

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 24th July, 2001

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

Annual Report and Accounts of Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1999, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Sugar Authority and Sugar Development Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1999, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kerio Valley Development Authority for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Kerio Valley Development Authority for the year ended 30th June, 1999, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Agricultural Development Corporation (Kulalu Ranch) for the year ended 1st March, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Agricultural Development Corporation (Garissa Irrigation Project) for the year ended 30th June, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Agricultural Development Corporation (Lands Limited) for the year ended 31st March, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Pest Control Products Board for the year ended 30 June, 1999, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture
and Rural Development (Col. Kiluta) on behalf of
the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development)

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir. After listening to a list of those reports, it is quite clear that most of them are, indeed, time barred. There is a time frame within which reports of corporations must be laid on the Table of this House. If they are late, extension should be sought and given. Are we in order to allow the Government to flout the rules of Parliament and get away with it?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, right now we cannot go into discussing any matter because we have not started to discuss what is in the Order Paper. However, I will allow you to raise that issue at a later stage.

NOTICE OF MOTION

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE MEDIA BILL

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament House entitled The Media Bill to guarantee the freedom, independence and responsibility of the media.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Question No.424*BARRING OF MEMBERS FROM
SEEING DETAINED COLLEAGUE

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

(a) if he is aware that on 3rd May, 2001, 13 Members of Parliament were denied access to hon. Maina Kamanda at the CID Headquarters and further that the Members were locked outside the main gate; and,

(b) why the Members were denied access to their colleague.

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

(a) I am aware that several hon. Members, members of the public and the Press who had gone to see hon. Kamanda at CID Headquarters, were advised to wait outside the room where hon. Kamanda was recording a statement accompanied by his lawyer because the room could not accommodate more people.

(b) Arising from my reply to part "a" of the Question, part "b" does not arise.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really shocked. I want to remind the Assistant Minister that, one time, what happened to Mr. Kamanda might happen to him. Could he be serious and tell us what he means by the phrase that "hon. Members and members of the public were advised to wait outside the room where hon. Kamanda was recording a statement accompanied by his lawyer because the room could not accommodate more persons"?

I do not want to talk about the hon. Member making a statement because I was not in the room. If his lawyer, hon. Muite catches your eye, he will tell us the correct position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Munyao, we know what you saw at the CID Headquarters might have led you to ask this Question. Please, do not narrate the story because, as I told you, I will only allow you to ask one supplementary question.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were outside the CID headquarters because all the gates were closed. Was it in order for the police to deny us and members of the public access to hon. Kamanda?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members in question were accompanied by members of the public. They were respectfully asked to wait outside. Hon. Kamanda was allowed to record his statement in the presence of his lawyer, hon. Muite.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with respect to the hon. Assistant Minister, this House is actually entitled to truth and accuracy. I took hon. Kamanda to the CID Headquarters. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to mislead this House that hon. Kamanda was recording a statement in a room, when the truth of the matter is that he did not record any statement at the CID Headquarters? He was whisked and driven away to Embu Police Station at a speed of 150 kilometres per hour.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, hon. Kamanda was given his legal rights within the law. He was asked to appear at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Headquarters, which he did. However, instead of him going there with his lawyer, he was accompanied by a huge crowd of people, which included members of the Press.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, you have not answered the question that was asked by Mr. Muite.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going ahead to answer that question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot be categorical as to what transpired between Mr. Kamanda and his lawyer, Mr. Muite, and the police officer in charge. The issue here is that Members of Parliament were locked out of the happenings in the room in which Mr. Kamanda was received. I have explained the circumstances under which the Members of Parliament were politely and respectfully asked to wait.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this country, when an hon. Member is arrested, he is escorted by hundreds of armed police officers, who also terrorise other Kenyans. Could the Assistant Minister advise the police that, with effect from today, hon. Members and members of the public shall have equal rights at police stations, and that they can appear in court if requested to do so.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take Mr. Muchiri's advice with respect.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Could you ask the last question, Mr. Munyao?

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Question is still not answered. I am querying the locking of

hon. Members outside the gate of CID Headquarters. That was not the first incident of this nature. Previously, when Mr. Orengo and other hon. Members were arrested and taken to Central Police Station, the gate to the compound of that station was closed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House why the 13 hon. Members were locked outside the CID Headquarters compound?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was unfortunate that the hon. Members were locked out of the CID Headquarters compound. But even if they were allowed in, they would not have been allowed to accompany Mr. Kamanda into the room in which he recorded his statement.

Question No.009

LIQUIDATION OF KNAC

Mr. Anyona asked the Minister for Finance:-

- (a) whether he could make a comprehensive report regarding the liquidation of Kenya National Assurance Company (KNAC);
- (b) what the total assets and liabilities of the KNAC are; and,
- (c) what the total benefits of the former employees are and when they will be paid.

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Question is asking for a comprehensive report. I have consulted with Mr. Anyona, we agreed that, in order for me to make a comprehensive report on the matter, I need to be given up to next week. I would, therefore, like to ask you to give me up to next week to give that report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Anyona, what is your reaction to the Minister's request?

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Minister did consult me over this issue, not just once; he has done so quite a few times before. This is a very important Question. A lot of our people are suffering as a result of the liquidation of the KNAC. We would like it resolved amicably. I plead with the Minister that the matter be resolved; so, next week, we should have an answer, so that our people can know where they stand. I am in agreement with the Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question deferred to next week, Wednesday morning.

(Question deferred)

Question No.449

FALL OF COFFEE PRICES

Mr. Wamae asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the prices of coffee in the Nairobi Auction have dropped considerably during the last 12 months;
- (b) what he is planning to do to assist the coffee farmers, both in plantations and the co-operative sector, who are faced with large losses; and,
- (c) whether he could finance the farmers through the European Union STABEX funds.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Col. Kiluta): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware.

(b) In order to manage the large losses currently being experienced by both plantation and the co-operative sector farmers, my Ministry has worked out disbursement modalities of the STABEX funds to coffee growers at concessionary interest rates for purchase of farm inputs, cherry advances and working capital. Coffee growers will thus enhance their coffee quality, which fetches higher prices. The Sessional Paper on Coffee Industry Reforms is ready for tabling in this House. The reforms in the industry are aimed at streamlining coffee marketing, shortening the long routing of payments, and reducing deductions on coffee proceeds and, therefore, increasing the net payments to coffee growers.

(c) The Government will finance coffee growers through the European Union STABEX funds.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very worrying matter. The STABEX funds were given to the Government of Kenya by the then European Community between 1991 and 1993. Why has it taken ten years

for the Government to consider disbursing part of these funds to coffee farmers? Even after the President announced that the funds would be released, why has the money not been disbursed to coffee farmers?

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the disbursement process of the STABEX funds has been on-going. I am informed that negotiations on the agreement took three years. So, the problem has been the length of time the negotiations took for an agreement to be reached. We have now forwarded all the necessary documentation to the Attorney-General's Chambers. The funds should be ready for disbursement any time between now and October.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is aware that the President announced that a sizeable amount of these funds would be given to the Co-operative Bank of Kenya for onward lending to farmers. It is now weeks since that announcement was made. That does not involve legal sessions with the European Union. It is money that is already in banks. Why has it taken so long, even after the President said that the money would be available the following week?

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the President hinted that the money would be released. Indeed, Kshs1.046 billion has been set aside for this purpose. As I said, it is the long period it has taken the Government of Kenya and the European Union to negotiate the deal that has caused this delay. As I speak here, all the necessary arrangements to have the money released have been put in place. As soon as we get the go-ahead from the Attorney-General, the money will be released.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you heard the Assistant Minister say that his Ministry has worked out the modalities for the disbursement of the funds to farmers. Could he table the modalities of the disbursement of those funds? If possible, could he assure this House that those modalities will be scrutinised by the Committee on Agriculture and have Parliament certify them as beneficial to coffee farmers?

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not possible for me to table the modalities for the disbursement of the funds since I was not requested to do so. However, funds will be disbursed to look after the cherry advances---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Assistant Minister. If you are not ready to table the modalities now, when will you table them?

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will try to table them next week.

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

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is not telling the whole truth. Some of the STABEX funds, which was meant for the financing of the coffee and tea industries, has been used to finance the retrenchment of civil servants and other sectors, and not the sectors it was meant for. If it was possible to dish out those funds for the financing of wildlife conservation services and the retrenchment of civil servants, why was it not possible to process payments for coffee farmers, who have been suffering for so many years, and who were originally meant to benefit from these funds?

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, no money from the STABEX Fund was used to finance the retrenchment programme.

Question No.311

JUA KALI PROJECTS IN MBEERE

Mr. Muturi asked the Minister for Vocational Training:-

(a) what programmes under the *Jua Kali* Scheme has the Ministry implemented in Mbeere District for the last five years;

(b) who represents the Ministry in the local District Development Committees where projects are discussed and prioritised; and,

(c) how many of those projects, if any, are in Siakago Constituency.

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

(a) The Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development has been implementing the Voucher Training Programme in Mbeere District for the last five years. In both phases one and two of the project, a total of 42 beneficiaries from Mbeere District have been trained. The district can also benefit under the Infrastructure Development Programme once a suitable site is identified by the District Development Committee (DDC).

(b) The Provincial Applied Technology Officer (PATO), Eastern Province, represents the Ministry in the local DDC because the department does not have enough officers to cover all the districts.

(c) One project under the Voucher Training Programme is currently under implementation in Siakago

Constituency.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, within the Vote of this Ministry, a lot of funds have been set aside to benefit local artisans in the country. But the truth of the matter is that no actual training is taking place. Could the Minister tell this House where the 42 persons alleged to be beneficiaries of the Voucher Training Programme in the district were trained or are currently being trained? When did the so-called PATO, Eastern Province, ever attend a DDC meeting? This is because most of us who attend such meetings have never seen him. Indeed, we do not even know where he lives. We know that it is through the Voucher Training Programme that funds meant to train artisans are channelled.

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member wants me to produce a list of the beneficiaries, I would gladly do that. But I would like to point out to him that we have got very clear records that these meetings have been going on and that the Provincial Applied Technology Officer is detailed to attend those meetings.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said that it is a well known fact that throughout this country, a lot of funds have been set aside to benefit artisans or Kenyan entrepreneurs in the field of training *Jua Kali* artisans. But we also know for a fact that people are filling these so-called Voucher Training Programmes forms.

I would like the Minister to explain to the House where these training centres because they are not necessarily lacking in my district only. I am interested to know where they are located in other districts. If he could be generous enough, to even tell us where those training centres are located in his own district.

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have training providers in various parts of the country and, in particular, Mbeere District. Mr. Anthony Kiboi is one of the registered training providers, while Ishiara and Siakago *Jua Kali* Associations act as allocating agents and they provide the vouchers for the training. I wish to make it clear that this training is demand-driven and those who ask for it actually get it and they would ask for advice from the District Applied Technology officers as to how they can go about this. They are expected to pay 10 per cent and the Government provides the rest.

Question No. 494

DEATH OF MR. KYALO MAUNDU

Mr. Kikuyu asked the Minister for Labour:

(a) whether he is aware that Francis Kyalo Maundu died in a road accident on 1st October, 1999 along Nairobi-Mombasa Road, while driving a bus belonging to Akamba Bus Services;

(b) why the wife of the deceased has not been paid his workman's compensation and all his terminal benefits; and,

(a) when she will be paid.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Maizs): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware.

(b) The widow had not been paid workman's compensation benefits because of the claimant's delay in submitting the necessary documents; the death certificate, Form LB 132 and certificate of dependence, which she had undertaken to submit through our Ministry, Labour Office in Mombasa, on 27th, July, 2001. With regard to the terminal benefits of the deceased, they were deposited with the District Commissioner, Machakos, on 8th February, 2001, vide cheque No.69821 of Kshs11,300, which is awaiting collection.

(c) The compensation dues would be paid once the documents are received and processed.

Mr. Kikuyu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arising from the Assistant Minister's reply to part "b" of the Question, could he tell us how this widow was supposed to get the information that the cheque is in Machakos District Commissioner's office?

Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information should have come from the employer to this employee, requesting her to collect the cheque from the District Commissioner's office. When the employee complained that she did not get the information, we passed the information through the District Labour Officer in that particular area; Machakos Town.

Mr. Kikuyu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Assistant Minister got this answer about a month or two ago because this Question has pending in his office. He should have looked for ways on how the employer should have sent a cheque to the District Commissioner, Machakos. How would have the widow who is living in Kitui know that the cheque was in Machakos District Commissioner's office? This Assistant Minister is wasting

this House's time and that of the nation if he expects wananchi to follow cheques which have been deposited somewhere without their knowledge.

Mr. Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the DC, Machakos, accepted to receive a cheque of Kshs11,300, knowing that he could get access to this lady. That is why he accepted to acknowledge this payment by sending the receipt to the employer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Maizs, the hon. Member is not asking you whether the DC, Machakos, received the cheque. He is asking you how does the woman who is living in Kitui know that the cheque is in the DC's office, Machakos? He is asking: How does the woman who is living in Kitui know that her money is lying at DC's office in Machakos?

Mr. Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we notified her through our labour office in the district.

Mr. Kikuyu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you can see, the Assistant Minister is hiding some information. Could he bring a copy of that letter which notified the woman that the cheque is in Machakos? Otherwise, he is making me look like a fool. This is because I am asking about money which was deposited in Machakos on 8th February, and if the woman has a letter, I should not have asked this Question. Could he bring a copy of that letter?

Mr. Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member has doubts over that, I will personally make sure that communication is sent to that lady---

Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will also make sure that the copy is sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Maizs! The hon. Member is requesting you to produce evidence that, in fact, communication was sent to that lady. I understand that you have no problem of producing that evidence. Could you now produce that evidence to the hon. Member, so that he can follow it up? This is because, clearly, this woman is suffering if her money has been withheld since February.

Mr. Maizs: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will just do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much.

Question No.333

WITHDRAWAL OF AMBULANCES
FROM HEALTH CENTRES

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Onyango not here? We will come back to that Question.
Question No.475

REFUSAL BY MINISTRY TO PAY DEBT

Mr. Achola asked the Minister for Medical Services why the Ministry has declined to pay a debt of Kshs5,094,347.30 arising out of a joint venture between the Government of Kenya and the Diocese of Kisii as stated in the Ministry's letter, reference POL/ADM/9/A/1/29, of 22nd October, 1999.

The Assistant Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Wako): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Ministry has not declined to pay a debt arising out of the joint running of the Ombo hospital with the Diocese of Kisii between 1994 and 1991. The Ministry will pay its share of the debt when funds become available.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I think we must take this House seriously. Funds do not become available on their own. They must be requested. But we have the Medium Term Expenditure Programme which has given each Ministry a three-year horizon. Surely, Dr. Wako, if you want to be fair to the House and to the hon. Member, tell him whether funds will be available next year, and the amount you can promise him, or the year after.

