuambiwa wanunue madawati, chokaa, ubao na hata mabati ya kujenga shule. Wazazi wanaendelea kutoa hizo pesa ambazo mara kwa mara ni nyingi kuliko karo yenyewe. Sisi Wabunge hufanya kazi nyingi ya kujenga hizo shule. Tunashangaa kwa nini Serikali haiwezi kutoa kiwango fulani cha kutusaidia tunapotoa hizi pesa. Wabunge hapa ndio wanaofanya hizi Harambee za kusaidia shule. Ijapokuwa ninasikia Wakenya wengi wakilalamika juu ya mishahara ya Wabunge, ningependa mishahara hii iongezwe mpaka iwe Kshs1 million kwa sababu Serikali "imeabandon" kufanya kazi yake. Sisi Wabunge ndio tunafanya mambo ya maendeleo. Utawasikia Wakenya wakilalamika juu ya mishahara--

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Hashim): Bw. Spika, sielewi maana ya neno "abandon" kwa Kiswahili.

Mr. Speaker: What is "abandon" in Kiswahili?

Mr. Kitonga: Bw. Spika, sikusema hivyo. Nilisema "kuruka" kufanya hiyo kazi. Hiyo ndio sababu Bw. Spika hakusikia neno "abandon".

(Laughter)

Kwa hivyo, Bw. Spika ukiniruhusu, nitaendelea.

Serikali imewacha kufanya kazi inayofaa kutenda. Hiyo ndio inafanya sisi Wabunge tuzidi kuumia kwa kutekeleza wajibu wa Serikali. Kila mwisho wa wiki inatubidi sisi Wabunge tuhudimie wananchi tukitumia pesa kutoka mifuko yetu na hiyo ni vigumu sana. Vile vile, katika hizi pesa, kiwango tulichoweka cha Kshs600 million za bursary mara nyingi huwa hazifikii watoto tuliotarajia zitasaidia. Mara kwa mara, utapata walimu wakuu wa shule wakichukua hizo pesa na kuwapatia watu wa ukoo wao. Na watoto werevu walio na kipawa cha kusoma na ambao ni maskini, hawafaidiki na hizi pesa. Tungependa kuwe na njia ya maana na muhimu ya kuhakikisha kuwa watoto werevu walio maskini wanafaidika na hizi pesa.

Kama vile ilivyosemekana, sisi Wabunge tunaweza kuunda mpango maalum wa kusimamia hizi pesa, kama vile tunavyosimamia pesa za barabara kwa sababu wapiga kura wengi huja kuwasumbua Waheshimiwa wakiwauliza

kama wanaweza kuwasaidia watoto hao kwa njia ya Harambee na njia zingine. Ningependa kuzungumza juu ya kuajiri walimu. Jambo hili limeleta matatizo sana. Utapata kuwa mwalimu anapoajiriwa Ukambani, anakuambia baada ya wiki moja au mbili kuwa yeye ni Muislamu na huku hakuna msikiti huko Mutito. Kwa hivyo, itabidi atolewe Mutito na apelekewe Mombasa ambako kuna msikiti.

Inafaa Serikali ipate kujua dini ya mwalimu kabla ya kumuajiri sehemu fulani. Huko Mutito tumepata Waislamu wengi sana; akina Abdala, Suleiman Kamolleh---

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir!

Mr. Kitonga: Huo ni mfano tu.

Mr. Kamolleh: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Member in order to say that when Muslims are deployed to Kitui, they are re-deployed to Mombasa again? What about the Christians who are deployed in Coast Province and then they are taken back to Kitui? Is there not a balance there?

Mr. Speaker: Order! The two of you are now arguing and you know what consequences will arise when you argue about faith. So, can we keep religion out of this debate?

Proceed.

Mr. Kitonga: Asante sana, Bw. Spika. Ningependa kusema ni ukweli na haki kwamba tumepata walimu wengi sana wanaokuja katika sehemu yangu na kusema kuwa hawawezi kufunza huko kwa sababu hakuna msikiti. Jambo hili ni ukweli. Sisemi kuwa kuna ubaya kuwa Muislamu. Lakini ikiwa umeajiriwa kazi, inafaa utumikie Serikali na ufanye kazi---

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Hashim): On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Kitonga: Huyu mtu ni nini?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Hashim): Ningependa kumfahamisha Bw. Kitonga kuwa tuko tayari kufanya harambee kujenga msikiti katika sehemu yake ili asipate matatizo.

Mr. Angwenyi: Bw. Spika, ningependa Waziri aje kwangu anisaidie kujenga msikiti. Ningetaka kujenga misikiti mitatu huko kwangu lakini nimeshindwa.

Mr. Speaker: Order! You should not take up Mr. Kitonga's time because he is making useful contributions. If that is a problem he is facing in his constituency, he is entitled to say it.

Proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, all of you! I do not want people to be edgy. Please, sit down and listen. If you do not want to listen to what the others are saying, you can take leave of the Chamber.

Proceed.

Mr. Kitonga: Jambo lingine ambalo ningependa kuzungumzia ni kuhusu halmashauri za wakurugenzi. Kuna zingine ambazo zimekaa sana kupita muda unaofaa. Hawa wakurugenzi wanapokaa kwa muda mrefu, mara kwa mara huwa na uhusiano na walimu wakuu, kisha shule hiyo haiwezi kuendelea. Serikali ingehakikisha kuwa, ikiwa muda wa halmashauri ya wakurugenzi ni miaka miwili, wasipitishie wakati huo. Baada ya wakati huo, watu wengine wanafaa wapatiwe fursa ya kuendesha mambo ya shule. Hiyo itasaidia kuondoa mambo kama migomo ama kutoelewana katika shule.

Jambo la mishahara ya walimu limezungumziwa mara nyingi sana. Walimu wanafaa kupatiwa nyongeza ya mishahara kwa sababu wanafanya kazi ya muhimu sana.

Mr. Speaker: Wakati wako umekwisha.

Mr. Kitonga: Bw. Spika, nina jambo la mwisho---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Will you sit down? Mr. Kitonga, you can wait until next year.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Haji): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to support.

It is normally very easy to complain and lament, than seeing the truth and giving support to Ministries like the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. This is the one single Ministry which is very important, compared to the various Ministries that we have in this country. Sometimes it is important for us to remind ourselves of the past. We all remember that when we gained Independence, we had African Socialism which was talked about very much, and the theme those days was to fight three major ills in this country. These were ignorance, disease and poverty.

As I stand here today, we can very proudly say that the only thing that we have achieved - nearly 100 per cent - is the fight against ignorance. We know that poverty and diseases are always with us. But if you go round the country today, you will find that many Kenyans are highly educated. There are those with degrees and those who have come through middle colleges, not to mention millions who can now read and write. I think this is a great achievement and I would like to congratulate the Ministry for the good work that it is doing. I also want to appeal to them not to be discouraged by all that is being said in the House because, as I said earlier, it is always easy to criticize, and very

unfortunately in this country, we never give thanks to our people. We never tell Kenyans that they have done a very good job. All that we do is to criticize them and talk ill of them, and this will not help us.

I come from an area which is considered to be remote and marginalised. But as far as education is concerned, if I compare the time of Independence with today, I think we are comparable to many parts of this country. This is because of the good work being done by the Ministry. We all know that Kenya leads in education in the whole of Africa. This is not a small achievement. It is a great achievement. It is unfortunate that the resources of this country cannot support the Ministry as much as we would have liked to see. I am amazed to hear that an hon. Member said yesterday here that the Ministry is given substantial amount of money. That is a drop in the ocean, compared with what to expect from the Ministry. The greatest thing that a country can be proud of is its human resources. All the other natural resources, whether oil or gold, will one day end. But what we know is that human beings will live and thrive until doomsday.

