

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 30th July, 2002

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

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

## PRAYERS

## PAPER LAID

The following Paper was laid on the Table:-

Sessional Paper on National Housing Policy for Kenya.

*(By the Minister for Roads and Public Works)*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Mr. Sungu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before asking my Question, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chair.

**An hon. Member:** Ask your Question!

*Question No.125*

## RE-ALIGNMENT OF PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr. Sungu** asked the Minister of State, Office of the President, in view of the wide disparity of population density and distribution between provinces, when he will re-align provincial boundaries.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Kochalle): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also recognise your presence on the Chair, and I am so happy.

I beg to reply.

At the moment, there are no immediate plans to re-align provincial boundaries.

**Mr. Sungu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister must surely agree with me that the provincial boundaries created by the colonial Government were drawn on a very arbitrary tribal basis. There are some things called natural boundaries. For example, if you look at Thessalia region where our people have been kicked out, in Kericho District, this area naturally lies in Nyanza Province. I would like to ask the Assistant Minister to tell us precisely what plans

they have to re-align this area, because he has said that there are no such plans, and yet the boundaries were mis-aligned by the colonial government.

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the re-alignment of provincial boundaries will be done, it will be based not only on political density or tribal lines and distribution, but will also be based on geographical factors among other criteria.

**Mr. Muchiri:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell the House whether Nairobi is a province, a district or a city?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, Nairobi is a Province and the capital City of Kenya.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House whether the Government is determined to destroy tribalism and the appendages that promote tribalism, like creation of provinces on a tribal basis?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not answer that question because there is no

province which has been created on a tribal basis.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House, that there are no provinces created on tribal basis---

*(Applause as Mr. Raila entered the Chamber)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Kihoro): Order! Proceed, Mr. Angwenyi!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House that there are no provinces created on tribal basis, when in fact, we have Central and North Eastern Provinces which are basically tribal?

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker*

*(Mr. Kihoro) left the Chair]*

*[Mr. Speaker took the Chair]*

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, I do not know any tribal provinces, because Kenyans are free to live anywhere. So, that issue does not arise.

**Mr. Michuki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the creation of districts, justification has been sought on the need to have closer administration. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House why, at the provincial level, those services are not required to be closer to the people?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, provinces comprise of districts which are closer to the people.

**Mr. Muiruri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, since provinces in this country are more or less identifiable with tribalism--- For example, when you talk about Central Province we are talking about the Kikuyus, Nyanza about the Luos---

**Mr. Angwenyi:** No! Kisiis are also there!

**Mr. Muiruri:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister consider totally abolishing them and replacing them with the councils?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have no plans to abolish the provinces. They will continue to be there.

**Mr. Sungu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am gratified to note that the Assistant Minister actually acknowledges the fact that geographical features should play an important role in determining the boundaries. I am really concerned about the size and population of the Rift Valley which I think was designed for political purposes. Could he undertake to divide this province into two, and when he is doing that, return the areas that were taken away from Nyanza like Thessalia and Songhor, which lie within the geographical markings of Nyanza, like the Nyando and Nandi Escarpments and the Kericho Hills?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure the hon. Member knows that we have the constitutional review exercise going on and he could present those views to the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission.

*Question No.061*

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO LAIKIPIA EAST

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

*Question No.072*

MEASURES TO PREVENT SALE OF ADULTERATED FUEL

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

*Question No.108*

MEASURES TO RESOLVE TEA CRISIS IN GUSII

**Mr. Speaker:** Is Mr. Anyona not here? Well, for a change, we are not blaming the Ministers! We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question.

*Question No.155*RECOVERY OF EXCESS PAYMENT  
FROM LAW FIRM

**Dr. Kulundu** asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) whether he could explain why Mr. J.S. Khakula Advocates, P. O. Box 924, Bungoma, was paid Kshs6,545,554, apparently for legal services rendered to Mumias Outgrowers Company;
- (b) whether he is satisfied that the said payment was proper; and,
- (c) whether he could take urgent measures to recover the excess payment in order to safeguard the farmers' money.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anybody here from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development? We will leave that Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question.

*Question No.244*INSTALLATION OF GENERATOR AT  
NDII RESERVOIR TANK

**Mr. Mwakiringo** asked the Minister for Water Development:-

- (a) whether he could explain why a generator used for pumping water for over ten years from Ndii reservoir tank in the Mzima Springs was removed;
- (b) why the residents of Ngolia/Mbololo locations are not supplied with water, yet the Ndii reservoir tank is usually full; and,
- (c) what he is doing to ensure that a generator is installed at the Ndii reservoir tank.

**The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources** (Mr. Kofa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The two pumping sets at Ndii Reservoir and Mbololo were removed after they broke down and, on inspection, were found to be uneconomical to repair.

(b) The breakdown of the two pumping sets at Ndii and Mbololo caused the residents to miss water as the terrain in that area is unsuitable for gravity system.

(c) Installation of the pumping sets at Ndii reservoir and Mbololo will be undertaken as soon as the ongoing studies on rehabilitation of the pipeline are completed and the source of funds identified.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as much as I appreciate the Assistant Minister's answer, the suspicion we have is that those pumps were for political reasons. But, nonetheless, what has led to the delay in installation of any temporary pumps to supply water to those people? That is because the pumps and pipes are in good condition. Why has it taken too long to install a new system?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, contrary to Mr. Mwakiringo's assertion that the pumps are intact, that is a project that stalled in 1993. So, the pumps are not intact as he claims.

**Ms. Karua:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a bit concerned because the Assistant Minister has said that, that particular project can only be repaired when the studies are complete. What studies has the Ministry been taking since 1993? Are the studies really necessary, since what is required are generators?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only generators are required, but also pipes!

**Ms. Karua:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I asked the Assistant Minister whether the studies are necessary, and what studies are being undertaken if any. He has not answered that. He has just added that pipes are necessary.

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said earlier that the project stalled in 1993. The Ministry would like to revamp and renew the whole system. We are looking at the costing and how many pumps are needed. We are also looking at the possibility of renewing the pumping sets. The old ones cannot be repaired.

**Mr. Mwalulu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can hear the Assistant Minister is being futuristic about a problem that needs urgent and immediate action. The people of Ndii and Mbololo need water now and not tomorrow. That problem has been persistent for several years. Could the Assistant Minister give a commitment on a very specific date, which must be very soon, as to when the people of Mbololo and Ndii will be given water?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is not ready to make a commitment until and when the studies are

completed.

**Mr. Mwakiringo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that project can serve over 4,500 people in that division. How soon will funding be sourced and the exercise completed, so that the people could benefit under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)? The people have been suffering under a very long drought!

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as soon as possible!

**Mr. Mbela:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister knows that the water supply goes to locations like Ngolia and Mbololo. Knowing how vital water is, is it not highly irresponsible to go and discontinue water supply without a replacement and without giving any notice to the people?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, did he say responsible? I did not get what he said!

**Mr. Speaker:** What did you say, Mr. Mbela?

**Mr. Mbela:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said the water supply covers two locations; and knowing how vital water is to the people living in a very dry area, is it not totally irresponsible for the Ministry to go and just remove the pumps without even giving any notice to the people, and expect that they will be happy?

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pumps broke down. How does the Minister become irresponsible if the pumps broke down?

**Mr. Katuku:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has talked about a research. A research on what? He has said that the pump was just removed. Could you compel him to answer the Question properly?

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has told this House that the pipes broke down. I am trying to comprehend that and I do not know how a pipe can break down! An engine can break down! But the pipes--- What does the Assistant Minister mean?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Munyasia and Mr. Kofa are both teachers. I am sure you can sort out that between yourselves!

Next Question!