(Applause)

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is talking of Kshs5 million which is not correct. The Ministry has accepted to pay Kshs2.4 million on verification of expenditure.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you have realised, these Ministers and Assistant Ministers are becoming ridiculous. They are giving ridiculous answers to very serious Questions. This debt arose in 1991, and, today, ten years later, they have the audacity to come here and tell us that the debt will be sorted out when funds become available. If we have to budget in this House--- I do not see how the Ministry can fail to pay Kshs5 million when this is one of the most corrupt Ministries in this country; they have millions of shillings to give to their friends elsewhere and they cannot pay Kshs5 million. Could the Assistant Minister give an undertaking to this House as to when they will pay whatever amount is not in dispute?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to tell the hon. Member that the Ministry is not corrupt at all. What has happened is that in 1991, when the Ministry withdrew from the running of Ombo Hospital, it asked for Kshs5 million, which is Kshs2.1 million as creditors fee, and Kshs2.9 million payable as terminal benefits to the staff. But since the staff were left with the missionaries, we were not entitled to pay, and we let them know it at that particular time. In 1995, we took an undertaking to pay Kshs2.1 million, but we had to be given commitment; that, it has been spent so that we can verify, which has not been done to date.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister said earlier on that they will pay the debt when funds become available. He is saying that they will pay if they are satisfied that the funds have been spent. Which is which? The Ministry, which "swallows" Kshs11 billion per year, cannot afford Kshs2 million only.

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my reply to Mr. Achola's Question, I said that it took us ten years to pay that because they did not bring the verified accounts. Therefore, we were not able to pay, but we are saying that as soon as funds are available, we will pay.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the Assistant Minister to evade the Question being asked and to take this House in circles? Is he saying that they cannot pay because funds are not available and they will pay when funds are available? Or, is he saying that they are unable to pay because they have not verified it? Which is which? The Chair asked him to state whether it will be next year or the year after, or in three years' time. He is avoiding answering the issue.

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not trying to avoid answering the Question. We are able to pay the debt and the Ministry was committed to paying it since 1995. We are saying that we need to get verification and then we will pay.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Afya House is no longer Afya House. It is a "Mafia House." From 1995, those are five financial years, and yet this Assistant Minister is saying that they cannot pay. Let him tell this House what the conditions are. Is it because they have not brought the audited accounts or is it because they have not fulfilled the conditions given? Tell us, so that the hospital can be asked to fulfil those conditions. Is it because they have not brought their audited accounts or is it because the money is not available?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we asked the hospital to bring the list of the debtors and to verify that, and bring us the audited accounts. We are proposing to pay directly to those who are the creditors to the hospital.

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the debate of the Ministry's Vote last week, the two Ministers in the Ministry insisted that the Ministry was given Kshs14 billion as opposed to what the Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare projected to be Kshs11.6 billion. Therefore, it means that they are running a secret Vote of nearly Kshs3.5 billion. Could the Assistant Minister pay the Kshs5 million from the secret account that they run in their Ministry?

(Laughter)

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any secret account.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has indicated that the Ministry will be prepared to pay this amount of money when the audited accounts are produced, but the accounts which were audited by Maseke and Company way back in 1992 verified that the amount spent was Kshs2.1 million on creditors, and Kshs2.9 million was spent on invoices and terminal benefits, giving a total of Kshs5 million. These audited accounts are here and I have a letter which was written to the Government by the hospital in Migori, and all the list of creditors are appended to it. It is dated 29th June, 1992. In view of what I have said, could he now tell us when they are going to pay this money to the hospital? This is because all what he has told us is nonsense!

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member can avail it; and the hospital is ready to avail it to him but not to the Ministry's headquarters; we will pay what is due to the Ministry of Health. This is because as far as we are concerned, it is not Kshs5 million which the Ministry owes to the hospital. The Ministry only owes

Kshs2.4 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Are you now suggesting that you have not received those audited accounts?

Dr. Wako: I am not aware of them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Achola, bring those documents.

(Mr. Achola laid the documents on the Table)

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Following the answers being given by the Assistant Minister, I am unable to figure out what the excuse is. Is it because of lack of money? Is he in order not to tell---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! You are asking the same question for which we are still waiting for a reply.

Dr. Ochuodho: Is he in order not to answer the question that hon. Muite asked?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Dr. Ochuodho! That is the matter we are trying to reach the bottom of by production of those documents. I cannot make a ruling before I see the documents. Mr. Assistant Minister, have you looked at those documents?

Dr. Wako: No, Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will defer that question.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Onyango's Question, for the second time?

Question No.333

WITHDRAWAL OF AMBULANCES
FROM HEALTH CENTRES

Is Mr. Onyango still not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MUGGINGS IN NAIROBI CENTRAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy 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 most of the streets in Nairobi are infested by thugs and muggers?

(b) Could the Minister state the steps taken to stop the street muggings, attacks and harassment of innocent Kenyans in the Central Business District?

(c) What steps has he taken to clear the street families and restore law and order in Nairobi and all urban centres throughout the country?

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

(a) While I admit that there are cases of muggings in Nairobi streets, it is an exaggeration to assert that all the streets in Nairobi have been overrun by thugs and muggers.

(b) The following steps have been taken to improve security in the Central Business District of Nairobi: Police booths, manned 24 hours, have been introduced with the help of Nairobi District Business Association, but we have provided the personnel to man them. Foot and mobile patrols have been increased. Police dogs and dog handlers patrols have also been introduced. Additional detectives in plain clothes have been deployed in strategic locations.

(c) The solution to insecurity in Nairobi does not lie solely in clearing street families as implied.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Considering that this relates to Nairobi and other urban centres and that the Ministry of Local Government is responsible for urban security, is it in order for the Office of the President to answer a Question that relates to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Gatabaki! You have no responsibility over who answers which Question. More importantly, what you have raised is not a point of order. You were asking a question of the Chair, who agrees that this Question ought to be directed to the Office of the President.

Proceed.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister did give an answer. We would wish him to tell this House and the country which of the Nairobi streets he would classify as "safe" so that the Question does not sound like an exaggeration. He should also give the solution to the problem of street families.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have a direct classification of which streets can be classified as "safe." Definitely, the River Road and Tom Mboya Streets and Kirinyaga Road are fairly unsafe. That is the area we are concentrating our plain clothes personnel on. However, the issue of street families does not fall directly under my Ministry. With the law on vagrancy having been repealed, I do not have the instruments to clear the streets any more. Therefore, the issue of street children now falls under the Children's Department at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is really a big shame to the Capital City of this Republic. I have just come from Sydney in Australia where safety is obvious; you can see that. I did not see a single policeman patrolling, for the ten days I was there. What will the Government do about this problem? Forget about these small measures of mobile patrols and the rest of it. It is a big shame! You cannot even walk to the bus station in this town. What will you do to clean up the Capital City and other urban centres of this country?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we shall continue to use the existing instruments of law to make sure that there is adequate security in the City. You will admit that the reason why we have an increase in the problems we have in our streets is partly because of poverty and other related issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, once these issues are sorted out and we allocate a greater part of our budget to providing that very vital component of our national development; that is security, I think we will see a downturn in events.

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Assistant Minister is not serious. We have allocated Kshs36 billion to the Office of the President. The City of Nairobi is more unsafe than Mogadishu or Kampala, and yet this is a country which is not at war. Could the Assistant Minister explain to us how the money allocated for security is spent? In fact, people in Kenya loathe to be rich because they will be killed because of their money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us why he is not undertaking any measures to curb insecurity because the CBD is a small place? If you can be mugged and you cannot do any business, then we cannot understand why the Ministry has such a big Vote. Why are policemen underpaid? Is it that there is no incentive for them? Could the Assistant Minister explain to this House---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I do not know which question he has asked, but give it a shot.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know how the hon. Member measures my seriousness. The Office of the President has, indeed, been allocated Kshs36 billion, but it is not made up of just the Nairobi Central Business District, nor the police alone. Out of that budget, I cannot allocate substantial money to have enough men to cover the whole City.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, Nairobi City was downgraded by the UN to a third position which is worse than the war cities in the world. This is because the UN staff are not targeted for violence unlike here. This Assistant Minister is aware of what happened yesterday in Kayole slums whereby over five people were killed by mobs of some cartels in those *matatu* routes that I am sure the police are protecting. Could this Assistant Minister be serious and admit that they have lost Nairobi forever, and that until we recover from poverty, we will never need security in Nairobi?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, added to what we are doing, we are also trying to clear the slums that are close to Nairobi. Shortly, we will be re-settling the slum dwellers of Mukuru in South C and other areas to places where we can identify these people and clear them from operating near the CBD. We have not lost Nairobi. If anything, lately, we have gained more ground as far as security is concerned.

BAN ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Education the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the ban on corporal punishment in schools will lead to increased cases of indiscipline in schools?

(b) Why was the ban imposed without consultation with the major stakeholders?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the ban on corporal punishment would lead to increased cases of indiscipline in schools.

(b) The ban was imposed in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Kenya ratified in 1990.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a very unfortunate answer, in view of the fact that ever since that ban was imposed, and especially in the last three weeks, 26 secondary schools have closed down due to cases of indiscipline on the part of the students. If the Minister is serious that the ban was imposed in compliance with a United Nations convention, which the Government ratified ten years ago and found it convenient to implement only this year, is he aware that the recent closures of schools are directly related to cases where most school heads are not able to discipline students because of the ban?

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the recent spate of indiscipline in schools cannot be attributed to the ban on corporal punishment. If I may explain a little bit, in 1972, under Legal Notice No.40, the Government specifically issued instructions and regulations under the Act, stating very clearly how corporal punishment was to be applied. In fact, it literary outlawed corporal punishment, except in certain circumstances which were clearly stated out in the circular. I can lay the circular on the Table for anybody who would like to refer to it. It is a very lengthy document, specifying how and when corporal punishment should be applied. In fact, it literary outlawed corporal punishment.

(Mr. Kosgey laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in May, 1997, a further circular was issued to all school heads, reminding them of the existing regulations on how and when to apply corporal punishment. It was to be applied in very special circumstances. That is because the heads were not adhering to that circular. That continued until early this year, when it was noticed that nobody was adhering to the circular of 1972. There were still violations of the circular.

We were in violation of various conventions that we had signed as the Government. One of them was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1979, which we ratified in 1990. The other one was the Defence for Children International, Geneva. The other one was the African Charter on the Rights of the Child.

In fact, in the Kenyan Constitution, there is the Children and Young Persons Act, Cap.141. In effect, the final gazette notice issued on 20th April actually reinforced all the other documents. It reinforced our circular of 1972, the circular of 1997, and brought into line, the various conventions that we have signed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! All those Questions which have not been taken this afternoon have been deferred to tomorrow.

REHABILITATION OF SABA SABA WATER SUPPLY

(Mr. P.K. Mwangi) to ask the Minister for Water Development:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that Kamahuha Girls Secondary School, Saba Saba Secondary School and Saba Saba Health Centre are on the verge of closure as a result of acute water shortage?

(b) What immediate plans are in place to rehabilitate Saba Saba Water Supply to provide water to these public institutions?

(c) How much has been set aside for the repairs?

(Question deferred)

ALLOCATION OF FORESTRY DEPARTMENT'S LAND

(Mr. Gitonga) to ask the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that the 15-acre piece of land hitherto belonging to the Forestry Department along Nyambari-Nairobi-Naivasha Highway at the Uplands turn-off, has been allocated to a private developer?

(b) Who is the developer and what kind of development does he intend to carry out in the area?

(Question deferred)

COST OF MURANG'A MUNICIPAL
SEWERAGE SYSTEM

- (Mr. Kariuki)** to ask the Minister for Local Government:-
- (a) Is the Minister aware that despite many complaints relating to the newly constructed but defective Murang'a Municipality sewerage system, many people downstream have suffered from water-borne diseases and no efforts have been made to rectify the situation?
- (b) Could he confirm whether the ultimate cost of this project claimed by Kirinyaga Construction Company Limited rose from Kshs60.5 million to an unjustifiable Kshs541 million?

(Question deferred)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

PRODUCTION OF SUBSTANTIATION DOCUMENTS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members. I am afraid we have to stop Questions at this hour because there are two issues that I want to take care of before we proceed to the Committee of Supply debate. I will start with the first one.

Last week, I directed Mr. Murungi and Mr. Ruto to bring into this House documents to substantiate certain allegations that they made. I am afraid there would not be time for me now to touch on that demand, but I do refer them to tomorrow morning after Question Time, to bring those documents and substantiate the allegations that they made in the House.

**NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.18**

PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN POLITICS

Secondly, the Chair has received notice from the Member for Gichugu, Ms. Karua, of her intention to raise a Motion for the Adjournment after the end of the normal Sitting Day, pursuant to Standing Order No.18, on a matter contained in reply to Question No.1 by Private Notice, concerning civil servants participation in politics on Wednesday, 11th July, 2001, Morning Sitting. The Chair has conceded to that request and will give the time to the House on Wednesday, 1st August, 2001.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

FALSE ALLEGATION ON PURCHASE OF
POLICE HELICOPTERS

Mr. Nyachae: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am standing under Standing Order No.69. On Thursday 19th July this year, the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of Provincial Administration and Internal Security Maj. Madoka, while responding to a debate on the Vote of the Office of the President, alleged that I, when I was the Minister for Finance, was involved in the procurement and negotiations for the controversial helicopters for the use of the Police Department. That is not true! The correct position is as follows:-

In 1998, the Office of the President, like any other Ministry, sent a request to the Treasury for funding to help purchase equipment. Among the equipment required were helicopters, 400 Land Rovers and several radio telecommunications equipment. The Treasury was not in a position to provide funds for that purpose. The Permanent Secretary, Treasury, the Head of Budget and the Paymaster-General, in consultation with me, advised the Office of the President that, since the equipment was necessary and urgently needed, it should look into the possibility of seeking credit line to facilitate that purchase. The credit line should be spread over a number of years, so that we would be able to comfortably accommodate the expenditure in future Budgets. To that extent, I discharged my responsibility of advising the Office of the President to look for credit line.

The Office of the President was to directly deal with the rest of the work involving those purchases, especially the procurement, since, according to the Government protocol requirement, responsibility is always left in the hands of the parent Ministry. The Minister for Finance is not a procurement officer of any Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is, therefore, deliberately confusing the National Assembly and the whole country. My responsibility on that matter was purely the routine allocation and approval of budgets for Ministries. The procurement responsibility lay with the Office of the President, like it did with all other Ministries. Clearly, what is being queried there is not the approval of spending, but the procurement of second-hand helicopters.