Given unity and peace, I feel that this country will develop like any other country in the world. I also sometimes wonder at the demands from hon. Members; that whenever scholarships are being given, all the 220 hon. Members should be consulted. That is next to impossible. We should not cripple the Government services. Government officers are as good as we are in this House, if not better. If they are given the chance to do their job, I think they can do their job as they have already done very well.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know, as I stand here, that whatever we say about civil servants, very soon we shall leave this House. For nearly three months, they are the people who will run this country and steer it. So, that clearly indicates how capable they are. Without hon. Members, the country can run and continue to be run. I am particularly glad to see that in the current Budget, the Government has allocated some money for bursaries and textbooks. The only request that I will make is that when disbursing these funds, particularly for bursary and textbooks, consideration should be given to marginal areas where people have no access to textbooks because they are far removed from trading centres, particularly the pastoralist community who are below the poverty line.

It is very sad to note that when allocating resources, sometimes it is based on population rather than on the poverty of the community which we are supposed to serve. We have just heard an hon. Member who contributed saying that in his area - because they grow coffee and tea - they are removing their children from normal schools and taking them to academies. I know that their population is very high. So, if we are going to give them money because their population is very high, and yet they do not need that money, then, I think we are not doing the right thing.

On the teacher training colleges, I would also like to appeal to the Ministry to reconsider its policy of raising the requirement for intake. This is because we all know that as much as we try, up in the north and some other parts of this country; because of the conditions and the poverty in that area, our children cannot compete well with other students in schools; more so, we do not have qualified teachers. Secondly, most of the teachers from upcountry are not very much willing to go and work in an area where, maybe, they can live for two or three years without finding a suitable lady to marry. They would rather prefer to come out of this area and go to the areas where they can find ladies to marry. Because of this, I feel that it would be a little bit unfair to restrict the intake to certain requirements all over the country.

On the question of the TSC, I read the other day that the TSC was celebrating its 35th anniversary since its inception. Reading through the reports, I found out that they are now moving towards decentralisation. Some of the District Education Officers (DEOs) have been provided with computers, which will enable teachers to source information without having to travel all the way to Nairobi. I think we should also congratulate them for doing that. I also recall the Secretary-General of KNUT saying that he would like to collaborate with the TSC because they feel it is doing a very good job. When we talk about salaries of teachers, I think hon. Members would be doing a disservice to them by emphasising that we should pay higher salaries to teachers. We know that the country is not capable of doing that. We are here for the welfare of society and it would be unfortunate if, through our utterances in this House, we incite either the teachers or the ordinary *mwananchi* against a good Government.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, I would like to ask the Minister to streamline some of the issues within the Ministry. For example, the Ministry gives very unrealistic guidelines on fees. If parents want to sacrifice in order to give their children a sound education in a particular school, they should have that choice. When you find guidelines emanating

from the Ministry telling, for example, Nairobi School or Lenana School how much to charge, they are unrealistic because these are high-cost schools, and they cannot be run on the basis of those guidelines.

We should give freedom of choice to the parents who want to sacrifice by driving a *mitumba* car and wear *mitumba* clothes in order to be able to give the children sound education. Let us be realistic because these guidelines are actually causing friction between the school committees and the parents. The Government tries to buy cheap popularity by setting guidelines too low, which is totally unrealistic. This also happens across the country, and then they insist that the parents must not be asked to pay.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have one particular case of Kirangari High School, where the parents, together with the board of governors and the entire school committee, have sat down and decided that in this day and age, they must give the children in Kirangari High School, instructions on Information Technology (IT), because that is the key to the future. In fact, IT should be compulsory in our secondary schools. But when the parents decide to buy the computers and, the software and install them, and they decide to charge in order for their children to be well equipped, what we get is a letter from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The parents have actually paid money, and the letter from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is ordering them to refund the money to the parents. How are we going to teach our children IT? What business does the Ministry have in directing us when we have chosen to fund the teaching of IT in Kirangari High School? I am asking the Minister to instruct the civil servants to go and withdraw that letter. He is a reasonable Minister who looks very harmless, and I think---

An hon. Member: But he is not!

Mr. Muite: In other areas, he can be very lethal, but at least he has got a very able Assistant Minister. I am asking that those instructions be withdrawn because I have done investigations and found that the parents want to pay for their children to be taught IT. Let us do that because the money is coming from our pockets and not the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two glaring omissions from this Budget. The Ministry enticed the teachers into calling off the strike, when actually the timing of that strike was timely, just before the Budget. We were going to disrupt that Budget, but the teachers were enticed into calling off the strike on the basis that some committee had been set up to negotiate about the implementation of the teachers' salaries. We are told that, that committee is still sitting. If that committee tomorrow recommends what is to be paid to the teachers, and no money can be paid without the authority of this House, where is the budgetary provision in the budget of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to pay the teachers? Are you actually just taking the teachers for a ride? How is the Ministry going to pay them when they have not made any budgetary provision in this budget to pay what the committee might recommend?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other glaring omission is that, we recently enacted a law here, making primary school education compulsory and, in fact, creating offences if you fail to take your child to primary school, but where is the budgetary provision? The issue of free primary education is a bit of a misnomer; somebody has got to pay. You need libraries, desks and many other items. In the budget of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, do we have adequate budgetary provision to realise free primary education? This is a glaring omission. Why do we enact a law when the Government has no intention of implementing or it does not have the capacity to implement it? This is what leads people to lose faith and to take the Government of the day as a joke. Again, this is seen as if the Government is just buying cheap popularity.

One hon. nominated Member talked about incitement. We are not inciting anybody. It is those who are talking about exaggerated budget for certain individuals who are inciting the public at a time when they are not increasing salaries for the teachers.

I would also like to say that strikes, particularly in secondary schools, are to be discouraged. We need to look into the causes of strikes. You remember we had a spate of strikes by our children in secondary schools. The Ministry must investigate properly so that any strikes are pre-empted. We do not want to see another Kyanguli. We do not want these strikes. We do not want a repetition of what happened in Meru, where so many children got burnt. There must be a policy of investigating, reconciling and taking steps in time, and not to react when something has happened. God forbid that it should happen again, but if it does happen, I would like to ask the Minister to ensure that his civil servants, especially the Permanent Secretaries do not make insensitive statements; that he does not lose sleep because children are striking. If possible, when the Minister is in the Nandi area, he can organise for that particular PS to take lessons from his elder brother, who is a very able person; the hon. Member for Baringo North. He is very sensible and very sensitive to the public. Let him take lessons on public relations and not make those sort of insensitive remarks.

I beg to support.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to support this Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. It is a pity that for the time being, the Government cannot afford to offer more than what it can give now to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. This is a Ministry that should get what it requires in its budgetary allocation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, education is one commodity that should be given to all Kenyans. While supporting this Vote, I wish to thank the Ministry for recognising the need to feed children from difficult areas of the country. If this provision was not there, many children would drop out of school because we know that without food, even the studies cannot be accommodated. I would like to urge the Minister to look into ways of providing more money in that regard.