**Mr. Omingo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received a written answer.

*Question No.189*

ALLOCATION OF ROAD MAINTENANCE  
MONEY IN SOUTH MUGIRANGO

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

- (a) how much money was given to South Mugirango Constituency for maintenance of roads in the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 financial years from Fuel Levy Fund;
- (b) how much money was allocated specifically to Kamagambo-Nyansembe Road which connects Gucha with Migori and Trans Mara districts; and,
- (c) whether he could table the list of roads gravelled or maintained in the constituency in the said years.

**The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works** (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek the indulgence of this House, that you defer this Question to Thursday. The reason is that I have not received enough information to enable me to answer this Question. May I request that the Question be deferred until Thursday?

**Mr. Speaker:** What is your reaction, Mr. Omingo?

**Mr. Omingo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can accept the request on condition that he gives us a good answer!

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well! You all realise that Eng. Rotich has been a very good Member. I am even surprised to have read in some places that he has never contributed in this House! I am truly shocked and I do not know where they got that information! May I say this to the House and to Eng. Rotich: "You have been a very active participant of this House!"

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Sungu:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. May I add that Eng. Rotich gives the best answers as far as the Ministry of Roads and Public Works is concerned. He is the most active Assistant Minister in this House. It is a disgrace that we can have that kind of a report.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do agree. As I said, I am very shocked about those reports, particularly how they purport to gauge hon. Members. One way in which an hon. Member scores marks is by being disorderly in the House. I am shocked!

*(Laughter)*

Next Question, Mr. Angwenyi! I am not calling you in that regard, but to ask your Question.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask my Question, I would like to state that the report was unfair to Eng. Rotich and Mr. Kimani!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Ask your Question!

**Mr. Ndicho:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Angwenyi to suggest that Mr. Kimani does not contribute in this House when we know that on Thursday, Mr. Kimani came with a lot of material, but he forgot to switch off his mobile phone and he was thrown out of the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order now! Can we now do serious business!

Next Question, Mr. Angwenyi.

*Question No.036*

UTILIZATION OF KISII MUNICIPAL  
COUNCIL GRADER

**Mr. Angwenyi** asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) where the Kisii Municipal Council grader is stationed; and,
- (b) on which road projects it has been used for the last four years.

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government** (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) The Kisii Municipal Council grader is stationed and parked at the Kisii Municipal yard.

(b) The grader has not been used on any projects for the last four years. However, between 24th February, 1999 and 7th January, 2000, the grader was hired by a private construction company on hourly basis. Thereafter, the grader broke down. Since then, the grader has been parked at the Kisii Municipal Council yard.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that this Parliament allocates LATF funds to councils. For the last four years, this council has received this money. When the grader was leased to the private contractor it was serviceable, but he brought it back unserviceable. What was the nature of the contract? Did it not require the private contractor to repair it before he returned it to the council?

**Mr. Sirma:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of the terms of the contract. I know that the grader was hired for Kshs2,500 per hour. The contractor had no obligation to repair it because he was using it on contract.

**Mr. Ndicho:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us whether it is a policy of the Government, and the Ministry in particular, to lease out its vehicles to private contractors? Is it a new policy? Has this policy been there, in the first place, because we are hearing of it for the first time?

**Mr. Sirma:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, even as of now, possibly Mr. Ndicho is not aware, but you can hire graders from the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. The Kisii Municipal Council grader was hired out by the council. However, I am trying to establish whether they had an approval from the Minister.

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said this House allocates LATF funds to councils. How much is required to repair that grader so that it can be useful to our people? Why has the council not repaired it?

**Mr. Sirma:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the council was advised to allocate some of the LATF money to repair the grader. In the 2002/2003 financial year, the council has allocated Kshs1 million for the repair of that grader. So, the grader will be operational as soon as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Question, Eng. Toro.

*Question No.098*

IRREGULAR ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT PLOTS

**Mr. Speaker:** We will leave his Question until the end. Mr. Kiunjuri's Question for the second time!

*Question No.061*

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO LAIKIPIA EAST

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Kiunjuri still not here? The Question is dropped.

*(Question dropped)*

For the second time, Mr. Gatabaki's Question.

*Question No.072*

MEASURES TO PREVENT SALE OF ADULTERATED FUEL

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Gatabaki still not here? The Question is dropped.

*(Question dropped)*

For the second time, Mr. Anyona's Question.

**The Minister for Energy** (Mr. Raila): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Last week, I raised this issue of hon. Members filing Questions and not appearing in the House to ask them. It was said that the penalty is that the Question is dropped. That can be the reason why an hon. Member does not show up here, so that his Question may be dropped because he would have already achieved the objective of filing it. This matter is serious and it needs proper investigation.

**Dr. Kituyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Sometimes, whereas there is sense in what Mr. Raila is saying, we should look at the substance of the Question. If an hon. Member is asking for electricity in Doldol, what benefits can he or she have not to ask such a Question?

The hon. Members in question could not get onto an early flight back from a Parliamentary workshop in Mombasa.

**The Minister for Energy** (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in that case, the hon. Member should apologise on behalf of those hon. Members. I have not been informed that the hon. Member is not around. We spend a lot of time trying to get information, so that we can answer Questions here. It is not fair for hon. Ministers to be subjected to all that kind of work in vain, then the Question is dropped.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! In fact, I do not understand why there is no applause for Mr. Raila!

*(Applause)*

Any time a Minister is absent, you are in an uproar. Why the double standards? We must apply the same standards! If Ministers must come to answer Questions, so must hon. Members come to ask their Questions. It must be the same even justice. It cannot be two ways! I want to bring to the attention of the House, as you urge me to take serious action - which we are considering very seriously - against the Ministers, I will not look very kindly at any hon. Member whose Question has been dropped coming to ask for reinstatement of the same. So, let us all be serious!

**Mr. Ndicho:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think it is the failure of Parliament because it sent these hon. Members to Mombasa and it then put the same Questions on the Order Paper. Parliament ought to know who it has sent out so that his or her Question does not appear on the Order Paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Mr. Ndicho, Parliament never sends you on a working day. We send you out when Parliament is not sitting.

**Mr. Gitonga:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! There is no justification whatsoever. We have had Ministers coming here to say they were late for a few minutes because of traffic jams and we have told them that, that is no excuse at all. That should apply to every Member. To the best of my knowledge, the function in Mombasa was on Sunday. Today, is Tuesday---

**An hon. Member:** Adjourn Parliament!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! We will not adjourn Parliament because somebody is not there.

**Mr. Gitonga:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Out of order!

Next Question, Mr. Anyona!

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sincerely apologise for not being here when the Question was called out for the first time.

*Question No.108*

## MEASURES TO RESOLVE TEA CRISIS IN GUSII

**Mr. Anyona** asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that the crisis between the tea farmers and the directors of Kebirigo, Nyankoba, Nyasiongo and Tombe Tea Factories in Nyamira District; Kiamokama Tea Factory in Kisii District; Nyamache and Ogembo Tea Factories in Gucha District, arising from astronomical operational costs and poor second payment for 2000/2001, has not been resolved;

(b) whether he is further aware that the directors of all the said tea factories have not held any Annual General Meeting and laid before the tea farmers income and expenditure accounts in contravention of the provisions of Section 131(1) and (5) and Section 148(1), (2) and (3) of the Companies Act, Chapter 486 of the Laws of Kenya; and,

(c) what remedial measures the Minister will take in order to resolve the crisis in the tea sub-sector in Gusii as proposed in the Memorandum, Ref.No.KM/04/02, dated 10th January, 2002.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development** (Col. Kiluta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I kindly request you to defer this Question until Thursday next week. I know that this Question was asked in this House last week and answered by another Minister. After consultation with the hon. Questioner, and looking at the answer I have here, it would not serve his interests. So, I would like to hold a meeting with the hon. Questioner and the Minister for Agriculture before I come back to this House with an answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Anyona, what is your reaction?

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can see that the Minister who answered this Question last week has disappeared into the thin air, and that tells the story. The tea industry is really in a very serious state because no AGMs have been held up to now. I would be quite happy to have a meeting with the Minister who, in any case, has my comments. In fact, I was surprised to hear him say that he was not aware of the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** So, what do you want?