At any rate, I cannot then be dragged into this matter because the procurement and delivery of the helicopters was done long after I had left the Government. We would do well to be clear, focused and straightforward on this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Nyachae!

Mr. Nyachae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, give me one minute only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! No! There is no minute or second because we must start---

Mr. Nyachae: Could I table this document?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, you may.

*(Mr. Nyachae laid the documents
on the Table)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair. I wish to record my gratitude for the opportunity accorded to me to move the Votes R31 and D31 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I will start by briefly outlining the Ministry's mandate, mission objectives and the policy interventions on the education sub-sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the mandate and the mission of the Ministry is to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate the development of human capital through education and training, while the objectives of education include fostering of national unity, preparation and equipping the youth with relevant skills and expertise in order to patriotically serve the needs of the individual and national development. In so doing, Kenyans will discharge their social obligations locally and internationally. In order to achieve its mandate, mission and objectives, the Ministry has put in place policy interventions for each sub-sector whose implementation strategy takes into account the overall economic policy framework for Kenya, and advocates effective participation of all key stakeholders in educational and training development. The co-operative strategy is aimed at minimising duplication of efforts and ensuring optimum mobilisation and utilisation of resources to achieve educational goals and objectives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology recognises the importance of pre-primary education and has instituted a broader context of Early Childhood Development (ECD). That is what we used to call nursery schools or education.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, do give the Minister an opportunity to present his Vote. After all, that is what you are going to discuss and if you do not listen, then I wonder what you are going to be standing up wanting to discuss. So, please, give him an opportunity to be heard.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Ministry gives special attention to early childhood education now currently called Early Childhood Development (ECD), which is currently addressing integrated services for children under age six in respect of their cognitive, educational, social, health and nutrition and the general access to education. Currently, we have close to 25,000 of these institutions which are in various districts, which have been currently recognised by the Ministry and are being assisted. In the Ministry's endeavour to reverse the declining enrolment and completion rates in primary education, and to meet the target of universal primary education, the budget for the sub-sector, excluding drought-related expenditure for the last financial year, has grown by 8.5 per cent in 2001/2002 as compared to the 2000/2001 financial year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government recently formulated the fundamental strategy for industrialisation to transform Kenya to an industrial country by 2020. In this regard, education is a key factor in achieving this strategy. Accordingly, the Ministry is determined to improve the quality of secondary education and by the same token, the Ministry is addressing the declining enrolment and completion rates through the provision of bursaries to economically-disadvantaged students in secondary schools among other intervention measures. The bursary allocation has been maintained at Kshs536,046,147 for 2001/2002 financial year. This is the same as the last financial year. This has been done despite the relative reduction in the overall Government funding by the---

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could we have some order in the House since we want to listen to the Minister?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But that is what the Chair has just said a while ago. Proceed!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just saying that the bursary allocation has been maintained at Kshs536,046,147 this financial year which is the same thing as last year, in spite of the relative reduction in the overall Government funding for human resource development sector. This is because we realised that we need to support secondary education, particularly in bursaries, because of the poverty prevailing in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, development of tertiary education and training is crucial for the production of qualified manpower who, in turn, will have impact on social and economic development of the country. The Ministry is, therefore, placing greater emphasis on the provision of the necessary human and physical facilities to institutions under this category. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, will require Kshs48,672,422,620 and Kshs1,908,189,950 for Recurrent and Development Expenditures respectively, for the year 2001/2002, to facilitate the rendering of educational services. These allocations reflect a growth of 6 per cent for Recurrent, and 76 per cent for Development Estimates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with respect to Recurrent Expenditure, the Ministry's Recurrent Expenditure, as I have already stated, is divided into eight Sub-Votes and the total allocation requested is, once again, Kshs48,672,422,620 distributed in the eight Sub-Votes as follows: Under Sub-Vote 310 - General Administration and Planning which caters for teachers' salaries among other requirements, the Ministry will require a total of Kshs40,235,255,925 distributed in nine expenditure heads as follows: Head 834 - Headquarters Administrative Services, which include salaries for headquarters staff under the Permanent Secretary's office, which has over 642 staff members, requiring a total amount of Kshs222,882,428. These include telephone services, transport and all those for headquarters staff plus their salaries. Under Head 835 - Staff Salaries for the Director's office, which is called Headquarters Professional and Administrative Services, a total of Kshs43,892,093 is required. As I said, these are for salaries of staff under the Director's office. It includes a small amount of money for the AIDS Unit which is in the Ministry. As you know, AIDS awareness has been streamlined in every Ministry. A token figure of Kshs1 million has been provided in this figure of Kshs43 million. We expect to receive a larger amount of money from the National AIDS Control Council as HIV/AIDS is one of those pandemics that has impacted very negatively on educational development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Head A36 - Curriculum Support Services - this is under the Chief Inspector of Schools to support headquarter staff when they are doing their inspectorate work, salaries and so forth, a total figure of Kshs30,943,903 will be required. Provincial Administrative Services at the Provincial Directors' offices; as you know each province has a Provincial Director; out of eight provinces, each has got director's office. For their salaries and telephones, transport and so forth, a total sum of Kshs51,720,980 will be required.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Head 838 covers the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO. There is a UNESCO office under Kenyan complement which is a fully fledged running office because UNESCO supports us and we are its members and we need to liaise very closely with it. A sum of Kshs9,777,067 will be required. Under Head 839, which covers the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), a sum of Kshs334,279,029 is

granted to it. As you know, the KNEC is charged with the responsibility of setting, conducting, marking and evaluating examinations for all our primary and secondary schools, polytechnics and colleges. So, it needs grants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), under Head 841, Kshs38,712,498,513 is allocated for salaries and allowances for teachers. This is where the bulk of the money goes into; it pays mainly primary and secondary school teachers' salaries and allowances. Under Head 849, there is a Permanent Presidential Commission on Music that is in charge of standards of music and drama in the country, and it requires Kshs18,612,957. Under Head 862, which covers the district administrative services, the District Education Officers' (DEOs), salaries and allowances, transport and telephones is allocated Kshs677,797,712. The details of this are given in the small book where district allocations are shown. But the figure is supposed to cater for the DEOs' salaries and other personal emoluments.

Head 863 covers the Kenya Institute of Education. As you know, the KIE deals with curriculum development; it requires a small amount of money of Kshs95,924,095. The National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) under Head 901 requires Kshs26,126,148. The NCST deals with all policies in relation to science and technology. It deals with Information Technology (IT) policy, bio-technology policy. Generally, science research is being conducted there although the institute does not directly conduct research because research institutes are under the parent Ministries. The NCST is a co-ordinating body and deals with policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sub-Vote 311 is mainly for poverty alleviation development projects. Under primary education, we require Kshs658,277,025 to finance the following programmes: Head 844, which is on boarding primary schools in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas, requires Kshs83,135,387. This is mainly to pay school committees' employees and run those institutions. Under Head 845, which is on Kenya school equipment scheme, we require a sum of Kshs406 million for school textbooks and we will receive another equivalent sum of Kshs478 million from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government, making a total figure of Kshs884 million for primary schools books, but the total amount of money under the School Equipment Scheme is Kshs428,423,395.

Under Head 846 - School Feeding Programme - we require a sum of Kshs146,718,243, mainly for logistics of transporting food which we receive from the World Food Programme (WFO). This money will be required for transportation and clearing for the ASAL areas in districts such as Turkana, Wajir, Mwingi and Makeni, and slum areas of Nairobi such as the Mukuru Slums.

Sub-Vote 312 covers programmes and activities of teachers' education. Under this Sub-Vote, a total of Kshs138,898,399 is required to cater for administrative costs and grants to the following colleges. Under Head 843 - Primary Teachers Training Colleges - we give grants to 21 primary teachers training colleges so that they can pay the salaries of the employees of their Boards of Governors. A total figure of Kshs97,898,399 is required. Under Head 803; the Kenya Science Teachers College requires Kshs21 million. The KSTC which produces science teachers at diploma level has done a very good job and we give it a small grant. The Kagumo Teachers Training College, which still produces diploma teachers in English and sciences requires Kshs20 million.

Sub-Vote 313, Schools for the Handicapped, has four budgetary Heads for which I require Kshs103,777,397 to cater for the following categories of special institutions. Head 810 covers post-primary vocational schools such as Thika School for the Blind and Karen School for the Deaf. There are various schools requiring a total of Kshs17,500,000. This figure is allocated to these schools so that they can buy braille machines and hearing aids for the deaf children. Head 811 covers special secondary schools such as Kibos Secondary School for the Deaf. There are many of them and they require a sum of Kshs19,500,000 to also assist them in buying equipment and running them.

Head 848 covers special primary schools such as Kapsabet School for the Deaf, Kipchirchir and Kahaka Special Schools. This Head requires Kshs35,500,000. Head 852 covers the Kenya Institute of Special Education. This Institute trains teachers to run the special schools. For example, if you want somebody to teach deaf children, he will have to be trained in sign language, and others have been trained to teach braille. A sum of Kshs31,277,397 will be required for this Head. This is a very small figure indeed, because, at the moment, we are producing one teacher per district even though the handicapped children are many. In fact, it is recorded that 10 per cent of the children's population are handicapped. In fact, I would like to appeal to parents to take their children with special needs to special schools so that they can be assessed and put in various schools. These children should not be left at home. At the moment, the majority of the children with special needs are at home. We would like all of them to go to school.

The Ministry has two special programmes of a miscellaneous nature under Sub-Vote 314 which will require Kshs229,674,757 to cater for the following needs. Head 853 covers bursaries, scholarships and subsidies and educational attaches. This figure of Kshs244,420,657 is required to cater for distress cases or bursaries for overseas students. For example, we have students in the United States of America and India, and we give them

small bursaries. The amount is very small and does not cater for all the needs, but it is usually used to bail out parents who have sent their children out there and are unable to meet certain costs.

Under Head 854, which covers contribution towards local and international organisations, such as the Inter-University Council of East Africa, International Atomic Energy, UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning, we require Kshs25,253,100. The Ministry is putting emphasis on the development of pre-primary education, as I said earlier on. In this respect, a total of Kshs5,938,857 will be required under Sub-Vote 315, Head 816 - Training Field Services. Under the ECD Programme, 46 districts are covered under what we call "District Centre for Early Childhood Education". The figure of Kshs5 million will be required to run those services. Under Sub-Vote 316 - Secondary Education, Head 800, we will require a total of Kshs662,777,613 of which bursaries to needy students will take Kshs 536,046,147.

As I said earlier on, this amount of money is given to each and every secondary school, depending on the number of students enrolled in the school. This amount of money, although is little, is shared among the needy students.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge hon. Members of Parliament, because quite a number of them are members of Boards of Governors (BOGs), to attend these meetings so that when this little amount of money is allocated to a school, they can identify the needy students and assist them. This is so because the whole idea of giving out this money to secondary schools is to cater for needy students in those schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a figure of Kshs71 million is required as grants to secondary schools. This amount of money is meant to support BOG employees who are still being paid their salaries by the Government and insurance premiums for vehicles in public schools which will take Kshs50 million. The bursary programme under the Ministry - poverty reduction item - as I said earlier on, has been reinstated so that it remains the same as it was last year.

Under Sub-Vote 317 - Technical Education, a sum of Kshs717,560,325 will be required. The allocation will finance administrative cost of managing technical education, including polytechnics and other technical institutions. The amount will be distributed as follows:-

	Kshs
Headquarters and Provincial Services (Director of Technical Education) -	10,485,758
Curriculum Support Services - Inspectorate of Technical Training-	6,375,211
Provincial Services - Provincial Technical Training Officers -	2,803,316
National Polytechnics -	214,153,081

The amount of money distributed to national polytechnics is made up as follows:-

	Kshs
Kisumu Polytechnic -	35,608,850
Mombasa Polytechnic -	60,475,782
Kenya Polytechnic -	117,467,832
Eldoret Polytechnic -	30,169,103

This amount of money is meant for personal emoluments, salaries and allowances for the staff in these technical institutions.

Grants, personal emolument and so forth to Kenya Technical Teachers Training College (KTTC), which as you know is located in Gigiri, totalled Kshs69,258,273. Technical training institutes like Kabete and so forth which total 18 units countrywide will take Kshs 385,172,843 as salaries and allowances.

With respect to university education, the Recurrent Estimates under Sub-Vote 318, which consists of public universities, Commission for Higher Education and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB); the Students Loans Bursary Scheme Programme under HELB targets students from poor families. The programmes have been allocated a combined total figure of Kshs680 million, which is the same figure they got last year. The whole

Sub-Vote will require a total of Kshs5,920,314,322 which will be distributed as follows:-

	Kshs
Commission for Higher Education	
Salaries	89,106,000
University of Nairobi - Salaries and allowances, operation and maintenance	1,627,943,159
Kenyatta University	849,776,092
Egerton University	875,913,000
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	416,106,111
Maseno University	368,084,000
Moi University	926,905,960
University Loan Scheme - HELB (administrative services at the Head office)	86,400,000

This leaves a figure of Kshs680 million for university loans. Indeed, this is a very small figure because the figure we require annually for loans under this is Kshs1.5 billion. Currently, they are collecting about Kshs45 million which is a very small figure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Development Expenditure, we will require a close figure of Kshs1,908,189,950. This amount of money comprises of Kshs194,280,000 from the Kenya Government and Kshs1,713,909,950 from donors. This amount of money is distributed as follows:- Under Sub-Vote 310, Kshs605,701,240 will be utilised, and under Head 835 - Professional Administrative Services - Kshs75,451,240 will be utilised. The provision is for the implementation of a new project which is called "STEPS". This project is about curriculum review, teacher management, decentralising the TSC, eight pilot districts, examinations and valuation and education management formation systems. I would like to state that Kshs72 million will come from the World Bank, while Kshs2.5 million will come from the GOK.

Head 836 - Curriculum Support Services consists of the textbooks I mentioned which will cover 33 districts this year, and Kshs478 million will come from the DFID. The School Primary Management (PRISM) is meant to train head teachers for primary schools. This programme is almost coming to an end, but we still require Kshs17,250,000. Under technical education support services, Head 841, curriculum and development for technical education, a figure of Kshs35 million is required.

Sub-Vote 311 - Primary Education, Head 844 - Primary Schools, grants from UNICEF, non-formal education, girls education and education for all (EFA) will take Kshs40,673,000. The School Feeding Programme, which is food from the World Food Programme (WFP), will require Kshs336,237,310. On Sub-Vote 312 - Teachers Education, we will require Kshs28,200,000 to be spent on primary teacher training colleges. Sub-Vote - 315 - Early Childhood Education, Kshs494,378,400 will be required to establish the national centre for early childhood at the KIE and 14 districts will have early childhood centres. Under Sub-Vote 316, under GTZ, we will require Kshs18 million for projects and equipment, food and so forth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the final but nonetheless vital area is university education which will take Kshs385 million. Under Head 833 - Egerton University will take Kshs30 million; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology - Kshs315 million; Moi University - Kshs40 million, mainly for sewerage, and Kenyatta University - African Institute for Capacity Development Centre to be built under JICA.