I would also like to request the Ministry to channel bursary funds through the District Education Board. At the moment, we know that the bursaries are given to secondary schools where there are many loopholes and room for abuse. Sometimes, the bursaries are given to students whose parents are able to pay. We know that if we do not support the families which need the support, obviously, we shall lose the human resource that this country needs more. If we look at areas without adequate facilities, their performance is usually very high. The children pass very highly. I think we need to channel the bursaries to the District Education Boards (DEBs) with proper guidelines, so that the less fortunate families can be supported in having their children educated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to dwell mainly on the balancing of teachers. Something very unfortunate happened last year or last year but one, when we were told that certain districts had more teachers than they needed. I have no quarrel with balancing the teachers in terms of numbers. But there was one problem when the recruitment of teachers came and they were required in certain districts. It turned out that those districts which had more teachers than required could not have their teachers recruited. An example is Koibatek District. First of all, I doubt whether Koibatek District has more teachers. In the area that I represent, nearly a quarter of the schools do not have enough teachers. One can argue that the terrain is bad and difficult and teachers do not want to teach in those schools. That is fine, but if you look at some of the schools, I really doubt that the number of teachers is high. But given that the number could be more than the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) or the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology feels the district should have, that does not mean that the excess teachers come from that district. All of them are not sons and daughters of Koibatek District. So, for the sons and daughters of Koibatek to be told that they cannot be recruited in other districts because there were excess teachers was very unfortunate and uncalled for! Otherwise, if that was the criteria, the first action should have been to take away the non-Koibatek teachers to create room for recruitment of teachers from Koibatek. I feel that was very bad and I urge my colleague to look into that. Teachers should be looked at as Kenyans. They should not be told: "You cannot be employed because your district has more teachers." It is not true that all the teachers in the district are sons and daughters of that district. So, I think a better criteria should be devised for recruitment and distribution of teachers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry should also devise a way to have teachers teaching in those hardship areas. It is very unfortunate and bad to deny children from those hardship areas their right to education, just because someone does not want to teach in that area. All those children belong to this country and I know if they are given an opportunity, they can be well educated and they can be a resource to this land. So, I would like to urge the Ministry to devise a method where, if a teacher is posted to a school in a hardship area like Koibatek, he or she should not have any option but to go there. We see many teachers who are posted there and cannot even finish one day. Somebody just reports, looks at the land and goes to the District Education Officer's office looking for a transfer. He becomes sick or something else overnight. I would like to give a suggestion that if they feel those areas are unsuitable, there are trained teachers from those areas. Maybe, they should be employed and given the opportunity to teach there. It is very bad to deny those children their right to education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, this Ministry should really get more money than it is getting now. But I understand the difficulties that the Government is facing. We have nothing but to agree with what is being given now. But I think that when our economy improves, the Government should look into the possibility of giving equal facilities to all the schools. What is happening at the moment is that children throughout the country sit for the same examination. Considering schools in Nairobi where they have access to power, water, travel short distances to get to schools, they have enough time to do their revision. Look at schools in my own constituency where children have to travel very long distances in hot climate; they have no water to drink and other problems. At the end of the day, they have to pass the same examination. So, what I am saying is that, perhaps, when the economy and monetary situation of the Government improves, we should find ways of helping such schools attain some of those facilities, so that children can have equal opportunity to education.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to join my friends to say a few words. I have got three or four points to make. But first, I would like to begin my complimenting the Minister and his members of staff, senior and junior, for the efforts he has put to eradicate ignorance. We have talked about eradication of poverty, but it is a known fact that we cannot eradicate poverty. No country in the world has eradicated poverty. They have reduced poverty. But we can eradicate ignorance. So far, the Minister has done exactly that and he requires a lot of support.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that I have got three or four points to make. I will go straight to the issue of bursaries and scholarships. It is clear that the Minister is given some limited resources. It is also further clear that the Minister is charged with the responsibility of taking care of Kenyans and not a particular region. For that reason, I am requesting him, when he stands up to reply, to give us a list of the distribution of scholarships and bursaries throughout the country. The idea of giving the Minister Kshs54 billion is for him to spend it across the country and not in certain regions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, we enacted a Bill in this House that will ensure free and compulsory education to every school-going child in this country. However, there are so many pockets of parents who do not want to take their children to schools. What methods will the Minister apply to make sure that all school-going children in this country go to school? I have in mind the disabled children. Some parents who have such children do not want to take them to schools. They hide them from members of the public. What methods does the Ministry have in place to expose such parents who do not want to take their disabled children to school?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Education is the implementor of the Act. He supported the Bill very well when it was being discussed in this House. We want the Ministry to support this law which will make sure that every school going child in this country goes to school. The Ministry should make sure that this law is enforced and take action against those parents who do not want take their children to school.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second point is on the technical colleges. In the past, these institutions mushroomed all over the country to an extent that each district had its own technical college or a polytechnic. For example, in Ukambani, we had the Ukamba Agricultural Institute (UKAI). We expected the Ministry to upgrade this institute to university status. However, they neglected it and eventually ran it down. What will the Minister do to make sure that he revives the commitments and aspirations of Ukambani leaders who started this institute? An institute of this kind, particularly in a dry area like Ukambani, was very useful. The leaders had foresight and objectives when they set up this institute. Their idea was very good. This institute is situated on a 20-acre piece of land. Some people are now doing other things on this land. As I said, the idea to set up that institute in Ukambani was very good. Its training was geared towards producing experts who would be useful in dry areas of Ukambani and other parts of the country. I urge the Minister to visit UKAI and see for himself how good that institute was. It has adequate land in Kitui and Emali. Let the Minister visit the institute and see what can be done with its equipment. I would like the Ministry to discourage surrounding communities from misusing that institute. It is a very crucial institute to our people. I would like the Minister to support the Ramogi Institute of Agriculture and Technology (RIAT) and other institutes in this country so that we have enough agricultural experts in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my third point is a reminder to the Minister; that on 7th May, 2002, I filed a Question by Private Notice in relation to Kalawa Secondary School. Some students had their examination results cancelled because it was alleged they had colluded with teachers to cheat. Last Thursday we discussed the same matter during the Motion of Adjournment. The able Assistant Minister, Mr. Karauri, replied to hon. Members' contributions. When I filed the Question, the Minister gave me an unsatisfactory answer. I wanted to know how many students were affected by the cancellation of the examination results. I also called upon the Ministry to do a thorough investigation and tell the House what happened and whether those students could be allowed to repeat. We know those students repeated at their own expense. In fact, this weekend, there will be a major Harambee to assist those students who could not afford to raise school fees to do so. The worst part of this saga is that since that time, six teachers who are parents in that school, have been interdicted for no apparent reason. It is sad that even the Minister, in reply to my Question, told us that the investigations showed that there was collusion among the students. If this was the case, why then punish those teachers? It is true that, if the Minister cared to investigate, he would have found out the truth. The truth is that the former leadership of this school, particularly former headmasters who have been transferred to other schools are interfering with the smooth running of this school. I do not know what they used to eat in this school because, despite the fact that they were transferred, they still interfere with the management of this school. Could they leave that school alone and give its teachers and students a conducive learning environment so that they can continue with their sterling performance? The community likes that school and we are ready to support it. I urge the Minister to reinstate those teachers because they are innocent. They are willing to continue to teach our children. Those teachers should be allowed to go back to school because they are parents themselves. They feel so bad about this external interference because it contributed to their interdiction. I would urge the Minister to carry out a proper investigation to establish the truth of the matter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Minister to read through the HANSARD of last Thursday and see the sentiments expressed by hon. Members who contributed to the Motion of Adjournment. The Assistant Minister, Mr. Karauri, assured us that the TSC and the KNEC will exonerate those teachers and make sure that they are reinstated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my final point is that when the Government entered into an agreement to

increase teachers' salaries, the Ministry officials knew they could afford to pay them because it was after they considered all the factors. How come that, even after gazettelement, the Minister has commissioned other committees to re-examine the salaries awarded to teachers? It is only in this country where a son asks for a loaf of bread and the father gives him a piece of stone! It was very clear that the negotiations between the KNUT and the Government were done to a logical conclusion. Even the late General-Secretary of the KNUT, Mr. Adongo, danced in Kabarak with joy because he thought the agreement was home and dry. He really danced in front of the out-going President! If that was the case, what is happening now?

I sympathise with the Minister for Education who will be in this Ministry for only four months because we are taking over this Government. I know even the commitments that he will make today, he will not implement them. As the Minister for Education in the next Government, I will take care of teachers in this country. As I said, we are ready and willing to pay teachers' salaries agreed upon with the KANU Government. But meanwhile, even if this Government is on its way out, could they give some hope to Kenyans so that we know where we will take over from?