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would accept his proposal.

**Mr. Speaker:** Obligated! I should have a copy of the HANSARD here on any Question which has been deferred so that I can follow the proceedings!

**Mr. Angwenyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This problem affects all of us. Will the Minister hold a meeting with all the hon. Members of Parliament who represent these areas or only with Mr. Anyona?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the Minister will not kick you out!

**Mr. Obwocha:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are humbly requesting you to make a ruling on this matter. This is because we were waiting for the AGM to be held so that tea farmers in those factories could elect their directors. So, if there is a meeting between Mr. Anyona and the Minister, we would like to participate in it so that we resolve this crisis. This is a serious matter on the ground.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I think we are taking time unnecessarily. The Question has been deferred to Thursday next week. In between that time, all of you can go and have a meeting with the Minister! After all, we want this matter to be sorted out amicably!

**Mr. Obwocha:** But it will come to the House!

**Mr. Ndwiga:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This matter is not only about tea factories in Gusii. This problem is being experienced in the entire tea sector. So, if Mr. Anyona will have a meeting with the Minister, what will happen to the other hon. Members who face the same problem?

**Mr. Speaker:** You can all go now! Dr. Kulundu's Question for the second time!

*Question No.155*

## RECOVERY OF EXCESS PAYMENT FROM LAW FIRM

**Dr. Kulundu** asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he could explain why Mr. J.S. Khakula Advocates, P.O. Box 924, Bungoma, was paid Kshs6,545,554, apparently for legal services rendered to Mumias Outgrowers Company (MOCO);

(b) whether he is satisfied that the said payment was proper; and,

(c) whether he could take urgent measures to recover the excess payment in order to safeguard the farmers' money.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development** (Col. Kiluta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

sincerely apologise for coming late.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) An amount of Kshs6,545,554 was not paid to Mr. "Kakula" Advocates for legal services rendered to the MOCO.

(b) The Question does not arise as the invoice presented by Mr. "Kakula" Advocates was not honoured by the MOCO.

(c) In view of the above answers, I cannot take any urgent action.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sympathise with this Assistant Minister. In a way, he is lucky that Mr. Osundwa is not here because he has my documentary evidence which shows that this money was paid. But Mr. Khakula and not Mr. "Kakula", as the Assistant Minister pronounces---

*(Laughter)*

On part "b" of my Question, the Assistant Minister is supposed to tell us whether he is satisfied that the payment was proper. This is because Mr. Khakula is the Company Secretary for the MOCO on a full time basis. So, if he rendered legal services to the MOCO, there should never arise a question of paying him any money in addition to the salary that he gets from the MOCO. Is the Assistant Minister aware that Mr. Khakula is the Company Secretary for MOCO?

**Col. Kiluta:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to apologise for not pronouncing the name correctly. The hon. Questioner should understand that I do not come from the same area as Mr. Khakula.

On part "b" of his Question, the hon. Member did not ask me to tell the House where Mr. Khakula works. I think that was not part of the Question. The Question before the House is whether the money was paid. The amount of money that was paid to Mr. Khakula was not Kshs6 million, but Kshs1,282,500. This money was paid after the advocate and the Board of Directors met and agreed on the amount of money to be paid. They met because they thought that the money that had been asked for initially was on the higher side. They went to court and this amount was approved. I would like to table the court agreement which authorised payment of Kshs1.2 million to Mr. Khakula. The amount of money which has been paid to date to Mr. Khakula is Kshs1.2 million. This leaves a balance of Kshs337,500 to be paid after they finalise all the cases. So, the whole amount of money has not been paid. I would like to table this court agreement so that the hon. Member can have a look at it.

*(Col. Kiluta laid the document on the Table)*

**Mr. Imanyara:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the information that has been supplied, that Mr. Khakula is actually a full time employee of this company, even Kshs1 payment on an account of an invoice for work which is already being paid for on a monthly basis is illegal and amounts to abuse of office.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister consider referring the matter to the Attorney-General or the Anti-Corruption Police Unit so that Mr. Khakula can be arrested and charged with abuse of office?

**Col. Kiluta:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, this payment was agreed between the Board and the advocate.

**An hon. Member:** It was wrong!

**Col. Kiluta:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the hon. Member let me answer the hon. Member? This answer might not be palatable but it is the truth. The Board and the advocate went to court. If the Board knew that Mr. Khakula was an employee of the MOCO, and did not want to pay him, it should not have gone to court. So, if the hon. Member really feels that there was a breach of agreement, then he should go back to court and rescind the decision.

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I happen to know Mr. Khakula. Is it in order for Dr. Kulundu to tell this House that Mr. Khakula is a full-time employee of the MOCO when I know that, if at all he is the Secretary of this organisation, it could only be on a part-time basis? This is because he is a practising advocate in Bungoma. That is the truth of the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Dr. Kulundu, what is your response?

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sympathise with Mr. Munyasia because Mr. Khakula is his relative.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Shitanda is my witness here. Mr. Munyasia came and asked us to tell him in what way he could assist Mr. Khakula. But that beside the point---

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! It is not beside the point! It is a central part of the point! Dr. Kulundu, are you,



therefore, saying that Mr. Munyasia, in raising that point of order, is deliberately misleading [Mr. Speaker] the House, and prior to that, he was convincing you not to ask your Question? Is that what you are saying, Dr. Kulundu?

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is precisely what I said!

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have no relative by the name of Mr. Khakula. Is Dr. Kulundu in order to impute improper motive on me? I had only asked for the evidence he had!

**Mr. Shitanda:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Munyasia was with us here a few minutes ago. He, indeed, confirmed that Mr. Khakula is his *vakoki*, which means in Kiluya, the man you were circumcised with.

(Laughter)

**Mr. Sungu:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Are those hon. Members not bringing the dignity of the House into disrepute, by bringing all those extraneous matters to the Floor of the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! Indeed, it does! In fact, the whole issue of bringing Questions here, and those other extraneous issues, maybe, to hit at an individual Kenyan and not to solve a public problem, does demean the character of the House! I am on record, as informing hon. Members to keep parochial matters out of the National Assembly of Kenya. Keep your likes and dislikes out of it. Please, do not settle your personal differences here. I hope that does not continue. Keep those issues in their correct perspective.

**Dr. Kituyi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Could it be fair, since the hon. Assistant Minister is not aware, just as I am not, that Mr. Khakula was a full-time employee of MOCO--- Could he undertake to establish whether he was a full-time employee of MOCO? If Mr. Khakula was not a full time employee of MOCO, then the Question does not arise.

**Mr. Speaker:** By the way, Dr. Wamukoya, what were you saying?

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information** (Dr. Wamukoya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to inform the House that the Question on the Floor is valid. Secondly, I wanted to inform the House that Mr. Khakula was an employee of MOCO when this transaction took place. Thirdly, Mr. Khakula is no longer the Company Secretary. But when the transaction took place, he was still an employee of MOCO.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development?

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information** (Dr. Wamukoya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just like a nomad. Now, I am in the Ministry of Tourism and Information. I have been moving around---

**Mr. Speaker:** When did you become a nomad?

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information** (Dr. Wamukoya): When I started moving from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and finally to the Ministry of Tourism and Information, I became a nomad!

**Mr. Nyachae:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a very important point here, which must be sorted out; that is to establish when that payment was made and whether that gentleman was a full-time employee of MOCO or not. That is the issue! From there, this matter could be clearer. The right person to establish the truth, and inform this House, is the Assistant Minister concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will ask the Assistant Minister to go and get those facts and bring them to us. But on the other hand, I would like to warn hon. Members, not to bring Questions here to hit at individuals they do not like.