Owing to budget constraint, there are many stalled projects in universities and elsewhere. We would also like to put up headquarters for the National Examination Council, the TSC and Teachers Training Centres to be completed.

I would like to register our gratitude to the Government of Kenya and other major development partners such as DFID, the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government of Japan, the European Union, UNICEF and others who have assisted us in the past and have made significant contributions. We still have challenges which we need to face. One of them is accessibility to education, the equity of education, affordability of education and relevance to our national development. As we progress, we require all the

stakeholders to pool together so that we can achieve our goals and also meet the challenges.

In addition to the significant contribution of the Government and the donor community, I wish to recognise the contribution of the Kenyan community, including parents, community leaders, the Parents Teachers Associations, Board of Governors, school committees, religious organisations, the private sector and others in the realisation of the country's educational needs. We need to work together so that we can meet the challenges which are facing us, including cases of indiscipline, which I do not have time to mention. But, maybe, when I will be replying, I will mention that.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Ndambuki): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to second the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I am sure many people think that the money which has been allocated to the Ministry is a lot. But if you compare the population of students both in primary and secondary schools and universities, you will find that these funds are not adequate for the Ministry. If it were our wish, we would have requested for the amount to be doubled. But we understand the economic constraints under which we operate. We appeal that next time, we be considered for more funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education is keenly looking at ways and means of improving the quality of education in this country. This is possible through the training of head teachers, posting of qualified teachers into some of the schools, phasing out untrained teachers and even the lowest cadre of teachers. Also, the Ministry is looking for ways and means of modernising the equipment which is used in some schools. If you go to some schools, you will find the equipment they are using is very old and because we cannot afford a new one, they have to do with that. But it is the wish of all of us to make sure that the quality of education is improved. I am appealing to Members and leaders of this nation not to be scolding teachers in front of students. In some cases, if a teacher is a drunkard, he is reprimanded in front of his students. The students will not take him seriously. I would like to urge Members to take that into account so that we can motivate our teachers, so that they can put more effort in teaching and developing leaders of the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry's bursary fund figure is Kshs536 million. This money is not enough and some schools do not even get bursaries. The students who require bursaries are so many. As you know, we have over 3,000 secondary schools in this country and if every secondary school has to get some money, this money is not enough. We need to increase it. Also, the Ministry has been financing education for some of the students who go to overseas by giving them bursaries. Again, the applications which are received by the Ministry are so many that we cannot even meet the demand. That is why I started by saying that this money is not enough to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Tertiary education does not get bursaries because of the numbers that we get from the Ministry. The Ministry is giving loans to private and public universities. As the time goes by and the economy improves, I would like to see a situation whereby even students in technical schools are considered for some of these loans. If this country has to industrialise, we need to put a lot of emphasis on tertiary education. If we do not do that, we cannot achieve the goal of industrialising this nation by the year 2020. So, we need to change our emphasis and put it more on technical schools, so that we can produce the manpower required by our industries, and also for self-reliance, like electricians, carpenters and so on. So, we need to put a lot of emphasis on that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some areas which have been left behind, especially those that touch on our disabled children. We know that we have not been giving a lot of attention to disabled students. A lot of these children are still kept at home and I am appealing to Members of Parliament, and even the leaders, to encourage parents to bring these children out so that they can be given education like other children. We also need to train more teachers on special education, because we know the population of disabled children is also high. So, we need to increase the number of teachers and we also need money to train them. It is our responsibility to take care of all the people of this country without discrimination.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my district, Makueni, has the lowest number of teachers. It has a shortage of about 800 teachers. I appreciate what the Ministry is doing. It has allowed Makueni to employ 290 teachers to reduce that shortage. If you go to that area, especially in my constituency, you will find a school with a population of more than 200 or 300 students having four teachers from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). This is a very low number compared to the students. We would like the Ministry to continue putting all its effort to make sure that this shortage is taken care of and reduced. It is a burden to the parents because they have to hire and pay teachers. It is also costly considering that the poverty levels are very high. As we speak, we know that the poverty level in Kenya is 52 per cent. This has made it very difficult for some of the parents to contribute towards payment of teachers. This is an issue which we need to address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has not bought vehicles for the last several years because it had not been allocated funds. You will find that some of the functions like the inspectorate services cannot reach some of the areas because they have no vehicles. Those who have vehicles sometimes cannot even get enough funds for

fuel. If you go to some of the district education offices, you will find that they do not have a lot of equipment. It is the duty of the Government to increase the funds which have been allocated to the Ministry, so that we can keep on improving the education standards in every part of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry caters for the KNEC. The KNEC should build its own headquarters instead of paying a rent of Kshs100 million per year. They need a place where they can house their documents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity, as the Shadow Minister for Education, Science and Technology, to respond to this very important Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

First and foremost, I would like to say that this is a key Ministry in the Government. It is a very important Ministry because the development of all other Ministries depends on its success. It trains people who run these other Ministries.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

It is, therefore, very important that we make sure that this Ministry is well managed and resources at its disposal are put into the right use. There should be proper discipline from the Ministry Headquarters to provincial and district administration levels and among teachers in schools so that we get the maximum output out of it.

Out of a total Budget of Government of Kshs157 billion, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology takes about 30 per cent. This is a very substantial amount. Most of these funds are spent on the payment of teachers' salaries.

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. As a matter of procedure in the House, was the Chair satisfied that hon. Ndambuki was in order to support the Vote instead of seconding it? Could the Chair ask him to second the Vote because if you look at the HANSARD, you will see that he supported the Motion instead of seconding it?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Mr. N. Nyagah, you are right. That is an anomaly.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Ndambuki): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. However, I beg to second the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

(Applause)

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister, being a new Member of Parliament, needs to learn a few of these technicalities. I am sure he is learning pretty fast.

With regard to primary education, we have a major problem which has cropped up, and it was not mentioned by the Minister here; the dropout of pupils before completing Standard Eight is very alarming. There are nearly about 40 per cent of primary pupils who dropout of primary education even before they reach Standard Eight. Why are they not proceeding from Standard One to Standard Eight? We need to find out the reasons for this. It is very important to know the reasons behind this drop out. It is a sad affair to see only 60 per cent of our pupils completing their primary education. Primary education is very essential. Every child in Kenya is entitled to primary education so that he/she become a reasonable citizen who can read a newspaper or write his/her own correspondence. It is a human right for every child in Kenya to access primary education. Why do we have such big dropouts between Standard One and Standard Eight? I hope when the Minister stands to reply, he will tell us why it is so. There has been speculation that are of the reasons given is because of building and activity funds. But in semi-arid and arid areas where parents do not have any income and they depend on relief food, how do you expect them to raise money to put up infrastructure, buildings and buy desks for their children? If they do not have food to eat, how can they put up all these facilities?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would have liked to see the Minister coming up with a proposal of a reasonable amount of money to finance education in those areas, so that pupils do not drop out of schools because their parents are very poor. It is not a crime to be poor. It is a misfortune. We should not criminalise poverty, particularly where we know parents do not have a source of income. Therefore, they cannot finance the necessary

infrastructure in primary education. I hope the Minister will look into this item very seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, boarding facilities in primary schools are very scarce and they cannot cater for what I am talking about. We need to ensure that in semi-arid and arid areas, where people have had disaster, or there is mass poverty, parents will not be required to make any contribution, so that we avoid too many pupils dropping out of schools due to lack of school fees.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to teachers' education, we are glad that the Ministry has continued to train teachers despite the fact that they cannot employ them. However, our people will get technical training and be marketable elsewhere even if we are not able to offer them employment. I also note that most trainee teachers are paying for their education. About 90 per cent of the cost of training teachers is being met by students themselves. Therefore, this programme is not really a major cost to the Government and, therefore, it must continue. We should not think of closing down teachers training colleges. Let us continue to train quality teachers so that they can get employment in other countries because this Government cannot guarantee them employment. We are glad that many of them have gone to Botswana and Seychelles, among other countries, to seek employment. This is a welcome development because we can now export trained manpower.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this Vote, there is a provision of Kshs103 million for schools for the handicapped children. I think we need to put more funds into these schools. There are too many handicapped children who stay at home and they do not go to school. These children need to go to special schools. In most cases, those special schools are boarding and, therefore, students will not travel from home to school. It is the right of disabled children to get reasonable education. Therefore, I hope more funds will be provided for those special schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to secondary education, this Ministry has set aside Kshs536 million as bursaries funds. I think this amount of money is not enough. There are too many students who drop out of secondary education because their parents cannot afford school fees. I am glad the Ministry has put certain guidelines on fees. However, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that some head teachers or principals do not adhere to these guidelines. I hope that the inspectorate will look into this aspect and ensure that schools do not create additional costs to be met by parents in the form of Harambee funds, and special funds among others. When parents are called and asked to add more monies on fees structures, even though they may not like the idea, they do oblige because they are scared of "fighting" school principals. Parents would not like school principals to be against the welfare of their children. So, there is a problem here.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, once school fees limits are set, and since each student is required to pay Kshs2,000 as development levy, let that be sufficient for the time being. This country's economy is performing very badly. So, we should not expect parents to shoulder additional financial burdens. If 56 per cent of Kenyans are living below the poverty line, how do we expect them to meet so many financial obligations? We do not want swimming pools and a lot of other luxuries in schools. Let us have only the basic facilities required for students to proceed with their education. We cannot afford luxuries in secondary schools.

According to today's Press reports, about 30 secondary schools countrywide are now closed because the students have rioted or because of other forms of indiscipline. Why do so many schools have problems of indiscipline? It appears to me that we have allowed drugs to be introduced to our schools. Consequently, it is becoming difficult to discipline students. What is the Ministry doing about this matter? It is the joint responsibility of the Ministry and teachers to ensure that students in boarding schools are well looked after, and that they do not fall prey to drug peddlers. We have been told that Nigerians, Congolese and other people have come into the country to provide drugs to schools.

Of course, if a child is addicted to drugs, that becomes a big problem to the school management as well as the future wellbeing of that child. Could we have a special programme of ensuring that there is proper control of students in schools? Every school should have trained counsellors to guide students. I hope that the Ministry is training counsellors. Such counsellors should advise students to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infection. So, students should have access to trained counsellors, who can always advise them on how they can be better citizens of this country by not getting themselves involved in drugs.

Drugs are one of the major causes of strikes and indiscipline in our secondary schools. The second cause of strikes is lack of proper control of funds. In my constituency, I have had students writing to me, saying that their school's money and vehicle have been misused. Are we really having proper audit of secondary schools' books of accounts? Why does it take so long to audit the books of accounts for secondary schools? Secondly, are those audit reports presented to parents? Audit reports belong to parents since they contribute resources to schools. As such, they should know the use to which their money has been put.

If necessary, parents should meet the cost of hiring additional staff to facilitate better auditing of the books of accounts for schools in order to ensure that available resources are properly utilised. Many secondary school head teachers misuse resources. In my constituency, we have had a case where some money was raised through Harambee for the construction of a water tank. However, eventually, the water tank was not built, and

there was no money in the school's account. What happened? These are issues that "kill" the spirit of leaders and parents; they discourage them from supporting schools. When we raise money for a programme that is never implemented, and come to find that the money is not there, naturally, we suspect that the money has been misappropriated. So, could we ensure that audits of accounts for our secondary schools are carried out at least annually? I do not know whether the reason for not having such audits done is lack of manpower. Perhaps the Minister can come up with proposals on how that can be done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, university education will take about Kshs5.9 billion of this year's Budget. This is a very important sector of our education, because we need people with university education. We are also glad that Module II, commonly referred to as "Parallel Degree Programme" has been established in our public universities. I personally support the programme if its introduction means training more Kenyans, and that the fees being collected will be used to improve services and facilities at our public universities. The programme should be encouraged because, so far, we have become the recruiting ground for many countries. Every year, American, Australian and British universities recruit Kenyan students, so that they contribute to the resources of their universities. Why do we not retain our students and save that money? It is for that reason that we will support the Bill on university campuses.

Kenyans have spent Kshs16 billion to train more than 20,000 children abroad. This is an amount of money which can have great effect on our university education. Even if only half of this figure was available, the Minister for Education would provide quality education to Kenyans. We would be able to pay our teachers, professors and lecturers better and stop them from travelling abroad in search of greener pastures. This country is experiencing great brain drain, of people whom we have trained up to the doctorate degree level at very high costs. Instead of training their fellow countrymen, Kenyan professionals seek employment abroad. That is despite the fact that our universities have a shortage of professionals of their calibre. This is an area which needs to be looked into very seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been mentioned, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) needs Kshs1.5 billion to provide loans to deserving students in our public and private universities. So far, the Budget has provided Kshs600 million. Although the HELB collects about Kshs300 million from its previous loanees, many graduates who are now employed, are not repaying their loans. A way of getting many of them to do so should be found. We need as much resources as possible for there are too many students in need of university education loans from HELB.

The shortfall of about Kshs600 million is very big. Could the Minister consider introducing an educational levy or some kind of a scheme through which money can be borrowed from financial institutions to be given to the HELB, so that it can meet the needs of university students in need of loans? Could some money be raised through a rotary programme to be used for subsidising the interest rate on the money to be borrowed from financial institutions? We would like the Government to look into these aspects because we want more students to enjoy the HELB loan facilities.

We do not want to see any student dropping out of university because of lack of financial support. We need new ingenuity in this area. So, the HELB should be made to look for alternative ways of raising funds to avoid looking upon the Treasury to always provide it with the resources it needs. As I said, if we have an education rotary fund, its money can be used to service the rate of interest on money to be borrowed from financial institutions for on-lending to students. That will be a very much welcome initiative.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, without transport, we cannot inspect or audit our schools. If there is one thing this Ministry lacks most is transport for officers in the field. District Education Officers and their assistants need transport to visit schools. I have not seen any proposal on how we are going to alleviate that problem. The Ministry is seeking funds to acquire office space for the Teachers Service Commission and the Kenya National Examination. However, the Ministry is mum about providing offices in the constituencies.