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

Mr. Achola: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say one or two things. First of all, I would like to find out from the Ministry what actually happened to the Koech Report. As of now, we are not sure of the education system that we are following. Are we following the 8-4-4, modified, or what system of education are we following today? There was talk about revising the Koech Report and make it public so that the general public could debate it, but we have not been told what happened up to now. We would like to know what is really happening in the Ministry?

Secondly, I would like to talk about shortage of teachers. Last June, when the President visited Migori District, he promised that over 600 teachers would be posted to the district. Now, the district has a shortage of 650 teachers. I have been told that we are required to recruit 86 teachers this week. I am just wondering how we are supposed to man these schools with that kind of shortage. I would like to appeal to the Minister to recruit more teachers. We should have put in enough funds for this exercise to be completed. In Migori District, for instance, we lose about 100 teachers every year through deaths which are caused mainly by HIV/AIDS. Why is the Ministry unable to replace the teachers as and when deaths occur? Why do we have to wait for two years and cause schools to experience a shortage of teachers? I would like to appeal to the Ministry to fill up these vacancies as and when they arise. In Migori District, the teacher to student ratio in secondary schools is one to 18, which one would say is not good. But another person might argue that the teachers we have in that district are sufficient. That is not true.

The other issue which was also raised by Mr. Muite was about the teachers salaries. Looking at the Estimates which were presented by the Minister, I can only see that we have increased allowances and honoraria to various departments of the Ministry, but there is no specific provision for teachers' salaries. I remember that in the Departmental Committee on Education, Research and Technology, we have been pleading with the Ministry to find some money to pay the teachers their remaining phases. This is because we do not want them to go on strike. If teachers go on strike, it is the students who will suffer. We would have expected the Ministry to put aside a substantial amount of money for the payment of those teachers' arrears. I am aware that the Ministry's share of the national Budget is quite big. In fact, it is close to one-third of what we spend in the national Budget. But that is not important considering how important education is to this country. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Minister to try and find sufficient funds in order to pay the teachers the remaining phases of their salaries, and thereby avert the possibility of having a teachers' strike.

I would now like to touch on Early Childhood Development. This is where we should start even before we go to primary education. If you look at the Budget, you will realise that we have asked for a meagre Kshs7 million compared to the primary education which will receive Kshs133 million. There is a great mismatch. At least, the Early Childhood Development should have a ratio of one to four. So, we should be talking about Kshs150 million plus; being allocated to Early Childhood Development. This is because we end up getting very good pupils in primary schools if we ensure that pre-unit and primary schools are properly run. This will enable children who leave pre-unit and other childhood units to join primary schools thoroughly prepared and, therefore, would be better students in future. I would like to propose that this aspect is actually taken into consideration when we will draw the Budget next time.

We have talked about Universal Primary Education (UPE) and nothing seems to be happening. Mr. Muite said in his contribution that we have even made it worse; we passed the Children Bill which indicates that primary education should be compulsory. If that law will be implemented, where will we get money from? This Budget is silent on that aspect, and I would like to know how the other Ministry will ensure that the UPE is actually implemented as indicated by the Government.

My seventh point is about the various curricula we use at various levels in our education system. In 1994, we passed a Motion in this House which urged the Government to introduce computer studies in our secondary schools.

That Motion was important. I do not know how this country will be industrialised by the year 2015 if we are not taking information technology education seriously, particularly in our secondary schools. I would like to propose that this should be looked into. This is because if this country will be industrialised by that time, our students should be computer literate at the earliest possible time.

The other point I would like to dwell on is HIV/AIDS. It would be important to have the subject of HIV/AIDS taught in our schools. I am very pleased that, at least, this is being talked about. We would be glad if a syllabus for teaching HIV/AIDS in all our schools is written. All of us have realised that HIV/AIDS is a killer disease and it is killing many people in this country. So, we would like our people to be aware of it as soon as possible.

Let me touch on university education very briefly. Recently, the Departmental Committee on Education, Science and Technology visited various universities in the Central Rift and western part of the country. When we visited Egerton University, we found that this was a very well-planned university. But, unfortunately, now there is a lot of congestion in the halls of residence and students cook in their hostels. This is dangerous. I do not know what the Minister will do because I have even looked at their development proposals and found that there is no money put aside to complete the kitchen, the dining hall and two other hostels which have been lying incomplete for a long time.

I would like to appeal to the Ministry to find some money to ensure that those two facilities are actually completed. The other commodity which will be a major problem for Egerton will be water. The water available to this university is not enough. All the catchment areas around Egerton University have already been depleted through destruction of forests. So, there will be a big problem of water supply to Egerton University. I hope that the Ministry is aware of those problems and it should look for funds to complete those projects.

At Moi University, we found a stalled project where millions of shillings had been spent. I wonder what the Minister will do about this project. I have looked at the Estimates on Development and found that it is only pending bills which have been provided for in the Estimates and there is no money put aside for the completion of those projects. This is the case, and yet this country had spent millions of shillings on those projects. Therefore, I think it is a big omission on the part of the Government to have forgotten to include some funds for the completion of those projects at Moi University.

Finally, on development projects, Maseno University, as you are all aware, was upgraded from a Teachers Training College. This university does not have enough facilities. There are no good lecture theatres at this University, and the halls of residence are close to being non-existent. This is the case, and yet there is not a single cent which has been included in this Budget to suggest that the Government will do something on this. I would like to appeal to the Ministry to re-look and see how those issues can be addressed.

I would like to join my colleagues who have complained about the manner in which bursaries are disbursed to various institutions right at the secondary level and universities. We would like bursaries to be given out in a transparent manner. We have been told that there is a proportion of bursary money which is retained in the Ministry. Certain officers in the Ministry decide on whom to give these bursaries. This is contrary to the rules which are used when bursaries are actually sent to the various districts. We would like all the bursaries to be dispersed through the District Education Board (DEB). This should be done transparently.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Vote.

Mr. M.M. Galgalo: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. The work in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is enormous, and I would like to congratulate the officers who work in that Ministry for the much they have managed to do, despite lack of financial provisions from the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, certificates and examination results are the basis upon which students are judged. When children sit for examinations and cannot get their certificates because of the mistakes of others, then that should be a matter of concern to all of us. Of late, some schools have not been getting their results because it is alleged that, students cheated in the examinations. I worked in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology at one time and such cases were not there. I do not know what has happened because cheating in examinations is experienced year, after year these days. What are those charged with the safety of those examination papers doing? Why are our children being punished for the mistakes of officers who have failed to do their work?

Security of examination papers is provided by the Government! If the Government did not secure those examination papers, then it is unfair for the children to be punished. It is not the children who are responsible for the security of those examination papers! Because of the irresponsibility of some of the officers, some head teachers or education officers who are related to them, incite students to cheat in the examinations, so that such head teachers or education officers are promoted because their schools will be seen as the best. But at the end of it all, it is our children who will be punished. It is high time the Minister brought this to a halt, so that the children of Kenya do not suffer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has allocated money for bursaries to students. It is unfortunate that those bursaries will go to the children of people from certain areas where powerful people come from,

or where people who are associated with power come from. That money does not go to benefit the children of poor people in this nation. Those bursaries are not meant for the children of Members of Parliament or rich people. They are meant for those who are not able to help themselves. If opportunities and priorities are given to those areas where senior officers and Government Ministers come from, because of the power they wield in this Government, then what will happen to the poor children? They will not be educated! It is high time that this Government looked at its morality and tried to improve the situation, to ensure that fairness is applied in the distribution of bursaries to students and districts because people are in need, but not because powerful people come from certain areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometime early this year, or late last year, some officers in Jogoo House were caught printing fake certificates. Could the Minister tell us what happened to those officers and how they were able to sell certificates within the offices of the Ministry without being discovered in time? Certificates are important documents and must be secured. The officers who are responsible for the security of certificates--- Some of those certificates were like those printed by the Kenya National Examinations Council. We should be told how they acquired those certificates and sold them to Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, from Isiolo District to Moyale District, a distance of 526 kilometres, there is not a single national educational institution. There are no teachers training colleges or any institutions of middle level and higher learning. This Government has continued to marginalise us in all ways. We do not have roads or educational institutions, and yet we are Kenyans! How can the Minister purport to eradicate ignorance in Moyale, Isiolo and Marsabit if the Government cannot establish institutions for middle level and higher learning? How are we going to get opportunities? People learn by seeing and hearing, and if such institutions exist within a particular area, even funds provided for such areas will boost the economy of the people who live in those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that teachers' salaries have not been paid up to now. Teaching is an honourable job and teachers must be respected because they are examples to the communities they live amongst. They cannot be good examples if they cannot live as they should. They should be given the opportunity to live comfortably!