**Dr. Kulundu:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You will realise that I had put the Question in its true perspective until I was interrupted. In fact, we are not personalising issues here. I want the Assistant Minister to assure this House that when I get the necessary documents - which are with Mr. Osundwa who is not here - indicating that Mr. Khakula, was indeed paid that amount of money, he will order him to repay the money.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members! If I may wonder aloud, so that you know which Questions to bring to the House, and which ones to take to court, how would the Assistant Minister order Mr. Khakula--- If that gentleman has left the service of MOCO and is a private citizen elsewhere, how would the Assistant Minister order him to repay? Is it not for the court to do that?

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, he would order the MOCO Board to go to court and recover the money from Mr. Khakula.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anyhow, we will come to that when he comes back. Is that okay with you Col. Kiluta?

**Col. Kiluta:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know where to start. The simplest thing is to establish whether Mr. Khakula was the Company Secretary of MOCO on a full-time basis when that transaction took place. But the legal documents in my possession show that he was not paid. I do not see what I could have done beyond that!

**Dr. Murungaru:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. That position is unsatisfactory. The Question came to

the Floor of the House because Mr. Khakula, who was acting as the Company [Mr. Murungaru] Secretary, either on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis, involved himself in the affairs of the company as a lawyer. Could he undertake that he will not allow those involved in the company to contract services for the same company?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is actually a general matter of principle. That, actually, should be the position. Otherwise there would be conflict of interest.

*(Question deferred)*

*Question No.098*

#### IRREGULAR ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT PLOTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Eng. Toro is not here? That Question is dropped.

*(Question dropped)*

#### QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

##### CANCELLATION OF ATHARA FARMERS' MEETING

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

Why was the meeting for Athara Farmers Co-operative Society which was to be held at Makuyu Chief's Camp on 12th April, 2002 cancelled?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Kochalle):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the meeting was cancelled for security reasons.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Could the Assistant Minister tell the House what the indicators were, that there was no security in that area at that time?

**Mr. Kochalle:** I do not have any indicators, but the convenor of the meeting never notified the police for security coverage of the meeting. The co-operative officials had indicated in their correspondence that they feared for their lives. The proposed Annual General Meeting (AGM), was scheduled to take place at a time when a by-election was to be held at Githaiti Farmers Co-operative Society on 9th April, 2002, which was given priority because it was ordered by the Co-operatives Tribunal. It also coincided with the period of tension between Gathunguru residents and Kakuzi Limited who were the same members of Athara Farmers Co-operative Society, hence posing a security risk. It was not advisable for the meeting to proceed without elaborate security arrangements, given the violence experienced in the previous AGMs. Taking the forgoing answers into account, the officials consulted and agreed that the new date for the meeting be on 12th July, 2002. The meeting proceeded without any hitch due to elaborate security coverage and the hon. Member was also there.

**Mr. Wamae:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Assistant Minister aware that besides this company having sold shares to a land-buying company in Murang'a, shares were also sold to people in Nyeri and those people have never got their land? When will the Assistant Minister assist those farmers who bought shares in this company and have never got land or refund of their money?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the hon. Member is talking about "chairs" or "shares" of the company, but there is nothing with regard to shares in this question!

*(Laughter)*

**Dr. Murungaru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is known that land belonging to this co-operative society was sold irregularly by a bank and the Provincial Administration was at the centre of that irregular sale. Does it mean that because that irregularity took place, this co-operative society will never be allowed to hold a meeting so that the co-operators can transact business and decide on the future concerning their society? When will the Assistant Minister facilitate this meeting because it is only the members of that society who can decide about matters of their society?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, what we are talking about here is with regard to the meeting which has not taken place because of security reasons. About the land which the hon. Member is talking about, the meeting was held on 12th July, 2002. Therefore, it coincided with their meeting and everything is going on smoothly.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the meeting was held on 12th July, this year. But, could the Assistant Minister tell us why the meeting of Athara Farmers Co-operative Society is not being held within their own farm, instead it is being held within Government quarters? The first meeting was to be held at the chief's camp; and on 12th July, 2002, it was held within the DO's offices. On Friday this week, 2nd August 2002, the meeting will also be held within the DO's offices, whereas these over 5,000 farmers have their own land! Could the Assistant Minister tell us why these farmers cannot hold their meetings within their own farm?

**Mr. Kochalle:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have just said, the meeting was not held in the farmers' farm because of security reasons and that is why these meetings had to be done in the DO's offices. This is purely because of security reasons.

MEASURES TO CONTAIN HIV/AIDS  
IN MERU CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Mr. Murungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Medical Services the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the HIV/AIDS infection rate in Meru Central District is 38 per cent of the population, so far above the national average, which stands at 15 per cent of the population?

(b) In view of this alarming development which threatens Meru people with real possibilities of extinction, what specific measures is he taking to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the district?

(c) How much financial resources have been allocated to the HIV/AIDS programmes in the district during this financial year?

**The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that HIV/AIDS prevalence in Meru Central District is 26 per cent with an urban prevalence rate of 36 per cent.

(b) The Ministry has intensified advocacy in the rural areas, and has adopted a multi-sectoral approach in the fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge. An enabling environment has been created for the community-based organizations to initiate, own and run their own anti-HIV/AIDS activities.

(c) A total of Kshs4,022,498 has been allocated to HIV/AIDS programmes in Meru Central District.

**Mr. Murungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Assistant Minister for the answer. But we are very much worried in Meru because we are likely to be wiped out of the face of this earth, and we are only one million people! The whole community faces extinction, with the rate of 36 per cent HIV/AIDS prevalence. This is a very high rate!

With regard to the answer given to part "b" above, the Assistant Minister said that he has intensified advocacy, adopted a multi-sectoral approach and created an enabling environment. All these things have been done before and, instead of the rates going down, they have gone up! Could the Assistant Minister give another answer to part "b" above and tell us what concrete specific measures the Government is taking to reverse this trend because he has not told us anything new?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, like I had said before, we have actually given money to the NGOs in the area to carry out the advocacy activities. These are:- Single Mothers Against AIDS Women Group (SMAAWG), which we have given Kshs1.2 million; PCEA Kanyakinye Religious Group, CPO in South Imenti Constituency, which has received Kshs350,000; Kaaga Church-based organization in South Imenti Constituency which has also received Kshs299,250 and the Kenya Methodist University which received Kshs793,548. The good news is that surveillance is going on, and the prevalence is actually going down. We will give the results sometime in the month of August.

**Mr. Mwiraria:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House when the Kshs4 million was made available to the institutions he has named? This is because, two weeks ago, we launched the Meru Central District HIV/AIDS Control Committee and, as of that date, not a single cent had been given out.

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the money I am talking about is actually coming from the Ministry through the DARE Project, which is an on-going project. It has been going on and these people have received this money. As soon as they give us the feedback, or show us how they have used the money and we are satisfied, there are still more funds which should be given to these particular organizations to enable them enhance their activities.

**Mr. Musila:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as you are aware, is not only in Meru Central District, but it faces the whole country. You know that the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) has been doing nothing for the last three years, but to hold seminars. As I speak now, the whole of Mwingi District is in a seminar at Masinga Hotel. These seminars have gone on and on, and we do not know when they will stop so that we can reach the people at the grassroots, who are actually the victims of the HIV/AIDS scourge. Could the Assistant

Minister tell us when they will stop holding these seminars and be practical about the fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is to spread the HIV/AIDS scourge awareness to the people. We have seen the fruits of people being aware and actually changing their habits. So, the seminars will continue. But what has happened, and which we want to assure this House, is that at one time, we did not have enough funds from the World Bank for the NACC, but now the NACC has enough money. They are giving money to all the projects which had applied for it and which they have scrutinized in almost all the districts.

**Mr. Speaker:** Ask your last question, Mr. Murungi!

*(Several hon. Members stood up  
in their places)*

Hon. Members, I know how sensitive this matter is, but look at the clock!

**Mr. Murungi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the sentiments expressed by my friend, Mr. Musila. As a matter of fact, some HIV/AIDS awareness seminars facilitate the spread of the virus. After such a seminar is held, the participants do not go to their respective homes on the same day.