For example, the building that used to house assistant education officers at Karatina, which is in my constituency, has been condemned by the area public health officer because it was inhabitable. The building was in a terrible shape; it was falling down on the officers. So, I was forced to seek the support of parents and put up a new office block through Harambee. I would like the Minister to visit my constituency and see for himself the modern office block we have put up for his officers in my constituency. The block accommodates assistant education officers and the inspectorate staff; it has a boardroom with the capacity to accommodate 70 persons at once. When we visited those offices to see their condition, we were ashamed. I have not seen any funds in these Estimates for providing reasonable offices for our education officers. Even those of us who have put up those facilities in our areas have not received any congratulatory comments from the Ministry. They have become indifferent as if it is my right to build offices for them. If we are going to be encouraged, we will need some acknowledgement for helping the Ministry to provide such infrastructure. I can tell you that the education offices that I have put up are very modern, with internal sanitation facilities and everything necessary so that the officers work very comfortably.

Since the time I put up those offices, I have seen the quality and morale of those officers going up considerably. I have seen a great change because they are human beings. They have seen that we have put up the offices for them and we have seen them give more time and effort to inspection of our schools than they used to do before. Every time I used to go there before, they used to tell me: "Look what our offices look like". One desk had four teachers, four of them were Assistant Education Officers and TAC Tutors and all of them sharing one desk. You cannot expect people to produce the maximum, under those conditions, for the benefit of education.

So, when you talk about infrastructure and offices for the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and for the Kenya National Examinations Council, you have to look at the offices at the constituency level and at the district level. But more emphasis should mostly be put on the constituency level because I know those offices are in very poor conditions and they need to be improved. I do not think all constituencies would be in a position to build those offices as we did ourselves. Therefore, I cannot say that all constituencies to do the same. But those which can do so, should be encouraged to do so. Given a reasonable sketch and drawings, it is practical to do so with reasonable amounts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we are spending so much money on university education, we feel very much hurt as parents, to have the universities closing down because of student riots. These closures of universities must stop. A method must be found where those students who are undisciplined can be punished without having to close down the whole university. Why punish everybody? Why are we not having indiscipline in private universities? Why is it happening only in public universities? We should be selective in punishment of university students. Closing down universities for everybody every time, when five or ten students riot and throw stones and then whole university is closed while we still continue paying lecturers, when we still have all the facilities, is very wasteful. We are losing a lot of money which we do not have as Kenyans. I would like the Minister to assure this House that the question of closing down universities is going to be a thing of the past and we are not going to be seeing it happening year in, year out, in almost all our public universities.

I think there was a task force which was looking the problems at the universities and I hope they have come out with resolutions. But we cannot be facing these problems of closing down our universities, year after year they way we have been doing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had the Koech Commission Report, on education in Kenya, on which we spent Kshs300 million and which comprised of our best brains in the educational sector and elsewhere. They participated and produced a very beautiful Report, "Towards a Better Education in Kenya," which I have gone through. But this Report has not been implemented and if it has, it is being implemented piecemeal. Already I have seen that the subjects recommended in the Koech Report are being implemented in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), by reducing the number of subjects. But we are not courageous enough to admit that the 8-4-4 system has failed. If it has failed, why do we not admit that and go into the new system? The recommendations of the Koech Report, particularly with regard to the university education, the way you can move in and out, and continue your education on a point system, is a modern method of having higher education. We have people who have even retired in other sectors, and who can go back to university and continue with education. I think it is a beautiful Report!

The Minister did not come out to tell us why his Ministry is not implementing the Report. He did not say that there is anything wrong with it. We have been told here in Parliament, when asking Questions, that there is a task force studying the Report. How long is the task force going to study this Report? The task force has looked at it for too long. It does not have to be too expensive because you can say that you are implementing it by stages. We are not saying that you implement the whole of that Report in one year. Let it be implemented in stages and let Kenyans know how you are implementing it and what schedule of implementation you want to use. Let us not go on practising hide-and-seek games. Let us not continue denying to accept that the system we have now is not working and we need a better system which has been recommended. From my point of view, and from all those people in the education sector, who have written on it have recommended that it is a most suitable system for this country.

I have not seen any report from the Ministry giving any good reason why it cannot and should not be implemented or, from the technical education point of view, why the Koech Report is not being fully implemented. It deals with everything, right from pre-primary and with all other issues of bringing the pre-primary and primary education closer. All these issues including university education, tertiary education and all these matters, in and out, we have been worried about, are all included in the Report; especially the issues related to management of our schools, the legal aspect and so forth. It has everything we need. Why would the Minister not have to the courage to accept that the 8-4-4 system has failed and adopt the Koech Report in full and tell us the extent to which you want to implement it?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned that you need offices for the Kenya National Examinations Council and the Teachers Service Commission. May I let the Minister know that the money he is spending renting offices from the private sector is enough to finance the Ministry's own offices for a period of ten

years. Therefore, if the Ministry can finance the offices by the amount of money it is paying rent in ten years, it is a very high return. It might even be worth to look at borrowing funds from some of financial institutions and put up buildings because the rent the Ministry is paying is enough to repay the loan. They should be innovative instead of expecting the Treasury to cough out more money. The private sector people, whom the Ministry rents offices from, have borrowed money from financial institutions and the rent the Ministry is paying to those private landlords is enough for it to repay the loan to the financial institutions. Why can the Ministry not do it by itself by borrowing, money from the financial institutions? I know the Ministry is capable of borrowing with permission of the Treasury. In ten years' time, those buildings would be public buildings and free of charge without any further rents, except maintenance expenses.

Could you look at those other areas? Do not always look at the Treasury! Be open-minded and broad-minded! Look at other avenues that can support education and not always look at the Budget. I am sure that over a period of time, we will acquire assets for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, instead of continuing to rent buildings from outsiders. Even if you rent those offices for 30 years, they would still not belong to you, and you would end up paying them three or four times over. I hope the Minister will look into that issue because I think it is very important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not want any more to hear about students not getting their examination results because of exam leakage. Exam leakage must a thing of the past. They do not know the agony which the students and parents go through when they cannot get their results, after four years of education. It is too painful, and it should be eradicated once and for all. There was a probe committee which looked into that issue, and we hope that you have already put in motion enough controls to make sure that no student will ever have his or her exam results withheld because of leakage. Leakages can only happen because of carelessness, or connivance of the people concerned, or it could occur because of negligence on the part of the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) or the education officers in the field. Nobody has broken into any office belonging to the KNEC. We have not heard of that. There has not been any breakage. So, exam leakage could be some kind of arrangement, but the victims are the students and parents. I think, whenever any officer concerned with exams supervision is found to have infringed the examination rules, severe punishment should be instituted against him or her. That will act as a deterrent measure, so that others will not repeat it.

Regarding the School Milk Programme, I know that it has got less funds than before. I do not think that there is any milk which our children are taking. I think that money can be put elsewhere.

With those few words, I would like to support the Motion.

Mr. Kikuyu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to air my views on the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. First and foremost, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is asking for a lot of money, which may end up going into other people's pockets. Their accounts are not audited. We have been told of bursary funds being given to students who are studying abroad and locally. You cannot know who has been awarded bursary funds and who has not. Therefore, that creates loopholes for abuse of that money because you do not know where the students who are the beneficiaries are. You would only hear that they are in countries like Australia, Austria and America. Nobody knows where these students are, except the Ministry and the parents. Most of the children from influential families in this country benefit from these bursary funds. They have left our children here to suffer under the 8-4-4 system of education. They enrol their children for the British type of education, through the use of the bursary funds and leave the children of the poor Kenyans to suffer in Kenya. Why should the bursary funds not be decentralised? Who in Kitui does not know the right people to benefit from bursary funds? These funds are disbursed from the headquarters, as the officials there wish. I think the Minister should take into account that these are public funds and they should not be controlled by a few people who end up misusing the funds.

There is something unjustifiable happening in secondary schools. Our secondary schools are charging very high fees, and that is why in any school with over 500 students, you will find that principals or head teachers of those schools are some of the richest people in that district. That is why they refuse to be transferred to an institution that they do not like because these schools have become their goldmines.

The Ministry has given guidelines on the amount of fees that should be charged. The principals who have become thieves in the system, and who have godfathers and who cannot be transferred, are the ones who are disobeying the PS and the Director in the Ministry on fees guidelines. The small schools operate within those fees guidelines, and they do not have problems, neither do they experience strikes. But the big schools, where the principals and head teachers have become traders; black marketeers, are the places where cases of indiscipline are highest. If the Minister cannot control his staff, why can he not resign? The Minister tells Kenyans there is a fees guideline for each school, but the head teachers refuse and implement their own fees structures. If the Minister is not in control, he should resign so that wananchi can know that head teachers are the people in control.

On the question of auditing of schools, schools in this country have been left unaudited for a long time. Even when they are audited, they are audited by non-professionals. There are teachers who have been promoted to

be auditors. I would like the Minister to consider, very seriously, transferring the Audit Department from the Ministry to the Auditor-General (Corporations) so that auditors can have a freehand when auditing accounts of the schools. How do you expect a clerk who is an auditor to go and audit a Senior Principal whose rank is almost next to that one of the Director of Education? The clerk would be told: "Sit here, and we will give you the accounts and books. Drink tea." It is a fact that the auditing system in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is not functional. I would ask the Minister to sincerely consider moving it to the office of the Auditor-General (Corporations) so that, at least, the auditors can have a freehand, rather than fearing the results of auditing their bosses. But, you cannot audit your boss!

Time and again, we have been asking ourselves in this country why cases of indiscipline in schools are high. What is happening in our schools? I do not want to blame the Ministry about cultivation of bhang and why hard drugs are being sold in schools. The issue of bhang lies squarely on the Office of the President. In Mt. Kenya, bhang is being cultivated on many hectares of land. What type of a Government is that which does not see bhang being cultivated on Mt. Kenya when there are all these security personnel around? We can blame Nigerians and Congolese, but they do not go to Mt. Kenya and cultivate bhang. It is the Kenya Government which is not careful. I believe that these are mafia groups of the highest calibre because you cannot go on cutting 30,000 hectares of forest on Mt. Kenya without being seen. These groups plant bhang, harvest and bring it to Nairobi and then to Machakos, and it is distributed to schools, and yet all this is done without them being seen! They must be very untouchable in this country! Those people are the ones whom we will blame for destroying a whole generation of Kenyans! We cannot afford in any way to give them any amnesty, even in the next 100 years. We will arrest them and bring them to court because they are destroying our children. They should know that they are hurting Kenyans very badly. We cannot go round and say that drugs are destroying our people. It is an expensive venture, and multibillionaires are the ones doing it. Those who are penetrating schools and selling them do so because they want to derive some livelihood. Those who have plantations should be arrested and taken to court. If we cannot get those people, then it would be right to say that the Government has authorised the selling of bhang in the country. We are paying the police, the Kenya Army, the General Service Unit and APs to detect crime and fight it, and yet they cannot see bhang being grown in Kenya. They are ignoring it! One day this big person will go to court for destroying a nation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have talked of indiscipline in schools. It is true that caning has been banned in our schools.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You heard Mr. Kikuyu say that the bhang being grown in Mt. Elgon belongs to a "big" person and that is why it comes to Nairobi. That is why the police look the other way. They look at Western Province when it is in Mt. Kenya. Could he be asked to name this "big" person who owns it?

Mr. Kikuyu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he just wants to waste my time for contribution. The HANSARD will bear me witness that I did not talk of Mt. Elgon. He has to listen well, if he intends to contribute to anything seriously. I did not talk of a specific person. I said that the farms are being run by a person who is "untouchable." He is untouchable in the sense that---

Hon. Members: Who is he!

Mr. Kikuyu: I am still substantiating what I said.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You heard him repeat that bhang is being grown in Mt. Kenya by someone who is "untouchable." Could he be asked to name this "untouchable" person?

Mr. Kikuyu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot be more specific in substantiating than what I am saying. I am saying that bhang is being planted on 3,000 acres of land. It is being cultivated. It is harvested, packed and brought all the way to Nairobi and yet nobody has ever seen the culprits. I am not a security agent! I pay tax for the purposes of having such culprits arrested and they should be exposed. If they cannot be exposed then they are "untouchable." On the BOG issue, I would like the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, to note that BOGs have outlived their usefulness in schools. Let the PTAs replace the BOGs. Our schools have deteriorated to a large extent because the members of these BOGs are being picked from everywhere and yet they do not have much interest because they do not have children in those schools. Why can we not have PTAs running the schools?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for affording me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

Let me start by acknowledging the fact that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is the largest Ministry in terms of the money that it is allocated. In fact, Mr. Wamae put it at 35 per cent of the total national Budget. It is a very important Ministry. I was a little bit disappointed with what the Minister told the House this afternoon because one would have thought that the Minister would explain the policy for the Ministry

and then go on to talk about the Vote. He just dealt with the Vote without really telling us what the Ministry's policies are.

Let me wonder aloud on why no action has been taken on the Report written by the Koech Commission on Education which was set up by the President, and yet the Ministry has been trying to implement certain aspects of that Report *a la carte*. I would like to request the Minister, when he replies, to tell the House what became of the Koech Report because we have looked at it in the Committee of Education and we have identified certain issues that were raised, which ought to be implemented by any Government. I think the current Government ought to look at that Report and organise a national debate to discuss what aspects of the Report should actually be implemented.

That, notwithstanding, let me go through a few issues that I would like to mention. First, on early childhood development, the Minister mentioned certain institutions where this particular scheme is being implemented. I would have thought that if this is what the Ministry has decided to do nationally, there should be a scheme where the project is implemented throughout the country and not just left to individuals to implement as they wish.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a way of making education lopsided in this country. It is very important that we should introduce a system that is seen to be operating in all the districts and provinces of this country. The issue of Harambee has brought a complete imbalance in education in this country because there are certain areas within the country where people are extremely poor, therefore, they cannot hold Harambees to develop their schools. So, in trying to allow for early childhood development to be implemented by various communities, we are encouraging lopsided education right from infancy. As you are all aware, that formative age of anybody's life is the most important stage at which the character is said to begin. The Ministry should come up with a policy where we will see a uniform distribution of these institutions throughout the country.

This country is a signatory of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) Declaration. Recently, we visited Turkana District in North Eastern Province and we found that it is almost a desert and that there is no way that we can talk of universal primary education in these ASAL areas without specific programmes being put in place. Therefore, if this Government is serious in talking about UPE, then we must make primary education free for all in, particular, those areas which are disadvantaged like the ASAL areas. Let us not pay lip service to a programme that has been internationally accepted. I would have liked the Minister to come out clean on this particular issue. You will find that it is the World Food Programme (WFP) that runs education in North Eastern Province. One wonders what would happen to those schools if, for example, the donors were to withdraw the WFP from this country.