With those remarks, I beg to support.

QUORUM

Mr. Mbitiru: On a point order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I believe this is a very important Vote that we are discussing, but I fear we do not have a Quorum in the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Yes, it is true there is no quorum in the House. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

Order! Order, hon. Members! We now have a quorum in the House. Could you now reply, Mr. Minister?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank all hon. Members who have contributed towards the debate on this Vote. Quite a large number of hon. Members made very useful contributions to the Motion on this Vote. If I may recap the amount of money that the Ministry is requesting this House to approve it looks like a large figure when we talk of Kshs54 billion. But if you look at it really, Kshs44.5 billion of that amount goes to teachers in the form of salaries, house allowances and medical allowances. Salaries of universities' staff *et cetera*, take Kshs6.5 billion; then we have poverty items that are ring-fenced. These are textbooks, school feeding programmes, money for students from ASAL areas and bursaries which are taking Kshs1.4 billion. Administration and salaries for other staff within the Ministry take Kshs1.1 billion. This leaves a very small figure of Kshs1 billion for operations and maintenance. So, you realise that the Ministry actually operates on a very lean budget. Most of the funds allocated to the Ministry go to salaries for teachers, and particularly to university lecturers; the wage bill is close to Kshs50 billion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the course of this debate, hon. Members raised a number of issues. One issue which featured prominently, on which Messrs. Okemo, Musila and Angwenyi commented, is the that of bursaries. As you know, this year, we have requested for close to Kshs600 million for the provision of bursaries to secondary school students. We have issued very clear instructions to school Boards of Governors (BOGs). The criteria used to determine the amount of money to be allocated to each school is largely determined by a school's enrolment and the poverty index of the district; the latter information is supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

So, we have a criteria by which we distribute the bursary funds to schools. The problem arises when the money reaches individual schools. I urge hon. Members, who are members of school BOGs, to, at least, attend the Board meetings that award bursaries to needy students and ensure that the exercise is conducted transparently. We

have instructed BOGs and headteachers to ensure that lists of beneficiaries of bursary funds are displayed on their schools' and District Education Offices' notice boards, and that copies of the same be forwarded to the Ministry Headquarters for the purpose of record-keeping, so that if anybody seeks to know how bursaries were awarded in a particular school, we can provide him with the relevant information. I would like to admit that this is an item whose handling we cannot supervise very closely because we have 3,200 secondary schools distributed all over the country. Previously, bursary funds used to be forwarded to District Education Boards (DEBs) for award to needy cases. Hon. Members, also being members of DEBs, should attend their meetings to ensure that bursaries are transparently awarded to needy students.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the bursary item contains a figure of Kshs103 million for overseas bursaries. This amount is meant to support students in overseas. We have students in the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom (UK), among other overseas countries. Some of them, on arriving in those countries, lose their means of livelihood, or find themselves in distress just when they are about to complete their courses. If such cases arise parents, or guardians of the particular students, are required to apply to the Ministry, through the Education Attache in that country, for a little assistance so that their children can complete their degree courses.

That is what the figure of Kshs103 million referred to as "bursaries" has been provided for. Otherwise, there are no bursaries disbursed by the Ministry apart from the secondary school bursaries and those meant for overseas students. We do provide bursaries to university students in our public universities and, to a certain extent, in local private universities through the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). The criteria used to award these bursaries is very clear, and every needy student is free to forward his or her application to HELB for consideration.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are fully aware that of late, the Education Inspectorate Department has been incapacitated due to lack of transport means. However, last week, we distributed 70 vehicles under the ECD Project; every district received one vehicle. This will go a long way in alleviating the problem of transport in our districts. Messrs. P.K. Mwangi and Mwalulu said that the Government no longer contributes to the construction of physical structures in schools. As we all know, through the Harambee spirit, we have managed to put up infrastructure for our primary and secondary schools as well as for our tertiary institutions. We have, in the current financial year, negotiated for a soft loan of US\$15 million, so that we can, at least, put up a school in every district. This figure is reflected in our printed Estimates. However, the loan agreement is about to be signed. We have just concluded the negotiations with OPEC.

Decentralisation of the decision-making process in the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) is being effected gradually. I can assure the House that in the not too distant future, many of the decisions will be taken at the district level. While on the TSC, I would like to comment on the issue of teacher recruitment exercise, which is at the heart of every hon. Member. We have two levels of teacher recruitment, namely, for primary and secondary schools. Currently, the procedure is that we advertise existing vacancies in specific schools. Interested candidates are required to apply to the schools' BOGs, which then interview them and forward the names of selected interviewees to the TSC, which will then prepare the documentation.

The establishment at the secondary school level is curriculum-based. In other words, the full compliment of the teachers required in each particular subject is supplied by the TSC. This criteria is serving schools very well. I believe that people are happy with the way we recruit teachers at the secondary school level. With respect to the primary school level, as you know, we have a shortage of close to 20,000 teachers. When vacancies arise from retirement and other causes, we apportion such vacancies to districts which have a shortage of teachers. The distribution of the vacancies to districts is based on the level of the shortage. For instance, Makeni District, which has a shortage of about 1,000, gets the highest allocation. Districts with the least shortage get the lowest allocation. Districts with excess teachers do not get any allocation.

As I speak, 13 out of the 70 districts in the country have not been allocated any vacancies in the current advertisement, because they are currently over-staffed. Previously, we tried to transfer teachers from over-staffed districts to under-staffed districts, but we were not very successful because of various reasons. Recruitment of teachers at the primary level is undertaken by DEBs, which then forward the names of the successful candidates to the TSC for employment. Hon. Members sit in DEBs, and should, therefore, participate in the exercise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the School Feeding Programme, yesterday an hon. Member claimed that primary schools in his district charge Kshs100 per child. We are investigating this allegation. No monies should be charged in respect of the School Feeding Programme. The programme is funded by the Government. So, school children should be fed free-of-charge. I will, therefore, investigate the allegations that were made yesterday during this debate.

With regard to the question of the Primary School Broadcasting Programme, I would like to confirm that we are going to re-introduce the programme. We are requesting for Kshs82 million for the purchase of equipment and airtime from the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. The Primary School Broadcasting Programme will be revived. It

is a programme that should be in place all the time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the idea of raising the entry point of students to teachers training colleges is meant to help us produce quality teachers. If you admit a student to a teachers training college with a grade E in Mathematics and the English language, you will not expect him to teach Mathematics or the English language after the training. We know very well, from the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results, that we have enough teaching manpower in the districts. We have many secondary school leavers with grades C- and C. If they apply to join teachers training colleges, we will get more than enough teachers. We only recruit 8,000 teacher trainees a year. The number of students who have attained grade C in any district are enough. The only problem is that we do not attract that category of school leavers. They do not apply for admission to teachers training colleges for reasons best known to themselves. Hon. Haji talked about students in arid and semi-arid areas having attained the required grades. We will look at applications from those areas and ensure that the areas receive their quota. That is what Mr. Affey and Mr. Haji wanted.