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Kshs4 million, could the Assistant Minister explain to this House how much money has gone to the Constituency AIDS Control Committees (CACCs), which hon. Members of this House set up? There are CACCs in North Imenti, Central Imenti and South Imenti Constituencies. How much money has he allocated to the organisations which this House set up for combating HIV/AIDS within the districts?

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, we have to hurry up now. Question Time is up! So, Mr. Assistant Minister, answer the question that has been put to you very quickly.

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speakers, Sir, I still feel that the seminars are important in the control of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

**Hon. Members:** How much money has been allocated to CACCs?

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the amount of money allocated to North Imenti, Central Imenti and South Imenti CACCs, I do not have the figures. However, I can avail them to the House soon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well! Could you ensure that you bring those figures? I think control of HIV/AIDS is a matter of life and death. Hon. Members would like to know how the funds were distributed. So, could you bring the figures on Thursday? Just bring the figures. The Question will not come up again.

**An hon. Members:** He should bring the figures relating to the whole country!

**Dr. Wako:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will bring the figures by Thursday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Dr. Wako, bring the figures for the whole country.

**Dr. Wako:** I will do so, Sir.

## POINTS OF ORDER

### DEATH OF MR. NGUGI IN POLICE CUSTODY

**Mr. Karume:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Last week, I sought a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, regarding a Mr. David Kangara Ngugi of Ndenderu, Kiambaa Constituency. Mr. Ngugi was arrested on 1st July, 2002, and taken to Karura Police Station. He was beaten up during the night and, on the morning of 2nd July, 2002, he died. We do not know how he met his death. We believe that he was killed by the police. People in the area are very disappointed; they do not know what happened. I did seek the Ministerial Statement two weeks ago, so that the matter could be clear. However, up to now, we have not heard anything on the matter. So, could the Minister tell us when he is going to issue the Ministerial Statement? If possible, I would like him to issue the Ministerial Statement in the course of the week.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Kochalle):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will ensure that the Ministerial Statement sought is issued.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could you have it issued on Thursday?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Kochalle):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will try and issue the Ministerial Statement on Thursday.

#### PROGRESS OF SUDAN PEACE PROCESS

**Mr. Imanyara:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation tell us when he is going to issue the Ministerial Statement on the Sudan Peace Process? He undertook to issue the Ministerial Statement last week.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, we are short of time. Maj. Madoka, you said that you would be ready to issue the Ministerial Statement this week. So, if you are ready, I will give you time tomorrow morning.

Let us proceed to the next Order.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read being  
the 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. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to, first of all, record my gratitude for the opportunity accorded to me to initiate debate on the Motion regarding the budgetary allocation for Vote 31, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I will start by outlining the Ministry's mandate, mission, objectives and the policy interventions in the education sub-sectors. The mandate and mission of the Ministry is to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate the development of human capital through education and training. The objective of training is mainly the fostering of national unity, preparation and equipping of the youth with relevant skills and expertise in order for them 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 the above mandate, mission and objectives, the Ministry has put in place policy intervention 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 education and training development. The co-operative strategy is aimed at minimising duplication of efforts, ensuring optimum mobilisation and utilisation of resources to achieve educational goals and objectives.

*[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry recognises the importance of pre-primary education and has instituted the broad concept of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme, which is currently addressing integrated services for children under six years with respect to communities' educational, social, health, nutrition and general access to education. In the Ministry's endeavour to reverse the declining trend in enrolment and completion rates in primary education, and meet the target of ensuring universal primary education in Kenya, the budget for the sub-sector has grown by 4 per cent in the fiscal year 2002/2003 as compared to the previous fiscal year.

Recently, the Government formulated the Fundamental Strategy for Industrial Transformation of Kenya by the Year 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. In this regard, the Ministry is addressing the declining enrolment and completion rates through the provision of bursaries to secondary school students in economically disadvantaged areas, among other intervention measures. Bursary allocation to secondary schools has increased from

Kshs536,014,147 in the 2001/2002 Financial Year to Kshs548,751,456 in the current financial year, despite the budgetary allocation reduction in the overall Government funding of the human resource development sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Development of tertiary education and training is crucial for the production of qualified manpower, which will in turn have an impact on the social and economic development of the country. My Ministry has, therefore, placed great emphasis on the provision of the necessary human and physical facilities to institutions under this category.

In this financial year, therefore, my Ministry requires Kshs54,709,058,129, and Kshs3,218,068,702 in respect of Recurrent and Development Expenditures respectively to enable it render educational services. These allocations reflect a budgetary growth of 4 per cent and 68.7 per cent in respect of Recurrent and Development Expenditures respectively, compared to the approved financial Estimates for the previous year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry's Recurrent Budget comprises of nine Sub-Votes. The total allocation to these Sub-Votes is Kshs54,709,058,129, and is distributed 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 Kshs45,287,721,415, which is distributed to seven Heads as follows. Head 834, Headquarters Administrative Services, has been allocated Kshs254,434,006. This amount is required for provision of services at the headquarters, payment of personal emoluments, operations, maintenance and transport. Head 835, Headquarters Professional and Administrative Services, falls directly under the Director of Education. The amount allocated to this Head is for payment of salaries and meeting the costs of operations and maintenance as well as transport. Head 836, Curriculum Support Services, falls under the Inspectorate Department. The provision to this Head is for the payment of salaries and meeting the costs of operations and maintenance, among other expenses.

Under Head 837, we have provincial offices and we require Kshs53,201,504. The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO will give provincial offices a grant of Kshs19,257,221, and the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) will receive a grant of Kshs332,941,913. This is not the total amount of money which is required for examinations in the country. The total budget for examinations is Kshs1.2 billion. The balance of Kshs800 million will come from examination fees.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) requires Kshs43,620,044,609, mainly to pay salaries. The Item on teachers salaries is split into various sectors, which are directly under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We have a component which falls under Vocational Training, but the money for payment of all teachers is channelled through the TSC. Under Head 849, the Permanent Presidential Commission on Music, we require Kshs16,017,895 to carry out music documentation and promote music in this country.

*(Loud consultations)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, hon. Members! May I ask that you consult quietly, so that we can hear what the Minister is saying?

**The Minister for Education** (Mr. Kosgey): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Head 862, District Administrative Services, we have 70 district education offices in the country. We require Kshs745,777,088 to run the offices, pay salaries for members of staff and also for operation, maintenance and transport. Under the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), we require Kshs105,743,930. This amount is for curriculum development and the administration of the KIE. This is a very important institute because it deals with our curriculum development, and printing educational materials. Under Head 901, the National Council for Science and Technology, we require Kshs48,609,681 mainly for salaries, operation and maintenance and also subscriptions to various bodies.

Sub-Vote 311 comprises mainly of poverty reduction and development programmes under primary education. This Sub-Vote requires Kshs742,152,729 to finance primary schools boarding expenses. We have a few boarding primary schools, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. We require Ksh86,616,880 for the Kenya School Equipment Scheme. Through this scheme, we provide books to various schools. All the 70 districts in the country have been covered under this programme. We will now extend this programme to provide books for Standards One and Five and Form One under the new curriculum. A total of Kshs506,880,411 is required for this. We will get a similar figure from the Department for International Development of the British Government.

Under the School Feeding Programme, we require a total of Kshs148,655,438. This is mainly for transport because food is provided by the World Food Programme (WFP). We cover 21 districts on a regular basis, and when the programme is expanded, another 16 districts will be covered. This is a very good programme because as you know, you cannot learn well unless you are well-fed. So, nutrition is very important for proper learning.

Sub-Vote 312 covers programmes and activities of teacher education. Under this Sub-Vote, a total of Kshs142,846,979 is required to cater for administrative costs and grants to colleges. We have 21 primary teacher training colleges, and we require Kshs99,947,179 to run them. The Kenya Science Teachers College requires

Kshs20,938,000. Kagumo Teachers College requires Kshs21,961,800.