The Chair is privileged to be a Member of that Committee and when we visited that particular district he witnessed the problems that they had. I am sure he will agree with me that if the WFP were to be stopped, there would be no education in North Eastern Province. I think that is one area where the Minister, as a matter of policy, should come up with ways of making these people from the ASAL areas get interested in going to school. He should bear in mind that they are poor and cannot take part in cost sharing. Therefore, the Government must set money aside to support areas like the North Eastern Province.

At the moment, many primary schools in the country are under-staffed. One reason for this, particularly in area, Nyanza, is that many teachers have died of AIDS. It would be good if the Ministry made it an intentional policy to train teachers on how to beware of this scourge. One hon. Member has already stated that in some schools which have 15 streams, you will only find two teachers. This way, we will not get quality education anywhere.

Another issue is the supervision of teachers. Teachers in the rural areas do not actually teach. Many of them run *matatus* while others get involved in other petty business because there are no supervisors. In cases where there are supervisors, you will find that they lack transport, therefore, they cannot supervise. We are paying these teachers for doing nothing. I would like to request the Ministry to do a head count because there are many "ghost" teachers at the moment who are on the payroll, but are actually not doing any teaching at all.

Another issue which has given us a lot of concern is that one of bursaries. There is no transparency in the disbursement of bursaries. We have said this many times before to the Minister that these bursaries are not being disbursed in a transparent manner. People who are not deserving get bursaries while those who are deserving go without the bursaries. We would like a transparent mechanism to be put in place so that the most deserving students in our primary and secondary schools actually get the bursary. At the moment, it is the children of rich people, like the Ministers, who actually get these bursaries. On tertiary education--

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member on the Floor whose contribution has been very impressive because he is supporting the ASAL areas. He said that Ministers sons' are beneficiaries of the bursaries. Is it in order for him to mislead the House? We want to know who these Ministers are. It is for him to clarify that statement.

Mr. Achola: I will treat that with the contempt it deserves. Let me proceed with what I wanted to say. Time is running out and I would like to talk about university education. At the moment, the Universities (Amendment) Bill---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. He has to clarify, if he knows any Minister's son who is getting a bursary. He should give us his name!

Mr. Sungu: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is common knowledge that you do not substantiate the obvious! The sons of the rich are the ones who benefit from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), including the Ministers!

Mr. Achola: Give me a chance to say what I wanted to say!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. An allegation has been made that a Minister's son is a beneficiary. The House would like to know the Minister who used his position to benefit from the bursaries.

Mr. Koskei: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister is here and I have not heard him complain! I wanted to know whether the Minister has children who are still in school!

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure the Minister does not want me to start talking about corruption. That is because I could really go ahead and drop a bombshell here! I think it is better we left sleeping dogs to lie.

In terms of university education---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not want to take the hon. Member's time. I have decided to lie down, but he should be able to substantiate! He just said a Minister's son. So, which Minister was he referring to? He should substantiate or withdraw the allegation!

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in terms of university education in this country, we were championing the establishment of foreign campuses in this country.

Mr. Kihoro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Member on the Floor has told us a Minister's son is being educated on bursary funds. It has also been said that it is a Minister's son in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The Minister is here and he has accepted!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kosgey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think this case has gone too far! I think both Mr. Achola and Mr. Kihoro should be taken to task!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Order, hon. Members! On the issue of Ministers, Mr. Achola, who was then contributing, did make a remark that sons of Ministers are educated on bursary funds. The word "Ministers" may refer to what you probably may know in the Government, or even in religious circles, people who preach! So, the word "Minister" cannot be interpreted restrictively. Therefore, I think he was in order!

(Laughter)

Mr. Achola: I have not said what I wanted!

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is very important that you clarify the issue and rule on it. An allegation has been made by the hon. Member, while discussing the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology that the Minister's son was a beneficiary. The Minister denied the allegation. We want to know who the Minister is! It was not a religious Minister but a Government Minister!

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could you order the heckling Assistant Minister to sit down, so that Mr. Munyasia can contribute?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Proceed, Mr. Munyasia!

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfair that Mr. Affey stood on a point of order during my time, when Mr. Achola had already completed his contribution!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was encouraged when I heard the Minister talk about his being serious with providing quality education to our children. But I wish to remind the Minister that the kind of education he would give cannot by any imagination, be higher than the quality of the teachers that provide that education. The quality of education will depend on the incentives that you give the teachers. As long as you are going to give a certain percentage going to teachers' salaries and you think that is too high, when you know that individual teachers get peanuts, you are not giving the incentives at all. I think this Government has sidelined the issue of the agreement that it entered into with the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) sometime back, for too long! It is time you addressed that matter because it is affecting the incentive that the teacher enjoys. The

teacher is now dressing in the same clothes for a whole week. The teacher is even not able to buy soap. How do you expect him to appear and inspect cleanliness? How do you expect him to develop personal self confidence, so that he can be respected? That is a serious matter and I hope the Ministry addresses it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the moment, the most worrying thing is violence in schools. Mr. Wamae and other speakers have touched on it. It is taken that it is due to drugs, mainly bhang. To a large extent, it might be true. It also has to do with the misappropriation of funds by head teachers. But, whatever the cause, it is worrying and none of us can really pinpoint the actual cause. We might talk of the present political culture also affecting discipline in schools. We have heard students also say that they are going to make their school ungovernable for a particular headmaster. When we, the political class, say that we are going to make the country ungovernable for KANU, it is when KANU does not want to establish dialogue with us; when it does not want to listen to us. I am quite sure that when the students also say that they are going to make it ungovernable, copying from the political leadership, it is because the head teachers are not allowing sufficient dialogue with the students. I think it is high time we established students' councils in our schools, so that those children can have dialogue and present their grievances to the staff, who should address the issues and bring back replies on them. It is not true that those violent cases just occur. They are not just spontaneous. Many times, they are noticed and you can see something simmering! Those in leadership and administration are not addressing them quickly enough. I would advise the Ministry, which toys with commissions of inquiry and appoints many task forces, without paying any attention to whatever recommendations they make--- There was the Sagini Commission that went round the country, supposedly to address the issue of indiscipline in schools. I do not know what it came up with! I do not know whether the Ministry is following its recommendations. It is high time the Ministry gave special attention to violence prevention in schools.

I wish there was that guidance and counselling department in the Ministry and violence prevention curriculum and having it taught in schools so that children can know the various ways of conflict resolution. It should not always be stones or the latest weapon they have developed which is the petrol bomb. It should not be hurrying for the petrol bomb. Let us address the issue of conflict resolution. Let us teach that curriculum in schools. Let us address the issue of violence prevention.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the moment, we have a serious shortage of teachers. I understand the Ministry has found a little money somewhere and they can employ more teachers. I have had to say it here before that their priorities are always wrong. When they had a little money to employ secondary school teachers they went for English teachers. I said there is nothing mystical about teaching English. You could take a History or CRE teacher and tell him or her to go and teach English. Even a Physics teacher can go and teach English. Recruit those teachers that can teach mystical subjects like Electronics and Physics. This is because you cannot take a History teacher and tell him to go and teach Physics since he might take a long time preparing.

However, now there is the issue of employing primary school teachers in districts that have suffered for the past two years. We were told by the Minister here that Makuani District has a shortage of 800 teachers and they have been allowed 290 in the current recruitment. Bungoma District has about the same number of shortage of teachers, that is 790, and they have been allowed to recruit only 44 teachers and that is supposed to be solving the problem. Further, they say that you can recruit from those who graduated from 1998 to 2000. Why? There is even a committee that has been established to carry out the recruitment through interviews. Why are you interviewing these children who passed? We have the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) and Teachers Training Colleges (TTCs). These children have gone through training and after that the KNEC says they are qualified and they can be teachers. Now, instead of saying let us first employ those who graduated in 1998 so that we are left with those of 1999, that is, if there are more places, we go for those of 1999 and then 2000, now they are saying: "No, let us employ any of the two." There are going to be many who graduated before 1998 being left out because they are even penalising those who do not have godfathers by saying that, if you have not had any teaching experience besides the teaching practice then you miss eight marks. I said: "Eh, those who were lucky had connections and were employed in some primary schools to teach get an advantage over those who had passed well but had no godfather."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most serious issue which I want the Minister to listen to is that those districts like Bungoma Moyale *et cetera* that suffered that shortage would have benefited from the mass transfers from these districts that had excess teachers but we were denied. We were told: "No, they will not move." Now, surprisingly, we are being told that teachers from even those other districts can also be recruited at the moment and that all they have to do is to swear that they will stay in our districts for the next five years when we know the tricks. They have eyes on people from outside who want to benefit from those that have shortages.

When you do the recruitment, you ask people what their zones are. From the statistics that the TSC had, they know the zones that have shortages. We have teachers from those zones that have trained but have not been employed. This Minister must order even today that only those qualified teachers from the zones where there are shortages will be employed to teach in those zones. This is so that we do not have people coming up with funny

excuses like the climate here is not good for me so let me move and then they will move and we shall again have a shortage.

I beg to support.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this important Vote. Education is the foundation of any modern nation. I agree with the Government in allocating substantial resources to the Ministry of Education. We have voted to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology close to 35 per cent of our budget of this year and actually, if we had resources, we should have voted more money to this Ministry. However, the little that we have voted to this Ministry must be utilised properly. First, it should be utilised to clean up the dented image of the Government as one institution that backtracks on its agreements. We do have situations whereby the Government has entered into agreements with IMF, the World Bank and now the teachers of this nation and yet the Government does not make any effort in trying to fulfil and implement those agreements.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few years ago the Government agreed with the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) that their compensation would be raised in phases. They implemented the first phase, but since then they have not implemented the other phases. By not adhering to the agreements that have been made between the Government and the teachers we are courting disaster to our education system. Teachers are now not committed to their work because they know the Government itself is not committed to its word. So, I hope the Ministry will go and find ways of implementing the second phase of the agreement between the Government of Kenya and KNUT.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a shortage of teachers throughout the country. We have a shortage of teachers to the tune of 11,030 in Kisii Central alone, but the recruitment exercise which has been undertaken recently does not include Kisii Central. I have a shortage of teachers in my own constituency in excess of 400 and yet we have not been allowed to recruit primary teachers to our schools. I do not know whether it is the Government policy to lower the quality of education in my constituency and in my district. This is because they do not want to provide adequate number of teachers in that district.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the quality of teachers arises from the quality of training. Currently, we have got a lot of training facilities, but we do not provide adequate training for our teachers because we have not provided other facilities like textbooks and a conducive environment. The promotion of teachers leaves a lot to be desired. There is no clear-cut policy as to how a teacher will move from one grade to another. That is whether it will be on merit, qualification, knowing somebody senior or whatever. I am surprised that when the Minister was moving his Vote, he never touched on the issue of promotion as one way of giving an incentive to our teachers to work harder, promote and educate themselves more.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of enrolment. As we all know, enrolment in our schools is declining. Why is it declining? It is because we have levied very heavy fees and other costs in our schools. Instead of improving our education system, we are making it extremely difficult for a poor person to acquire any education in this country. That is why we have declining enrolment in schools. We levy tuition fees, examinations fees, Harambees, penalties for damages caused by striking students and other levies. We are making it impossible for parents to educate their children. We are behaving as if this country is rich, when we know that our people are wallowing in poverty. About 53 per cent of the population of Kenya live below the poverty line. Those are people who cannot afford a single extra shilling beyond what they need to live on. Therefore, they cannot pay school fees.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other aspect concerns textbooks. These days a small child goes to school, he is taught on the blackboard and goes home presumed to have learned everything he was taught. He has no reference book to go and refer to. He cannot do homework in the evening. So, I thought the Ministry should provide textbooks in our schools. The Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) should provide textbooks free of charge, because the taxpayer is paying for them, to all our primary and secondary schools.

The issue of bursaries needs to be looked into. The Government needs to be more transparent and should deploy people who are accountable to Kenyans in the issuance of the bursaries. As we sit here today, bursaries are given by the head teacher and maybe the educational officer, and they do not account to anybody who can check their records.

I also want to talk about the management of schools. The Education Act needs to be reviewed. Currently we have Boards of Governors (BOGs). The Ministry continues to issue circulars saying that members of BOGs should have various qualifications, yet, it does not make sure that those circulars are implemented. So, you will find every Dick, Tom and Harry managing a school. No wonder, we have got so many students strikes in the country. We have so many students strikes because the people managing our schools are not qualified to manage anything, leave alone schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs) carry the burden of

developing schools, yet, they are not given a say in the management of our secondary schools. You will find a District Commissioner (DC) interfering with the nomination of the BOG members. Recently, I found a DC interfering with the nomination of BOG members in my constituency yet, in the more than 50 Harambees we have conducted in the constituency, the DC has not contributed even a penny. The sponsoring churches do not contribute a penny; it is the parents who are sponsoring these schools. The parents should be given the responsibility to manage their schools because they have built them. In places where parents have not built schools, you cannot have BOGs. So, I hope the Minister will move with speed on that issue and amend the Education Act to give power to the parents who are developing schools.

The Ministry also should be in charge of management of schools. It should be in charge of appointment of head teachers, supervising and managing them. Right now, we do not know who manages head teachers. Is it the sponsor of the school, the parents, the Ministry or the TSC?

The final aspect that I want to touch on concerns the public universities. About ten years ago, I was a member of a public university staff. The Government undertook to build facilities for our universities, such as lecture theatres and laboratories. The Government could not complete these facilities and for ten years, the facilities remain incomplete. This is a waste of resources. So, you will find our lecture theatres and laboratories congested. I wish the Ministry could undertake, as a special project, the task of completing those facilities and equipping them adequately so that they can provide quality education to our university students.

Finally, we are experiencing brain drain from our universities to other countries. Why can we not increase compensation to lecturers and professors in our public universities so that we can maintain a high quality manpower in the country? Could the Government, through the Ministry, implement the Koech Report? Kenyans need that Report.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for finally giving me the opportunity to contribute.

(Mr. Nderitu stood up in his place)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): I have given the Floor to Mr. Affey.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for reasserting your confidence in my ability to contribute.

I want to support the Minister in his request for the amount of money required. I stand here to speak for the people of North Eastern Province, arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas and Ukambani. I stand here to, first of all, thank and congratulate two very distinguished Kenyans. I want the Minister to take note of this because these two Kenyans have been extremely useful to the people of North Eastern Province and ASAL areas in general. We do not always use the House to condemn. Sometimes we should use this House to thank and congratulate those officers whom we think do exemplary jobs.

I have a lot of regard for the current Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Kiptoon. When Prof. Kiptoon was the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, he made very deliberate efforts to admit students from North Eastern Province to the University. Secondly, I want to thank Prof. George Eshiwani of Kenyatta University, who has also shown extreme concern for students from the North Eastern Province.