The issue of pre-primary education was raised by Ms. Karua. We need a lot of money to provide pre-primary education and a health scheme for teachers. But if we were to provide university students with all the money that they require, we would require about Kshs2 billion a year to cater for all the 50,000 students in universities. This is not a lot of money compared to the budget we are talking about. So, I expect that in future, we will be able to give the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) the money it requires which, in this case, is about Kshs2 billion.

A lot was said about the teachers' salary increment. I do not need to comment on the issue of the teachers' salary increment because at the moment we have a Reconciliation Committee in place. I want to plead with hon. Members to actually await the results of that committee. It is a competent committee that is looking at the pros and the cons of issues, and I think it will come up with the way forward. We also have a standing committee, namely, the Teachers Service Remuneration Committee (TSRC), which I set up to act as a back-up to the Reconciliation Committee. So, we should await the outcome of the Reconciliation Committee.

Mr. Kihoro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to ignore the teachers' salary agreement that was signed in October, 1997 between the Government and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), under the leadership of the late Mr. Adongo? Is the Minister in order to appear as if he is looking for a new agreement as opposed to confirming that the old agreement will be implemented?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I explained in my previous statements to the House that when the 1997 teachers' salary increment agreement was signed - I really do not want to revisit this issue because doing so will be going into what the Reconciliation Committee is looking into - the economy was growing at about 5 per cent. Currently, it is growing at 1.4 per cent. We really are experiencing hard times. We signed the agreement not knowing that we would go into such economic hardships. Teachers appreciate this fact, and I would like to urge hon. Members to understand that we are talking about the taxpayers' money. It is not mine or yours, but it is our money. There are other services which need to be provided in addition to the payment of salaries of hon. Members and teachers.

The policy on science and technology, which Mr. Kibicho was very much concerned about, is coming. We realise that we are quite behind in establishing an information technology policy and the genetically-modified (GM) foods policy. We have no laws at the moment governing that area, including clothing. Mr. Kihoro, as a lawyer, should know that we should have some laws in place by now. We are in the drafting stage, although it is taking us a long time to produce a policy Paper that will come to this House for debate before we draft the Bill. So, this is coming and I hope that we will have a Sessional Paper during this Session, and then probably by next year, we will have a Bill to be tabled before this House.

Other contributions touched on audit services. You will notice, from our printed Estimates, that we have actually requested for money to increase audit services, not just for secondary schools but also for primary schools. We know that a lot of money collected from parents is not audited. We will improve the audit service, and if need be, we will even privatise audit services. I cannot touch on every issue that hon. Members raised; suffice it for me to say that we have noted a lot of them. My officers are here, and have taken notes and action will be taken on a lot of the issues raised.

As I said yesterday, we will complete the construction of Taita-Taveta Teachers Training College. It is 90 per cent complete and we will complete the remaining 10 per cent. Other stalled projects, whether in the universities or teachers training colleges, for example, Kitui Teachers Training College, will await provision of money by this House in future. As I said, I cannot touch on each and every point that was raised by hon. Members, but as I end my reply, I would like to thank hon. Members for their vital contributions, which we value very much. We have listened, taken note of the issues and we will take action on them.

Once again, I would like to thank parents for their contribution in building schools and paying school fees. We are aware of the problems parents are going through currently because of the hard economic situation, but they are

determined to provide education to their children, and we appreciate their efforts.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

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

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:- THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs28,117,101,820 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2002 in respect of:-

Vote 31 - The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

(Question proposed)

VOTE R31 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 834 - Headquarters Administrative Services

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the Minister explain, on page 886, under Head 834, Item 360, what this amount will be used for and where it will be applied?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): That is the UN Fund for Development in Science and Technology.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think it is our subscription to that body.

Head 889 - Kenya National Examinations Council

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 889, Head 839, Item 310 which is the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), could the Minister tell us when the last audited report from KNEC was tabled in this House?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I think there are some consultations going on. Mr. Minister, you can hold on so that we go to Mr. Obwocha.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have three questions. The first one is on page 885, Head 834, Item 142 whereby Kshs30 million is needed for payment of electricity pending bills. Obviously, that figure is on pending bills, but I want to know how much are these pending bills on electricity. Is this all or are there outstanding figures? The second question is---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Obwocha, I will give you another chance because we have two pending questions by Mr. Achola while yours is on electricity. Mr. Minister, would you like to proceed?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On the question of the KNEC, audited reports were produced this year and I think they were tabled in this House. Secondly, the pending bills which amount to Kshs30 million, consists of all the electricity bills in all the districts. These are the outstanding pending bills that were submitted at the time of budgeting, which was at the end of April, throughout the country.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on a follow-up on that one, on Head 834 we are talking about Headquarters Administration Services. I do not think the Minister is telling us the truth on that particular Item

because we are talking about Headquarters Administration Services. So, how could he be talking about all the districts?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure what I said is the truth because we went through these Estimates very well and this is a new Item. All our districts submitted their bills and they are paid through the headquarters and, because we have had a problem, a lot of them have pending bills which they have not paid. So, we called all of them and told them: "Let us clear your district electricity bills", and this was the figure that we received during the budgeting period. *Head 838 - Kenya National Commission for UNESCO*

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the next question is on page 889, Head 838 - Kenya National Commission, Item 182 - Payment of Rents and Rates; non-residential. What is this "non-residential" one in respect of?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO is housed at the National Bank building on Harambee Avenue and they pay rent. It is written here "non-residential" because when we talk of rent, we are not renting houses any more so that it can be understood very clearly that these are offices.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 889, Item 310, which is KNEC again, the grants are over Kshs300 million and yet the KNEC is charging very high fees for our students to enrol for exams especially primary and secondary school students. Could KNEC consider reducing the amount of examination fees they charge students? Secondly, where is the amount they get from those exam fees reflected here as Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A)?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I did explain yesterday, while moving the Vote, that the annual budget which KNEC needs to run its affairs amounts to Kshs1.2 billion. Now, we are supposed to provide about one-third of that figure. We should be providing about Kshs400 million. Now, this figure of Kshs334 million is even less than the figure they need. In fact, they need about Kshs400 million. Kshs800 million comes from examination fees. They have their own budget and we do not usually show all the figures here. We just show that this is the grant that goes into the KNEC. For example, we are not showing the Kshs800 million as A-in-A. It has not been our practice in the past to show that.

Head 841- Teachers Service Commission

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, on page 890, Head 841, Item 182, payment of rents and rates - Non-residential, could the Minister tell us when the last valuation in respect of these payments was done? Also, we would want to know in respect of how many buildings this amount of rent is being paid - Kshs124 million. It is projected to be paid over the next three to four years.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, we were told that one of the buildings is the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Headquarters. Could the Minister tell us whether they have come up with a policy to build the Teachers Service Commission Headquarters? This amount of Kshs124 million is too much. If they pay that amount to some housing company within ten years, it is about Kshs1 billion. They would use that money to build their headquarters.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as you know the TSC is currently accommodated in a building on Moi Avenue. This rent is for one building and the last valuation was done in 2000. Another valuation was also done in 1999. During yesterday's contribution, I remember hon. Members complained that we are paying a lot of money and if we spent this money in paying off our own building, we would be better off. The TSC has got land on Ngong' Road, but we are still looking for funds to construct their headquarters.

Going by the contribution from hon. Members yesterday, this figure, which is close to Kshs125 million being paid as rent for that building, is a bit on the higher side. The sum total of Kshs124 million could be spent in a building or paying off a loan and then within five or six years, we could have our own building.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thought they had a lease on the building covering a certain period because it seems that they do valuation every year. Do they have the lease?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I hope you are not asking for the lease document to be brought here. I think it is obvious that the Government will not rent a building without a lease.

Mr. Kihoro: No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The Minister said that there was a valuation done in 1999 and another one in 2000 and if there is a lease, why would there be need to do valuation every year? Maybe, they have already paid Kshs5 million for the valuation.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have a lease for six years.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. On page 890, Head 841, Item 301 and 302-

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The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Mr. Achola, we are not there yet. Just hold on, we are coming there.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 841, page 890 - Teachers Service Commission--

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Obwocha! Mr. Achola, which page are you talking about?