These amounts of money are very small and are mainly required to cover operation, maintenance and miscellaneous costs. The rest of the cost required to run these colleges comes from fees.

Under Sub-Vote 313, Schools for the Handicapped, we require Kshs120,408,692 to cater for the following institutions:- post-primary schools, for example, Machakos and Karen post-primary schools. These special institutions require Kshs19,297,500. Special secondary schools, for example, Thika and Mombasa special secondary schools, require Kshs21,912,000. There are quite a number of special primary schools and we require Kshs39,342,000 to run them. We train special teachers at the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE). The special teachers are further trained after the initial two-year training. KISE will require Kshs39,857,192.

We have two programmes of miscellaneous nature under Sub-Vote 314, which will require a total of Kshs239,850,935 to cater for bursaries, scholarships and subsidies for education attache. We require Kshs216,696,835, mainly for the operations of our overseas offices, and also to pay bursaries and scholarships to overseas students.

Under Head 854, we have contributions towards local and international institutions. We subscribe to institutions that we are affiliated to, or from which we get services. We require a total of Kshs23,154,100 for these contributions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry puts special emphasis on the development of pre-primary education. I had the privilege of giving each district, under this programme, a vehicle. So, each of the 70 districts has a vehicle. In this respect, we require Kshs7,406,583. This amount of money will be required under Sub-Vote 315, Head 816, Field Training Services. We train or retrain early childhood teachers, so that they can teach the young ones.

Under Sub-Vote 316, Secondary Education, Head 800, we require Kshs695,018,800, of which bursaries to needy students will take Kshs514,751,456. We will work out a formula to ensure that each school gets bursary money and it will be up to boards of governors to make sure that needy students benefit from bursaries. I am glad to report that this year, according to the reports that we have got, the Kshs536 million which we distributed in the last financial year, was spent well and schools, boards of governors and even the parents are quite happy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we require Kshs80 million for grants to secondary schools in ASAL areas. We still give out little grants for development in ASAL area schools. For insurance premiums for public vehicles in schools in order to ensure that public schools have vehicles for administrative requirements, we require Kshs60 million. The bursary programme under the Ministry, as I said, is a poverty reduction item which has been ring-fenced. "Ring fenced" means it will not be touched in any way. It will remain a constant figure.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Sub-Vote 317, Technical Education, we require Kshs938,531,337. The allocation will finance administrative costs of managing technical education, including our polytechnics and technical institutions. The amount will be distributed as follows: Headquarters Professional Services which include the Office of the Technical Director - Kshs12,414,410; Curriculum Support Services and curriculum development within the technical services sector - Kshs5,153,474; Provincial Services where we have provincial technical training offices - Kshs2,586,253; the four national polytechnics of Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu and Eldoret - Kshs325,624,141; Kenya Technical Teachers College at Gigiri -Kshs85,069,520 while the 19 technical training institutes will require Kshs507,683,539. Most of these figures are for paying salaries for staff including teachers within those technical institutions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, under the Recurrent Estimates, University Sub-Vote 318 which consists of public universities, Commission for Higher Education and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and the Student Loan and Bursary Programmes under HELB are co-poverty programmes which target students from poor families have been allocated a combined total figure of Kshs690,825,600 which reflects an increase of 1.6 per cent compared to last year's figure of Kshs680 million. The Sub- Vote will require a total of Kshs6,534,980,659 distributed as follows: Commission for Higher Education - Kshs99,606,852. This body takes care of the standards, licences and issues letters to those new universities and so forth. The University of Nairobi will require Kshs1,653,860,014 and Kenyatta University - Kshs863,304,528. The University Loan Scheme (HELB) will require Kshs87,775,488. This figure is small and we are aware of it. However, there is a recovery figure from past loans; of Kshs600 million. The total figure which is required under HELB is Kshs778,601,088. Egerton University will require Kshs1,043,297,134; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) - Kshs587,734,338; Maseno University - Kshs398,534,140 and Moi University - Kshs1,09,993,565 of which Kshs79,680 is for WECO College.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I may quickly run through the Development Vote, I will require a gross total figure of Kshs3,218,068,702 of which Kshs612,402,440 will be from the Kenya Government and Kshs2.6 billion will be externally sourced. It will be distributed as follows: General Administration and Planning - Kshs781,494,114; Administrative Services at the Headquarters - Kshs25 million under the STEPS Programme. Under Curriculum Support Services, under the DFID Programme, which caters for books, we will require Kshs510,500,000; Strengthening of Mathematics (SMASSE) will require Kshs50 million from the Japanese Government; The Teachers

Service Commission Technical Support - Kshs70 million; Construction of Mitihani House, which has a pending bill, will require Kshs43,694,114; The Kenya Institute of Education, under purchase of school broadcasting equipment, since we are reviving the school broadcast, will require Kshs42,300,000. To pay for airtime we will require Kshs40 million. Primary Education, Head 844 for primary schools - Kshs58 million and the School Feeding Programme for these 21 districts and 16 districts under the Expanded Programme will require Kshs488,485,062.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sub-Vote 312 - Teacher Education, will require Kshs784,665,492 to be spent on primary teachers training colleges. This is for developing small items including finishing of the construction of Taita-Taveta College in Voi. Early Childhood Care under the World Bank Education Programme or credit will require Kshs763,196,000. Under Sub-Vote 316, Secondary Education, we will require Kshs52,190,854 mainly to purchase laboratory equipment for schools. An amount of Kshs38 million is a grant from the Italian Government to the Kenya Polytechnic. Under Sub-Vote 318, I will require Kshs956,916,180 for university education mainly for sewerage and so forth. Egerton University for development purposes will require Kshs232,380,169 while JKUAT will require Kshs691,471 for capacity building. There is an institute being built at JKUAT called the African Institute for Capacity Development which is being financed by the Japanese Government. Maseno University will require Kshs6,569,000 while Moi University will require Kshs26,496,011 mainly for sewerage.

Owing to budgetary constraints, there are many stalled projects in the universities which we are not able to fund during this financial year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government and this House for voting monies to the Ministry in the past. We would also like to thank other major development partners such as DFID, the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Japanese Government, the European Union and UNICEF among others, who have contributed significantly to this sector. In addition to the significant contribution by the Kenya Government and the donor community, I wish to recognise the contribution by the Kenyan community, including parents, teachers, Board of Governors (BOGs) and so forth.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Your time is up!

**The Minister for Education** (Mr. Kosgey): I am just concluding, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, by thanking all those who have contributed to the development of this sector.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

**The Minister for Energy** (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand up to second the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, recognising the fact that human development or human capital is very important in the overall process of our economic development.

The mission and objective of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is to promote human capital development, and as such, we should accord it budgetary resources. In fact, I do think that if all the needs of the Ministry were to be addressed, then we should be talking about a budget that is basically even more than double what has been provided for. I would, therefore, like to urge hon. Members to pass this very limited budget, which goes a long way towards addressing the problem of education.

If you look at the actual Budget, you will find that it is heavily skewed in favour of Recurrent Expenditure as opposed to the Development Vote. The Recurrent Expenditure is about Kshs54.7 billion whereas the Development Vote is only Kshs3.2 billion. Out of the Kshs54.7 billion for Recurrent Expenditure, Kshs44 billion will go towards teachers' salaries and wages. It is, therefore, important to recognise the fact that, despite the huge amount going to the teachers' salaries, we have a problem that is currently going on about the teachers' salary adjustments. But this cannot be met by the Government because of the limited Budget. I would, therefore, wish to congratulate all the stakeholders; the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), the Government and all other stakeholders, who have seen the need to negotiate and reach what is possibly an agreed kind of solution, which is also consistent with the available resources in the Budget. I, therefore, do hope that in the near future, an agreement will be reached between the teaching fraternity and the Government to cater for some limited kind of increment in the salaries.