Hon. Members: Ah! Ah!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members who are saying "ah" are the same people who use this House to vilify and condemn innocent Kenyans who cannot defend themselves. When we use the opportunity to thank Kenyans who are doing a good job, they are complaining. I want the Minister and the House to know that these are two Kenyans who have done exemplary work for the people of North Eastern Province.

If I come to the Ministry's budget now, I will say that I remain a very sad person. Last year, more than 500 students from North Eastern Province had their examination results cancelled. We know that education is the cornerstone of any development aspect and we are making every effort to educate our people. We are talking to our pastoral groups and telling them to invest in education. It has been sad to note that in two consecutive years, the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) cancelled examination results for students from Wajir, Garissa and Mandera [**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation**]

Districts in North Eastern Province because it said that these students cheated in the examination. We do not want to be given grades that our students do not deserve, but who is responsible then for the cheating? The President appointed a probe Committee from the Ministry of Education to investigate the matter. The Committee did not even go to North Eastern Province to find out from parents and students where the problem was. The Committee sat in a boardroom in Nairobi, compiled a report and I am told the report was submitted to the Minister.

We are bitter because we expected the Committee to go down to Wajir and ask the parents, the affected students and the teachers where the problem was. The Committee compiled a report from Nairobi that purported to reflect the true position on the ground. This is mischief. We in North Eastern Province are still awaiting an explanation as to why over 500 students never received their examination results. During examinations, we have invigilators and supervisors. We know that if a student is given an opportunity to cheat, because of the desire to pass examinations, will cheat. That is why the KNEC spends a lot of money to hire invigilators and supervisors. Why can the Minister not arrest the culprits? We need to have an explanation as to why our students never received their examination results. We are still waiting for that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, last year, we asked the Ministry to make a deliberate effort to provide boarding nomadic primary schools in pastoral areas. Today, we have looked at the Minister's budget, and we do not seem to realise our objective. We had very few nomadic schools in North Eastern Province which have been closed down because they do not have sufficient funds to sustain them. We would like the Ministry to invest in education in North Eastern Province; we would like them to invest in nomadic primary schools; we would like them to invest in the nomadic girl child so that our girls can go to school. We are now going through a system where we want to review our Constitution, and people are talking about regional politics or *majimbo* type of Government in the country. We would like our people to find opportunities in future. How can we provide national cohesion when there are no deliberate efforts being made to uplift those areas? People complain in Central Province and Kisii that they do not have enough teachers, and yet there are excess teachers in some of these places. We required only 105 teachers for the whole of Wajir District, but we have been given 55 teachers. We would like the Minister to consider employing more teachers. We would like the Minister to ask his officers to venture more--- That is, we, as hon. Members of Parliament always frequent the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology offices, universities and colleges. If you asked any manager of these institutions the number of legislators who visit those institutions, he will tell you that it is only hon. Members of Parliament from North Eastern Province who do that. The hon. Members of Parliament from Ukambani and Central Province do not visit learning institutions, probably, because they have enough. That is why we make personal efforts to visit the Vice-Chancellors, the Permanent Secretary and the Minister so that this province can be at par or near par with others, because I do not know whether we shall ever be at par with other areas in terms of providing the necessary personnel to run this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other important aspect I would like to touch on relates to discipline in schools. We have been reading in the newspapers that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has instructed educational managers in the country not to cane students. I would like to say that caning a student is very important. You have to cane a child in order for him to know that he has made a serious mistake which he should not repeat. But you do not have to cane---

Mr. Kihoro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to encourage caning of minors in our schools, and yet this is a habit which has deformed many children and retarded their development? Is he in order to encourage application of violence on our children?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): He is entitled to his views!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am totally in order and we know what this means. I am not encouraging violence, or caning to an extent where you deform a child. In order for discipline to prevail in schools, it is important to use the cane. That is why---

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is actually contravening stated Government policy by the Ministry. Is he in order, as an Assistant Minister, to do that, and if so, could he resign so that he can---

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am contributing and I am only saying that the Ministry should reconsider that policy if it has been established. This is why we have increased violence, schools are closing and we have chaos in most schools. All this is happening because teachers are limited to discipline their students. So, I am only requesting the Minister to reconsider that particular policy.

Finally, I would like to talk about bursaries. I would like to appeal to the Minister, again, when they will distribute the bursary funds throughout the country to also find ways and means of giving schools in North Eastern Province sufficient bursaries so that we can retain many students in schools. The net effect of students being sent away from school is that even parents get discouraged to take their children to school. Pastoralists do not take their children to school because they say that they cannot support them. They cannot support the children in schools because the Kenya Meat Commission which should have assisted them is not operational and then there is severe drought. The Minister should consider the amount of money given as bursaries to students in North Eastern Province.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Katuku: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. At the outset, I would like to agree for the first time with the hon. Member who was just ahead of me on the issue of caning students. "You spare the rod, you spoil the child". The Ministry should look at that policy and, maybe, come up with a policy on how to cane students. The Ministry should come up with a policy whereby caning of students should be witnessed. This is because if we leave these kids uncontrolled or without being punished, they will become a problem to the teachers. We should empower a teacher in a way so that he can control the child. But I do not advocate violence against our children.

I would also like to touch on one important component in this country about school dropouts. If you look at the statistics, you will find that more than 60 per cent of the children drop out of school, especially in primary schools. I would like the Ministry to address that issue seriously, and put in place ways and means of maintaining our pupils in primary schools. If you look at countries like, Uganda, you will find that the form of education they have is very strict, and the turnout in their schools is very high.

I would also like to urge this Ministry to promote School Feeding Programmes. I happen to come from an area which is dry. With the School Feeding Programme which was introduced the other day, we have seen numbers of pupils in primary schools rise. I would like to urge the Ministry to put in place ways and means of ensuring that this programme is sustained in schools, not only when we have drought, but throughout the year. This programme will help pupils in dry areas to get education.

I would like to touch on the funding of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The budget, which is being presented here by the Ministry, to me, is inadequate to run this Ministry. It is high time the Government thought twice about funding the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We need more funds to be allocated to this Ministry so that it can provide adequate education to our young generation. If we do not fund this Ministry properly, what do you expect to be the outcome? I would like the Treasury to think twice about this Ministry and allocate it more money so that when we criticise them, we do so from a positive point of view.

There is something that is disturbing me, and that is when the Ministry said that a certain amount of money will be spent on inspection, which is never done. We come to this House, allocate money either adequate or not but you will never see the inspection being carried out. The DEOs, PEOs, PSIs and AEOs cannot get out of their offices to inspect schools. We need more funds to be allocated to this department so that schools can be inspected.

I would like to point out that double taxation is going on in my district. The District Education Board has approved that every child pays Kshs15. That is double taxation. We are paying taxes through other means, but here is a situation where parents are being taxed to sponsor inspection of schools in our districts. I would like to say that Kshs2 is given to the PSI, the AEO gets Kshs3, while Kshs10 goes to the DEO. This is the case although no inspection is done at the end of the day. That money is either pocketed by individuals, or is used for other business. The Minister should look into this issue, which can only be avoided by funding the Inspectorate Department so that they do not tax the parents. I am saying that double taxation should not be allowed in this country. I do not know why such an act should be allowed to go on in Machakos, Makueni and other districts.

On the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), some of our areas were understaffed and I am happy that the Commission has come up with a policy to employ teachers. This is because parents had been forced to employ teachers.

There was a lot of understaffing in some areas and we are glad the Government has come up with a policy to employ teachers. Parents had been forced to employ teachers and in some schools in my constituency, parents are paying two to three teachers, even in primary schools. That is double taxation. It has made education so expensive for these children because they are sent home every now and then to bring these extra levies. This has confused everybody and no learning is going on. It is a good idea that the Government has come up with a policy to employ teachers but I would want to urge the Ministry to streamline the recruitment procedure. We would want the areas that are understaffed to be given priority in terms of employing people who come from around those schools. Those who were trained a long time ago may be left out. The graduates who were trained first should also be given priority so that we can clear the backlog and then we can come to the years after 1998. I would want to see a situation where priority is given to teachers who come from around the schools so that they do not seek transfers after five years.

One other disturbing issue, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is about hardship allowances paid in some districts. I wonder what criteria was used. This Minister has never come out clear to tell us what criteria they have used to declare some areas hardship zones and others not. My constituency was left out and always I have had a problem with teachers. They shift to Makueni or Yatta Constituency where there is hardship allowance. My constituency was left in between there. We have a very interesting situation in Machakos. Teachers in Kalama Location, when it was in Makueni District, were being paid hardship allowance. When it was moved to Machakos District administratively, hardship allowance was scrapped. Bringing a location to Machakos does not mean the

area has become better climatically or otherwise. That is ridiculous. The Minister should look at that and solve the problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister should consider seriously the issue raised by Mr. Wamae; of paying rent. The Teachers' Service Commission (TSC) spends Kshs74 million every year paying rent for their offices in Bazaar Plaza. Is it worth? That money can be put into better use rather than pay rent amounting to Kshs74 million. Why can you not construct your own building? We have Government buildings which are not occupied. Why can we not have that Department put in a better place or provide them with funds to construct their own headquarters? It is not worth spending Kshs74 million or even Kshs100 million per year on rent. That is too much. We should spend that money to remunerate teachers. We are talking of teachers being role models, we should motivate them. We should pay them better so that they can serve our schools better.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would want to touch on the issue of auditing which was raised by Mr. Kikuyu. I support the sentiments expressed by Mr. Kikuyu that the Auditing Department in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is doing nothing. It has become a formality. I would entirely agree with Mr. Kikuyu that this Department should be under the Auditor-General (Corporations). You find that the bosses of these auditors are headmasters or DEOs. Auditing is never an issue. They have never tabled these audited reports to parents. Why can you not make these auditors independent under the Auditor-General (Corporations)? A school with about 500 children has a revenue collection of about Kshs10 million and you leave Kshs10 million unaccounted for? Headmasters have become kings in their areas. That has to do also with transfers. Headmasters stay in a school for over five years without being transferred. I remember a school in my constituency which had a headmaster for over 20 years. He went there for his first appointment and he retired last year. We have others in Machakos who have stayed in one school for over 20 to 30 years and that is terrible. The Ministry should move in and transfer these teachers to ensure efficiency in running of schools where possible.

On the issue of bursaries, which the Ministry is giving through schools, Members of Parliament and elected councillors should be involved in the distribution of bursaries. The headmaster should not be allowed to distribute bursaries alone.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote. I would have loved to see the Minister talk more on policy issues than he did when he was moving this Vote. I would have loved to see the Minister telling us how the future of education in this country will be. Unfortunately, he dwelt more on the figures that we already have in the Printed Estimates.

I want to talk about the 8-4-4 System of Education in this country. It has been argued that this system is bad and the dropout rate has been estimated at about 60 per cent. The reason advanced has been that this system of education is boring. That is why children drop out. I want to relate this reason to a question of the teacher. The system may be boring because the teachers are boring children. Why is it that teachers are bored? One reason would be poor remuneration of the teachers which has been addressed in this august House. It is important that the agreement between the KNUT and the Government of Kenya is respected. The Minister did not address this issue and it is important for him to know that he cannot wish that fact away. All phases of the salary increment agreed between the KNUT and the Government must be addressed. It is something that will live with us and it is something that is going to stay here. Whether the Minister likes it or not, it is something that is going to crop up time and again. It is high time the Ministry addressed that issue. A Government which goes into an agreement with a union and does not honour that agreement cannot be respected or trusted. A Government that can cheat its citizens is not worth being in power. It should resign!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want the Minister to address the issue of the Inspectorate Department in this Ministry. This Department is very weak and reasons must be established as to why it is weak.

Since the beginning of this year, some schools in my constituency have never been inspected. Why? Could the Minister, when responding, tell this House why there is laxity in the Inspectorate Department? What will the Minister say about salary disparities between inspectors, head teachers and some teachers in certain Job Groups in the Ministry? How do we expect an inspector to inspect a head teacher who earns more salary than him? It is not possible. It is necessary that this issue be addressed very seriously. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not know the role of Secondary School Head teachers Association in the welfare of teachers. What is it all about? What direction does it take visa versa the KNUT? In my opinion, the KNUT must be encouraged to take care of teachers' interests. We do not want a conflict of interest. There is also another teachers' body which has been encouraged to come up in the name of KUPPET. This body is in direct conflict with the interests of the KNUT. I think whoever encouraged the formation of KUPPET did a wrong thing. It is high time the KNUT was encouraged to take care of teachers' welfare. Secondary school teachers must have a say in the management of the KNUT so that they articulate their interests.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to highlight the problem of lack of teachers in both primary and secondary schools. This problem is very prevalent in my constituency. Most schools are badly

understaffed. As a result of that, we have been recording very poor performance in the national examinations. Last year, this Ministry told us that there were too many trained teachers and their problem was how to distribute them in various parts of this country. I think this was due to the courtesy of the World Bank and the IMF. However, this year, they are saying that there is shortage of teachers in both primary and secondary schools and, therefore, they want to employ more teachers. What happened to their statistics? The truth of the matter is that we do not have enough teachers in our schools. We need to recruit more teachers from among the unemployed trained teachers. This will help to alleviate unemployment in line with the PSRP. The Ministry will be in the right direction of fighting poverty in this country. Let us post teachers to schools within their communities. If the Government will post teachers to hardship areas, like where hon. Affey comes from, we must handsomely compensate them so that they will do their work effectively.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about the tertiary education in this country. It is a pity that there is not even a single polytechnic in western Province. We, indeed, suggested that Western Kenya needs a proper polytechnic. We had proposed that Sigalagala Technical Institute, which has been around for the last 50 years, be upgraded to a full fledged polytechnic because it has got enough land and facilities. So, I would like the Ministry to think of elevating Sigalagala Technical Institute to a polytechnic to take care of Western Province.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had problems with leakages of national examinations. Previously, this never used to happen in Western Province. However, the problem is now creeping into the province. So, the Ministry must address this issue very seriously. We know of a few places in this country where leakages of national examinations were the order of the day. The vice is now spreading throughout the country. This problem must be addressed very seriously. When results are cancelled for every candidate at an examination centre, parents and their children go through untold suffering. It is very discouraging for children, who have gone through eight years of primary education to have their results cancelled. Therefore, this issue must be addressed very seriously to avoid a repetition of what has happened.

I would have liked the Minister to talk about how he intends to deal with provision of education, particularly at the secondary level. Secondary school education must be made compulsory in this country. Secondary schools in the entire country should become day schools. The Ministry should come up with a policy towards that direction. So, the Minister must start talking about how to make secondary school education compulsory in Kenya.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, education is very important for a country mainly because it improves human resource development. So, the Government should give priority to education and consider spending a lot of money on it. I say so because the future of a country lies in discovery and technology. Also, the leadership of a country springs from learning. So, it is very crucial that the Government spends adequate amounts of money in this area.