Mr. Achola: I was on page 890, where we are. On Head 841, Item 301 and 302, could the Minister explain to us whether these total expenses will cover the teachers' salaries including the contentious agreement between the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the Government?

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, the figure asked for by the TSC is Kshs43.6 billion. Out of that, if you add Items 301 to 305, it is about Kshs40 billion. Does this include the contentious salary award for the teachers or not? Is it envisaged here?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I thought that question was similar to the one asked by Mr. Achola.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it does not include any salary award. What is reflected here is the current personal emoluments, house allowance, medical allowance and other allowances like responsibility allowance for the teachers. But as you know, phase one of that award has already been implemented and it is a 2.4 per cent increase, and the house allowance which we awarded last year. This is not the total that the teachers get. In each technical institution, there is a provision for teachers' salary. It totals to about Kshs45 billion.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the TSC has advertised posts for recruitment of teachers. Where is that amount of money for recruiting new teachers reflected in this budget?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is included. We are not advertising for new vacancies. We are replacing the teachers who have left the service either through normal retirement or natural attrition. We are just replacing to top up what is budgeted for.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Minister is focusing on Kshs24 billion and this shows clearly that they do not want to consider the teachers. They should have asked the Government whether in the forward budget, they could accommodate this item. The figure is almost constant for the years 2004 and 2005. Will the Ministry consider the plight of the teachers?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I get the point that he is trying to raise, that if we were doing forward planning, we should have thought of the teachers. It is not possible at the moment because, as I said, there is a reconciliation going on. When that is over, we will probably be able to do a better forward planning.

*(Heads 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 841, 849,
862, 863 and 901 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

Head 844 - Primary Schools

Mr. Obwocha: On page 895, Head 844, Item 161 - Boarding Expenses, low cost boarding primary; an amount of Kshs66 million has been allocated as boarding expenses for low cost boarding primary schools. Which schools are these?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): We do support quite a number of boarding schools particularly in the nomadic areas; for example Garba Tula and Modogashe in Isiolo. We start these schools in order to get these nomadic communities to take their children to schools.

Head 845 - Kenya School Equipment Scheme

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 896, Head 845, Kenya School Equipment

Scheme, Item 221, as we all know, our people are not capable of buying textbooks for their children. Why could the Minister not ask for more funds for this Head? Could the Minister consider abolishing the School Milk Programme and instead allocate that money to this Head?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we did ask for more money under this programme, but, as you know, we cannot spend above our ceilings. This Kshs425 million is our contribution. We get a similar figure because we are given a ceiling by the DFID. It is reflected in the Development Vote. So, we are getting about Kshs830 million. At the moment, we do not have the School Milk Programme although that Head is still there. We have a school feeding programme in some districts as I explained yesterday. These are schools which are afflicted by drought all the time and in some cases we also feed their parents with the food that is cooked in the schools.

Mr. Kibicho: Is Nyeri Primary School also included in these primary schools?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): It is not included, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Kihoro: On page 895, Head 845, Item 179, School Audit, could you give us a summary of who will do the school audit because it looks to me as if it is a new Item? Who will do the school audit and can we expect a report to come to this House for scrutiny?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a new Item. Early last year, the Government did order that we audit the accounts of primary schools as well and hence this new Item to cover that.

We have covered quite a lot of schools in Nairobi and in the provinces since those instructions were given. We are continuing with these school audits and we are using our own auditors. As I explained when I was replying I can see that in future there will be need to privatise audit services because currently we have 19,000 primary schools and 3,500 secondary schools. This is quite a big workload and it will require more staff. In future we will go out to ask if there are competent school boards and management committees that can contract out the auditing.

Mr. Kihoro: Will you give us a report?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): All audit reports are required by law to come to this House.

Head 844 - Primary Schools

Mr. Obwocha: On the same page 895, Head 844, Item 224 on purchase of Lightning Arrestors, why has the Ministry abandoned this programme of installing lightning arrestors? They have only asked for Kshs3 million and this is a very important scheme that they had started.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in fact we are trying to revive this programme. As you can see, we are allocating more money towards it in our budget. A lot of this money is going to the Kisii Highlands, Siaya and Bungoma areas. I agree that we require more money due to the recent occurrence of lightning strikes in those areas. We also lost some school children in my own district to lightning strikes. Due to budgetary constraints, we are maintaining the same amount as last year of Kshs3 million. We would like to increase that amount because it is an ongoing problem.

Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme

Mr. Achola: On page 896, Head 846, Items 600 and 162, recently when my Committee visited Turkana District, we found that schools in those areas actually existed just because the students were being provided with food. What would happen if the World Food Programme (WFP) were to end its activities in these schools? What policy does the Ministry have to retain the schools if we were to lose the sponsorship of the WFP?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): I hope things do not reach that situation because we would have to find the money ourselves or source for another partner.

(Heads 844, 845 and 846 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 311 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 312 - TEACHERS EDUCATION

Head 847 - Primary Teachers Training Colleges

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are on primary teachers training colleges. He is asking for over Kshs99 million under Item 310. What is the policy of the Government on private teachers training colleges? I believe that these are the Government-sponsored ones because you are asking for Grants and Grants-in-Aid.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there are 21 teachers training colleges where we pay mainly salaries and personal emoluments. As far as private teachers training colleges are concerned, we do not fund them. But in the past, there were graduates because they take the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) and we know their quality. They pass like the others. Currently, they are eligible for employment. They compete; they can go for interviews.

(Heads 803, 807 and 847 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 312 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 313 - SCHOOLS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Head 811 - Special Secondary Schools

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask a question on Head 811; Special Secondary Schools, Item 310. Where are these special secondary schools and could we have them in every region?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we do not have them in every region. They are found in Thika, Mombasa and Kisii. They are there, but we do not have one in every region.

(Heads 810, 811, 848 and 852 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 313 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 314 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Head 853 - Bursaries, Scholarships, Subsidies and Education Attaches

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 899, Head 853, Bursaries, Scholarships, Subsidies and Education Attaches. Item 342. Scholarships; there is a figure of Kshs40 million. We want to know the criteria being used to give this money so that we can advise students from our constituencies to apply. He is asking for Kshs40 million, but what is the criteria of dishing out this money?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, well, I can hear hon. Members asking where is it. It is under Item 342. It is a very small amount of money and these are given to some poor students who, as I said earlier, the parents sent them initially to overseas universities and institutions and, for some reason or another, cannot sustain themselves, and they are in distress. Maybe, they lose a parent and they usually apply and we process them.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, regarding the same Heads 341 and 342 which have been referred to by Mr. Obwocha, they are asking for the same amount of money this year, next year and the year after. Are there no inflationary increases? With increased poverty, would they not seek more funds for these Heads? In fact, when we visited Russia, we found out one pathetic case of a student who had lost his parents while he was there and he could not make ends meet. He could not come back to Kenya. Why can they not ask for more money on this Head to assist our poor students?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): In fact, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Items 341 and 342 deserve that purpose - in the budgeting. This is because in the old days, there were Items 341 and 342. They are one and the same thing. These are to support the students that--- Once again, because of the budgetary constraints that we do have, we cannot cater for all the needs of our students. This figure amounting to Kshs143 million may not be enough and at least it goes in assisting those who are in need.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! Maybe, Mr. Minister, you can comment on issuing food in lieu of cash to bursaries as it was raised yesterday.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I am still

investigating on that case because, although in my reply I did not mention it, I was going to approach you, because you are the one who made a contribution, to show you the kind of bursaries we distributed for schools in Mwingi District. This food for cash must have come from the Office of the President - somewhere - but I am still investigating.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my question is in respect of scholarships. I think there is a lot of money to be set aside in respect of possible death of parents or displaced students overseas. Indeed, also, when I find that they have got the same projections, same amount of money---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order! That question was asked.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, but it was not clear.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Kihoro! The question of the amount of money being received has been asked by Mr. Obwocha and answered by the Minister. Let us not repeat questions. Could you ask another one?