Further, I would like to recognise the fact that some cognizance has been made on the Poverty Reduction Programme. If you look at the bursaries that are being provided for the needy students, I think this is a good step. I wish there were more provisions made for that line of expenditure because of the poverty particularly in the rural areas. The other poverty reduction programme that is in the Budget, and which needs support, is the provision of facilities for the handicapped and disabled. I think more provisions should have been made for that. But, again, because of the overall limitation on the available resources, what has been provided for will go a long way towards helping our handicapped children.

The other area that I think is important and has been captured in the Budget is the School Feeding Programme. This programme has been going on for sometime and I think it has gone a long way in assisting students from poor families who cannot afford three meals a day, but at least, they expect to get something from the school.

At the primary school level, the challenges we have are the low enrolment rate and the retention rate; the



enrolment after taking into account the dropout. The major problems related to the low enrolment rate have to do with poverty and HIV/AIDS, and they require resources. Therefore, when more resources become available, I hope that we can expand the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to cater for these very important and deserving categories of citizens.

I do know that we have a problem with the overall distribution of teachers both at the primary and secondary school level. We recognise that there are areas which are overstaffed, while others are understaffed. The Ministry should try and iron out this unevenness to make sure that teachers in areas which are overstaffed are transferred to areas which are understaffed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in concluding my contribution, I wish to emphasize to hon. Members that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is very important in the human development sector. I would like to propose that, in future, we should have a very substantial portion of its Vote ring-fenced because of its very direct impact on poverty reduction.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Wamae:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to respond to the Vote of this very important Ministry. I agree with the two previous speakers that this is a key Ministry and no development can take place without investing heavily in education. All countries which have developed, including the Far East; the Tigers, have done so because they have put a lot of resources in education and particularly in the study of Science and Mathematics. I hope that the Ministry will ensure that this is done.

It is true that, in terms of expenditure, this Ministry takes the largest share; Kshs54 billion out of Kshs167 billion in the Budget. It is very high, but there is no alternative to this. I do not think we want to reduce this Vote. But we would like to ensure that there is maximum and optimal utilisation of the resources available to the Ministry. We want to have quality education and also ensure that we have teachers wherever they are required. As the Minister may be aware, there is a shortage of nearly 20,000 teachers and they are only recruiting 5,000 this time. This means that several schools will still be understaffed. I support the current policy of the Ministry of allowing the BOGs to recruit teachers locally where they are really needed. This will ensure that only teachers who can stay in those schools are recruited, but we should not sacrifice the quality of our education. If there are no teachers available locally, we should recruit teachers from any part of the country. The BOGs should be informed that, although they have the power to hire teachers, they should not recruit unqualified teachers.

One major problem which has been there for a long time and which is affecting the morale of our teachers is the issue of their salaries. This matter has been going on since 1997. It is high time this matter was brought to a conclusion. We cannot go on postponing it from time to time. I know a Committee has been set up by the Minister to negotiate with the KNUT. I hope this matter will be expedited so that we can reach some kind of understanding so that teachers will not continue agitating for this agreement which was made in an irresponsible manner by the Ministry. The Government knew it did not have the resources, but since the 1997 elections were approaching, they were prepared to sacrifice the teachers' welfare by making promises which they knew they could not fulfil. This matter must now be corrected once and for all. I hope the Government will not make such promises again this year because the elections are near when it knows it cannot fulfil them. The Government should just agree to demands that can be met. If it is not possible to fulfil those demands, they should say so.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many areas in this country where there is poverty and the Government even said that it would provide school feeding programmes in some of these areas. Most people in those areas are under famine relief and, therefore, the parents cannot build schools or provide desks and other essentials. There is no provision in these Estimates to assist those areas. We would like to see such a provision in these estimates. How do you expect somebody who is on famine relief and whose child is on a school feeding programme to raise money to build schools? Let us allocate some money to address this issue in the next Budget.

With the limited resources that we have - and parents are sacrificing a lot particularly those paying for secondary school education - we want to ensure that there is continuous audit in schools. There are some principals who have misused school funds in many ways. There has also been misuse of resources even in some of the high cost and national schools a few years ago. This problem went on for too long because there was no proper audit being carried out. We should ensure that every secondary school has its accounts audited at least every year to ensure that money contributed by parents is used properly. The Kshs545 million provided for bursaries is very useful, but we lack general criteria on how this money is to be dished out to the students. The Ministry should issue guidelines on the criteria to be used in the distribution of bursaries. The beneficiaries of these bursaries should have their names displayed in the school notice board to ensure that this is done in a transparent manner. This should be made a

requirement so that those students who did not get the bursaries can know the whole process was done transparently. Otherwise, the bursaries can be misused and abused by the principals and some chairmen of the Boards of Governors. We would like to avoid that kind of situation as much as possible.

One other area which is posing a problem relates to Education Officers. They are spending money, but most of them do not even have transport. Most primary schools use the activity fund to pay for the Education Officers' transport when they go out for visits. We should provide them with sufficient money to move around and visit schools. The money for Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) is a very important aspect and it should be augmented. There is a shortfall of nearly Kshs500 million. We should have a special tax, a rotary system or a kind of education fund to finance this programme to ensure that all the students who need it are helped. Although Kshs600 million is being collected and Kshs500 million is now being allocated towards this Fund in the Estimates, there is still a gap between their requirements and what they are able to get. We should augment this fund by another programme. I am not saying that we should decrease it from the Budget because it is a loan scheme. We should find a way of doing this. For example, the Government can issue a special Bond to fund the HELB. This should be done as a matter of urgency.

One thing that worried me very much, when I visited our universities, are the many stalled projects. You will find these stalled projects in Nairobi, Egerton, Maseno and Moi universities. Why did we approve so many projects when we did not have the money? We started so many projects and now they have stalled. Some of them are 20 per cent or 80 per cent complete. The professional fees for these projects have been paid and the contractors who stopped working because they were not being paid are still claiming pending bills. We should find out what should be done now about these pending projects. Even Egerton University, where our present Permanent Secretary of this Ministry was the Vice-Chancellor, has stalled projects everywhere. There are hostels, classrooms and other projects which have stalled. This is a disgrace!

We have spent money on these projects and yet they are not useful to our people. We cannot go on postponing the finalisation of these projects any longer because we used resources to start them and they are not helping anybody because they have stalled. Can we do something about this problem because the Minister did not mention it? I hope when the Minister comes to reply, he will address this matter because it is an embarrassment to us, the country, students and the university community. Some of them are using money from the parallel programmes to finish some of those projects satisfactorily. A long-term solution must be found because billions of shillings have been tied up in those stalled projects.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one other area I would like to mention is the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). We are spending Kshs124 million to rent offices for the TSC. This is a lot of money. Why can we not build offices for the TSC? In five years they will be able to pay for those offices. Why do you have to go on renting premises for the TSC at an amount of Kshs124 million? This payment of such exorbitant rents is only helping an individual. If we intended to do so, we would have bought that building by now. This is an unwarranted expenditure. If the Government has no other options, then let us build premises for them. We can even borrow money from banks and pay it in five years. Let them have a building which eventually belongs to them instead of paying rent every year because you will continue paying rent forever. I believe a building worth Kshs500 million is sufficient for them. This is another expenditure which I would say is a corrupt deal and should not be there. I hope the Minister will say something about it because it is very embarrassing to us to see that sort of money being paid every year without exception for an unlimited period of time.