To say the least, the amount of money allocated to this very crucial Ministry is paltry; it is not enough to train this country's population. Equally paltry is the amount that has been set aside for the payment of trainers. For instance, the emoluments for university professors are so meagre that the professors are leaving for countries that are younger in terms of independence. Our most learned lot are proceeding to countries such as Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa. For this trend to be arrested, adequate amounts of money should be put aside for payment of professors at our institutions of higher learning such as universities. So, this is an area the Government must look into with its heart. If our society is not educated, we will be unlikely to bequeath knowledge to future generations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the salaries paid to secondary school teachers are so small that you wonder whether the Government expects them to lead normal life. That is why, when one is appointed head teacher, he pilfers any money placed at his disposal. Equally, this is an area where we expected the TSC to be given more money from the Government so that the same would be given to those who are currently in employment with the TSC. If they were paid well, then they would put enough efforts and our youngsters would get the necessary education.

We should move to the next category of trainers; teachers in primary schools. This category of teachers are paid so little that we even wonder how they are able to survive, particularly, when you find that in a household it is probably the father or the mother who is employed and the payment ranges between Kshk7,000 and Kshs10,000. So, this is an area where we expected the Government to put more money so that those whom we entrust with the training of our children are happy people and who are able to make their ends meet.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that over the years, the Government has not been building schools. To leave the responsibility of building and educational institutions to the general public, through Harambees, is a farce when you cannot tell them where to get money to build such institutions and is not proper

planning. We cannot leave planning and building of institutions to haphazard things called Harambees that are at times driven by politics and at times facilitated by corruption.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present Budget and future budgets should allocate enough funds for the construction of public institutions based on population trends and other factors so that the Government is seen to put money where the future of this country lies. If you look at the present Budget, you will find that there are no plans to build any school nor are there are plans to expand them. This is very bad because the population has been exploding and if you look at ourselves, five or ten years down the road, you will see that we will have a younger country with very many young people who will need to go to school and they will need to study in proper schools. Here in Kenya, we are still talking about trying to learn how to read and write. In other countries where education is taken seriously, you will find that computers have been introduced in schools and pupils learn computers as early as in upper primary. In Kenya, we are not even able to provide enough facilities for mere learning on how to read and write. There are no books in schools and there are no buildings where students can learn. In fact, in areas that are hard-hit like ASAL areas, there is no food for those who are willing to go to school. If you go to the northern and north eastern parts of Kenya, you will find that there are no schools in the first place. This is what breeds banditry and bad behaviour in such areas! The present Budget does not seem to address this kind of problem.

In fact, what is commendable in the present Budget is that there is an attempt by the Government to recruit teachers and, therefore, address the issue of understaffing. The present move by the TSC to try and recruit teachers based on grassroot committees is commendable. Those of us who represent people at the grassroot level are happy that, at least, teachers will be recruited at the grassroot and be posted to such areas. We hope that is what will take place. But what has been set aside for this recruitment will not address exhaustively, and adequately, the staff shortfalls that we have in those areas. So, we expected this Budget and future budgets, to address the issue of staffing, by providing TSC and other employers of teachers with adequate money so that we do not have a situation where some schools have nearly no teacher. For example, there is a particular zone in my constituency called *Cham Gi Wadu*, where you would find a primary school having as few as two teachers. This primary school has pupils from Standard One up to Standard Eight and that primary school is expected to produce as brilliant students as any other primary school in Nairobi. So, future budgets must be able to provide adequate funds that will benefit children from other areas. I even know of a particular area in Nyatike Constituency in Migori District where there is a particular primary school with one teacher and it has eight classes, Standard One up to Eight. The current allocation of money to that district with 162 teachers against a shortfall of 600 teachers, is not adequate. So, we expect future and present budgets to provide enough money in order to address that issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, there is also the controversial issue of banning of caning in schools. That is not workable. That is something that cannot work because countries that are trying to push down that policy; that, pupils and students should not be caned, and countries that are trying to make Kenya part of that policy, have not got it right. If we take, for instance, the UK, or Sweden, or Canada where that policy is prevalent, those countries have enough approved schools and borstal institutions, where errant students could be taken to. Here in Kenya--- Even in this House, I am yet to see a Member of Parliament who has never been caned in school. In fact, many of them were saved by that kind of caning. If caning is done in a corrective sense, in a manner that it rehabilitates---

Mr. Kihoro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member on the Floor in order to encourage caning of children in schools? That has led to deformation of children, and it has not introduced discipline in any way. Why is he encouraging violation of human rights?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): That is your opinion!

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I sympathize with my learned friend. He knows the importance of rehabilitation, which includes punishment. If there is no way of punishing a student or threatening to punish a student, then, you cannot expect that student to behave in a correct and proper manner.

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

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the Motion. I will begin by congratulating the Minister. This time round, I am serious because we are putting new wine in a new glass, and we expect a definite performance because we know there is a new team in the office. The only obstacle is that he has to try and thin out because that Ministry is one of the heavily populated Ministries. I sympathise with the Minister, but I have got every confidence that he and his officers in the Ministry will be able to do something because every speaker here has said the Ministry has got the highest Vote. But we would like to see the Ministry getting double or three times that Vote because education is very important.

There are countries in the world, like Singapore and others, which have no shambas but they invest in the "head," and because of the right investment in education, they give Kenya famine relief. It is, therefore, very important that we invest heavily in whichever way we can in order to try and educate our people. It is even better to have a person who is more educated because if he wanted to kill you, he would kill you in a better and

sophisticated way. You would not suffer. He would kill you easily. I am not encouraging thuggery, but I am encouraging education.

Makueni District has been leading for years in primary education. I would like to congratulate teachers all over the country, including those in Makueni, because the teaching fraternity is the only profession in the Civil Service which needs no supervision. A teacher supervises his own performance because he would like his school to do well. That is a credit to them. Makueni Primary School does very well and it leads in examinations. I understand that since the current Minister took over, he has been holding meetings with his officers on a weekly basis. The officers are very happy to attend these meetings because they would like to inform him of the problems in the Ministry. What happens to these children who perform very well in primary schools and then go to secondary schools because they seem to be decreasing in number when they go to secondary school and university?

I have been attending graduation ceremonies in all these universities, but you will find that a Kamba name is only mentioned after 200 names from other tribes. Makueni Primary School has been performing very well and yet these children do not go to secondary school. I would like to know what is causing this because we have never had an epidemic that wiped them out. We need an explanation as to whether the Government is involved in the intake of students to secondary schools and universities. The Minister ought to know that Makueni is in Kenya and it is entitled to that quota within the universities. Makueni District has got a large population of students and yet the number of those being admitted to university is less than those found in the Minister's constituency. Last year, about 500 students from a particular district were not admitted to university despite doing well. We need an explanation because this problem is worrying the parents.

The issue of equalisation in posting of teachers also raises concern. We do not get science teachers being posted to Ukambani. We have even started scrutinising the kind of teachers that are being posted there. Most of the teachers in that area teach arts subjects. Why is there no equal distribution of teachers in all areas, particularly the science teachers? We might be wrong in our observations, but we have got statistics to that effect. Shortage of teachers is another serious problem. For instance, Makueni has got a shortage of about 800 teachers. This time, about 290 were posted to the area. I would like to urge the Minister that when they are deploying new teachers, they should employ the teachers who have been recommended by the PTA because they come from that particular area. We are not tribalists, but we know that there has been a trend whereby people are posted to a certain area and within a short time they ask for transfer. So, rather than lose the 290 teachers, it would be better to employ teachers who come from that area.

In the Budget, there is an allocation for textbooks. When the Minister disburses funds for textbooks, he should take into account the number of schools that we have in the country. In particular, special consideration should be given to the ASAL areas which have suffered from all sorts of problems including lack of finances. Ukambani also falls under the ASAL areas. If the Minister could supply enough textbooks to these areas we would have a better advantage. This business of sending children home all the time because of fees should stop. The DEB should not be allowed to collect money from schools anyhowly. In most areas, DEB members never change. You will find that some of those people who were elected to them before Independence are still there. If all the decisions concerning schools are left to the DEOs who then advise the DCs, this introduces an element of selfish interests. We know individuals must have some interest, but let there be some qualifications set out. If we could get the names, qualifications and *curriculum vitae*, they leave a lot to be desired. We do not mind teachers being paid some money to improve our education system. Let whatever is going to be paid be discussed by the leaders. Leaders should be involved in decision-making, so that they will also help in the collection of money from parents.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a parent, I am concerned about the use of drugs in some schools. The Government knows who the drug dealers are. Why should they be allowed to get cheap markets in some schools? That is a big concern. The issue has come up now, but, perhaps, it was building up. The issue of drugs should be a test case for the Minister to expose and fight it. Some of the people who deal with drugs are known. Why should they test the drugs on some schools? We would like the Minister to apply whatever system he can use to come up with measures to destroy drug traffickers, who are already destroying our children's future. Our future is in those children. Why do we call them the leaders of tomorrow and now, we want to destroy their future?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about inspection of schools. I will only add one thing. In the past, and the Chair can bear me witness, school inspectors used a secret programme to visit the schools. If they wanted to visit an area, they would be there at 6.00 a.m. in the morning. By the time the teachers came, they found the inspectors already in the schools. What is happening today is really shocking. Circulars, information and programmes are sent out to schools to inform them when the inspectors will tour the schools, so that lunch and transport money could be organised. Why are we taxing parents in that way. The Minister might view that as an allegation, but we would like him to check the truth because that is exactly what happens now. The programme is issued in advance, showing the schedule of visits. Will they get the right information after inspection? The answer is no!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, let the Audit Unit be under the Controller and Auditor-General and not under the DOs and PCs. You cannot inspect yourself!

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Koskei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. As I sat here, I keenly followed what the Minister highlighted on the Vote of the Ministry. You will agree with me that most of the Minister's time was taken in itemising the allocations of the Ministry. I had expected the Minister to tell us what other areas the Ministry was looking into, as far as the policy of the Ministry is concerned.

However, there were some few things that I managed to pick from his speech. One of the issues that he highlighted was the HIV/AIDS Unit in the Ministry. It is a pity that this is the Ministry that is supposed to disseminate most of the information to the young children and teenagers. When the Minister says that the Ministry has put aside Kshs1 million for the HIV/AIDS Unit in the Ministry, I think that is rather a very small sum of money. We know that the employees, that is mostly teachers, pass this information to the children. The school media is the best forum to pass this HIV/AIDS message because these are teens that are getting into sexually active life. However, if we do not strengthen this unit we will find that we are really not contributing strongly towards the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Ministry is also supposed to come up with the curriculum and syllabus to be followed in as far as the teaching about AIDS is concerned. When we talk of this Kshs1 million, I really wonder if the Minister was saying that this money would also be used in setting up or looking into this curriculum and I find it to be very little money to be given out by the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the previous speakers talked about the problems afflicting the teaching profession and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I found out at the end of the day, that the teacher is being vilified unfairly. This is because when you look at the issues of indiscipline in schools, you find that the teacher spends a short time with the students when they are in school and most of the time the students are with their parents. You will agree with me that a lot of our parents have abrogated their roles in as far as this discipline is concerned and they look up at the school system to try and discipline their children whom they are not able to discipline at home. So, it is actually too much to expect the teachers and the school system in this country to act the role of parents. The parents should also play their roles so that when these teachers get these students into school, they will find already disciplined students and the role of teachers should only be to impart knowledge to them. We shall be overburdening the teachers in this case, if we expect them to carry out their role and, at the same time, doing the things that we fail to do as parents. That is why I am saying that we should not vilify teachers for the sake of actually doing that. It is also our responsibility, as parents, to instill discipline in these students.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another point that I would want to highlight in the budgetary allocations of the Ministry is that, for a very long time, the bursary allocation to schools has remained at a figure of Kshs530 million. Last year, when looking at the budgetary allocations of the Ministry, the issue of these bursaries came up and we asked the Ministry to come up with a fair way of disbursement of this money in as far as the school level is concerned. You will find that there is no systematic method where the bursary funds are given out in schools and it ends up not really getting to the targeted students. A case I would like to highlight here is that, if you take a good school like Njoro Boys in Nakuru with a student population of 800 and you are giving a bursary of Kshs200,000, I think that is a drop in the ocean in as far as the school is concerned. This is because this money does not reach all the needy students. And as I said, because of the fact that the teachers in that particular school, the headmaster, probably the PTA and the people that he will want to include in that committee that is going to disburse this money, are the ones that have a final say in who gets this money, you will find that the needy students are not really going to get this money. So, it is my feeling and I believe the feeling of most of the Members of the House, that a very transparent and organised way should be found so that this money is actually passed to these needy students.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also highlighted last year, and repeat now, that we need to review the Education Act. We need to get a place for the PTAs in our schools' set-up. This is a body that does a lot of work in schools in providing facilities and instilling discipline in the students. But, unfortunately, the Education Act has no relevant provisions. The Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs) are not recognised yet, they are the vehicles that are used to develop schools in this country. It is important that the Education Act is reviewed so that we can recognise the PTA, which plays a very important role in schools' development though the Act is silent on it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, any time we mention the issue of discipline in schools, caning of the students comes up. An hon. Member said that caning is a human right abuse. I believe that in the hon. Member's house also, as his children grow up, he disciplines them. If he canes his children, it does not mean that he abuses their rights. He is just trying to mould his children so that they can grow up well. In the recent past, mostly during this term, many schools have gone on strike. I want to believe that these strikes have coincided with the

Ministry's ban on caning as a form of punishment. What other forms of punishment will then be used? You will find that a punishment is supposed to be a deterrent and a corrective measure in the upbringing of children.

If we will not use all the tools that we have at our disposal, to try and bring up these children properly, we will not be helping them. Most children in schools are within the age bracket of six years to 20 years. They are being moulded into good adults yet, some people are saying that if you cane them, you are abusing their rights. It is we parents who bring up the child and I believe we know what is good for the child. I would want the Ministry to look again into the issue of caning in schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have looked at the officers from the Ministry who are here and I am sorry to note that I have not seen anybody from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). The HELB is the one which makes the higher education system in this country either succeed or fail; in terms of issuing bursaries to students. The HELB should actually be a little bit more aggressive in raising funds. A lot of people who are working in this country have at one time or another benefitted from the HELB loans, but you will find that the HELB is not aggressive enough in recovering money from these people. Kenyans are known to be people who do not want to pay taxes or pay back loans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless the HELB is given powers that would even lead to prosecution of defaulters in order for it to recover money from people who were advanced loans while in the university, it will not have enough money to give to students. The students need the money for their university education.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of the House. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 25th July, 2001, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.