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, is there any academic basis for the awards? Or is it anybody for anybody in distress when he or she is overseas?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the criteria is the need; it is not based on academic performance. For example, if a student in the US or Canada is about to complete his or her course and he or she does not have money, and has written through Education Attache to say that he or she needs to have--- This is because they are aware that we could assist. That is where we come in.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sorry. I heard that we should not have the same question, but I want to raise the same issue. It is under Head 103 where the Ministry's friends are getting the money from to give to their kids. That is why we are going to ask the Minister how he vets those who get this money. Would it not be better to transfer this money to HELB so that we have a transparent mechanism of disbursing this money rather than leaving it here for discretionary expenses?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, first of all, I do not have any friends that are benefitting from this bursary money. But I do agree that, to some extent, the vetting is not the criteria; it is not as clear-cut as that of HELB or that of the secondary schools bursaries. We will try to improve on it.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Kosgey, I hope you have got the sentiments of the hon. Members and that some action will be taken.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Kibicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my worry is that, Head 342 is on scholarships while the other one is on bursaries. Why do you not lump them together, because if it is a scholarship, one presupposes that it will not be paid for?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this arose actually from history of budgeting because this Item used to exist in the books. This is a way the Ministry is trying to follow to get more money from the Treasury. But at the moment, all that money goes to the bursaries for overseas students.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same page, Head 853, Item 191 - Payment of Rents and Rates (Residential), since the Government policy changed, and they no longer pay rent for residential properties, why is he asking for Kshs14 million?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if you look at the whole Head 853 - Bursaries, Scholarships, Subsidies and Education Attaches, these are rents for education attaches. We have education attaches in the United States, United Kingdom, India, Moscow and so on.

(Heads 853 and 854 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 314 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, Item 817 -Vehicle Insurance, which are these vehicles that are insured? Are the vehicles owned by schools insured by the Ministry?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. We insure all school buses.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 316 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 317 - TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Head 565 - Kisumu Polytechnic

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 565 -Kisumu Polytechnic, and Item 301 - Grants to TSC - Teachers' Personal Emoluments has been allocated Kshs22 million. How many teachers or instructors are these? The Kshs22 million is a lot of money for one polytechnic, and unless they are talking about technical education, I cannot believe this. Could the Minister explain this?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a national polytechnic, and there are about 35 teachers or lecturers, some of whom are quite senior.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could he tell us the salaries of these lecturers? How can he talk about five people earning Kshs22 million? That is not correct!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): He said over 35 lecturers.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it looks like Kisumu Polytechnic which serves about five million Kenyans is not being expanded. The total allocation is only Kshs44 million. Are there plans of expanding it and pumping more money into it?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if I may go back to Mr. Obwocha's question, there are 116 lecturers of various cadres in Kisumu Polytechnic which offers a variety of courses. So, the Kshs22 million is for that large number of lecturers. With regard to the expansion of the polytechnic, there are four national polytechnics and other technical training institutes.

I know there is quite a large number of applicants to the polytechnic, particularly, the national polytechnics, and in future we will look into the expansion of the national polytechnics or opening new ones.

*(Heads 565, 651, 652, 662, 663, 671,
694, 695 and 696 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 317 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318 - UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Head 867 - Moi University

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 910, Head 867 - Moi University, Item 301 - Grants-in-Aid to Western College of Applied Sciences (WECO), how come last year, there were no grants to this college, and all of a sudden the Ministry is giving them Kshs79 million? It cannot be a new college!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a new constituent college of Moi University.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, with regard to Item 300 - Grant and Grants-in-Aid - Egerton University, I do not see any grants to the Kisii Campus. Is Kisii a constituent college, and if it is not, when is it going to be made a constituent college of Egerton University?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a campus and not a constituent college.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, when is it going to be made a constituent college?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): By the way, that is a different question. We are not concentrating on the budget. You can put it as a Parliamentary Question to the Minister in due course.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you include even policy when you are asking these

questions because we are scrutinising the Vote. Now, the allocation to Egerton University is one figure, Kshs1 billion, and Kisii College happens to be a campus. Initially, they had said it is going to be a constituent college. When is that going to be done?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I allow the question if the Minister can answer!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as you know, Members went round those colleges and found stalled projects due to financial constraints. You will notice the case of Maseno which split out of Moi University. I has since been made a university. We have a lot to do in building. They are still using the old Siriba College buildings which are not adequate. So, as soon as we are able to get enough money, we will move into making it a constituent college.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): No supplementary questions, of course!

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

(Sub-vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote R31 agreed to)

Hon. Members, that concludes the Recurrent Expenditure. Let us move on to Development Expenditure on page 650.

VOTE D31 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 836 - Curriculum Support Services

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Items 413 and 414 of Head 836, where and how are those subjects being strengthened?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have a programme called Strengthening of Primary Education. We are strengthening primary schools by buying books. That is money from the DFID. In secondary schools, we are strengthening the teaching of science subjects, mathematics in particular.

(Heads 835, 836, 841 and 863 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme, the Kshs488 million is coming from the World Food Programme (WFP). Could the Minister tell us whether that includes payments which they normally make to the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) for supplying school milk or not? What is included here?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the milk programme is no longer there. The money is purely for the purchase of food items like maize and beans for districts that were mentioned in my speech.

Head 844 - Primary Schools

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 844, Item 422 - Girls Education (EFA - Follow-up), what do they do? Do they give scholarships and bursaries for special consideration for girls?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is education for all. We are trying to promote the girl child education. We have certain schools like the AIC Kajiado Girls School which is

boarding and we are supporting it. We have various other girls schools in Kenya.

(Heads 844 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 315 - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Head 816 - Training Field Services

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 652, Head 816, Item 340, Grants to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), are those NGOs that partake public funds?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): We are checking on that.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Alright! Let us have some consultation on that. Can you take another question? Proceed, Mr. Angwenyi.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 816, Item 176 - HIV/AIDS Education and Support to Orphans, what do you give to orphans? Do you give them scholarships and textbooks? What do you give the orphans, so that my people could apply? I have got a number of orphans as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Let us have the first question from Mr. Kihoro.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me answer the first question. We have CARE, Kenya, Catholic Relief Services, Aga Khan, AMREF and Action-Aid.

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, why should NGOs be supported with public funds in Kenya? I thought he was going to read a list of local NGOs! I think the amount of money is escalating also!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): But there are services that they render to us!

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): The next question was about the orphans. Could you explain what support you give to HIV/AIDS orphans?

According to Mr. Angwenyi, and I also agree with him, none is being given now!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, while I am waiting for an answer, let me elaborate on the question of NGOs. On those NGOs, certain World Bank programmes are going on because they wanted to fund them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, for those programmes to continue, they needed some support from us. We agreed to their request and we are supporting what is coming directly from the World Bank to those organisations.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): You can answer the other question on orphans if you are ready.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, assisting HIV/AIDS orphans is a new programme. We are supporting orphans in all ways, including buying uniforms, books, paying their fees and so forth. It is a new item and we have never administered it before.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): It has not started but it is in the process?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it has not started, but it will start.

(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, under Item 220, what are these plant and equipment that the Ministry has budgeted for the Board of Governors Maintained Schools?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a new Item. We want to buy computers for those schools.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Minister, are you saying that from now onwards, secondary schools will be supplied with computers?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, during this financial year, we want to supply schools with computers.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 316 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 317 - TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(Heads 652 and 662 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 317 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318 - UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

(Heads 833, 840, 842 and 867 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote D31 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

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

REPORT

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs28,117,101,820 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2003, in respect of Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and approved the same without amendment.

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

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Ojode) seconded.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 1st August, 2002, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.35 p.m.