On science, I would like to say that we are very embarrassed, as a Parliament and a country, because when we enacted the Industrial Property Bill, 2001, into law, somebody amended a small section through the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill which is now an Act, to block parallel importation of HIV/AIDS drugs. This was mischievous and it shows that somebody had a personal interest to make money by continuing to import expensive drugs from patent holders. A patent holder cannot give you permission to do generic production of those drugs. This falls under science and technology and that is why I am mentioning it now. This matter was brought before our Departmental Committee on Education, Research and Technology. I think the Ministers for Trade and Industry, Education, Science and Technology and Health and the Attorney-General are all responsible for that mess. Our people are dying like flies. We just heard here this afternoon that 36 per cent of people in urban centres in Meru, are HIV-positive and they cannot afford the drugs because they are too expensive. When we tried to find a solution, by bringing here a Bill to allow the importation of generic drugs from countries like India, Thailand and Brazil, somebody went behind our backs and made an amendment to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act to prevent the importation of these drugs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter and it should be given the attention that it requires because it comes under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I hope the Minister will mention about it when he replies to this Motion.

Right now, the whole world has got genetically-modified foods, and we need to have a programme in this

field. This is about bio-technology. This is an area that we are going into now, and there is no way we can run away from technology. In fact, we had a seminar in Mombasa on this issue. We are going to Johannesburg to confirm that we are going into this programme. But in Kenya, we have never had a Sessional Paper on this issue; to educate parliamentarians on the issues of safety and so forth. How are we going to introduce them to Kenya?

We need to work on this programme very urgently. If we can produce maize without the borer and without having to spend a lot of money - and at a lower cost - why do we not introduce that technology? Other crops like cotton, sweet potatoes and bananas should also benefit. Why have we not introduced this technology to our farmers? It has been available for the last 15 years in other parts of the world. We are now behind because the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is behind in coming up with innovations. I do not know why we have to drag them all the time. This is an area we hope will be looked into.

The National Council for Science and Technology has all the information required. Why can the Ministry not bring a Sessional Paper to us in this House? We can debate this Sessional Paper and, based on that, the Ministry can come up with a Bill which will formalize how this technology can be brought to Kenya. This is a matter that we cannot wait any longer because the cost of production of maize and some other crops is too high. That is why we cannot compete. Let us find out how we can reduce the cost of production of this item through science and technology and compete with the rest of the world. We cannot go on subsidizing our own farmers when technology will allow lower production costs on some of our agricultural commodities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister mentioned about overseas scholarships. Where are these scholarships? Who gets them? As far as I know, in my constituency and Nyeri District, I am not aware of any student who has ever got those scholarships. Who gets these scholarships for overseas education, unless there are students from Nandi and Baringo districts? This is because that is where the Minister and the President come from. What else can I say? Who else gets these scholarships? This is because we thought these scholarships had been stopped a long time ago. It is part of the Budget which we are now about to pass. Who gets these scholarships and for what type of education? Whereas other parents are busy doing *Harambees* in order to send their children abroad, there are some who are very lucky. They get scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. What is the criteria used by the Ministry to give these scholarships? Can you make it public so that everybody knows what the criteria is?

How many students do we now have abroad on scholarships? This is because these are not scholarships given by other government; they are scholarships given from our own resources. We want to know who gets these scholarships because it is a very important area and we think that there is a mischief in granting of these scholarships. In fact, we would like to see the list of those who are getting these scholarships and where they come from to ensure that it is being fairly done, not on tribal and ethnic basis, but purely on merit and for courses and programmes which are not available in our private and public universities in Kenya. Otherwise, let us have them abolished, if they cannot justify that criteria. I think we need to support more of these tertiary institutions; diploma courses for medical colleges of technology and so forth. This is because those are the very key people. We cannot have only scientists. We need people below; at the diploma level, because most of our students who do the KCSE cannot go to our local universities. Let us expand this programme to accommodate these other tertiary institutions and find a way where we can accommodate more students. Even if there are no jobs for them - as we are doing in teacher training colleges - let us train them. They can look for jobs for themselves or go to the *Jua Kali* sector or start their own programmes. Education is important on its own. We have too many students who cannot go to university and we do not have enough programmes for them as yet. We need to expand that programme much more than we are doing now.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we are happy with the way the Ministry has been managed and is conducting its affairs. We think more can be done. I have mentioned the areas which need to be looked into. We also need to ensure that there is more inspection of our schools, both in secondary and primary schools. We also need to look at the university and make sure that we finish those stalled projects and see how we can complete them because they are necessary.

In fact, on that account, I would like to say that I strongly support the parallel degree programme. It is a very good programme and it has enabled our universities have additional resources, even support the other students who are formal students. There was a time when electricity was being cut in some of our universities, but those can now be paid through the income of the parallel programmes.

Secondly, instead of investing and sending students abroad, that money remains here in Kenya. Let us also admit students from other countries who want to come to our universities. Let us have a fees structure for them so that they can bring in foreign currency. That also should be encouraged.

We have spent so much of our resources in sending our students abroad. Now that we have some public and private universities - reasonable number - let us start encouraging students from other countries, particularly from the COMESA countries and the Great Lakes region to come and have higher education in our country and we charge our

fees in foreign currency not in Kenya shillings. That serves as a source of income. We have spent a lot of our money in sending students to America, India and Britain. Now, it is time when we should start getting some of those investments back.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, an education can be a resource; to bring foreign currency to this country. Let us have someone in the Ministry who will be charged with this responsibility of opening up avenues for students to come from other countries to study here as part of our economic development. This has not been done by the Ministry. The Minister has not looked at this. I hope the Ministry will start looking at this issue and have officers responsible for this programme. We can earn a lot of money out of this type of education. We are not doing it! I think it is something which we need to do very urgently. It will be good for everybody.

I know a lot of hon. Members want to contribute on this Motion and, therefore, I am not going to speak any further, except to say that I support the Motion.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Muchilwa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, education is a fundamental requirement for human beings, because it provides knowledge which is the cornerstone of civilization. Without education, there cannot be meaningful development. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Without any fear of contradiction, I can say that the reason why Kenya is an economic power in this region is that, soon after Independence, our people realised the importance of education. They, therefore, started Harambee schools and raised a lot of money to start new schools and expand existing ones. They also raised money to send children abroad to learn. This is why we have no shortage of manpower, and any investor who wishes to invest in this country finds readily available manpower that can easily be trained. Therefore, Government expenditure on the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is properly warranted.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one thing which we need to do and yet we are not doing; we should start special schools to take care of special talents. Sports is one of the biggest money spinners in the world today. The recently concluded World Cup Tournament in Korea and Japan gave us a glimpse of the kind of money that those football stars are earning. According to Press reports, some of them earn as much as Kshs12 million a week. It would take some of our professors, probably, ten years or more to get hold of that kind of money. The majority of those stars are where they are because they went through special schools or academies to acquire those skills. We should, therefore, be able to start special schools like football academies so that we can end up with young people who can turn into world football stars and can play for the world like the others are doing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is well known in the field of athletics. Even as I speak, they are doing wonders in Manchester. Why do we not cash in on this, so that we end up with more world beaters? We have got plenty of talent in this country, but we lack training facilities. The money that sports stars earn is the same money that we get from exporting coffee, tea, pyrethrum or from tourism. We have got plenty of talent. Kenya was the first African country to win an Olympic Gold medal in boxing through the late Robert Wangila. He did it very convincingly by knocking out his French opponent. There are very many Wangilas in this country, who, if trained, could do the same. If we develop them, then our youth can be in a position to earn a decent living for themselves, and also be in a position to develop Kenya. We have, therefore, to wake up to the reality of the situation and not just be like a horse with blinkers, by training people in one area only. We should tap all talents.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to activity fees in schools, parents are charged a lot of money as activity fee, yet that money disappears. When it comes to attending national events in Nairobi, many of the children usually live in very appalling conditions. Some of them are sexually abused because of that, and often hon. Members of Parliament are asked to chip in, in order to rescue the children. Why should we allow this situation to happen? The Ministry of Education should put up a proper audit system, whereby any money raised from parents is properly accounted for. The Ministry of Education should have in their Vote, an item that caters for bringing children to Nairobi to compete in music festivals or sports activities. Soon they will be having the music festival in Nairobi, and hon. Members of Parliament are already being harassed to raise money for such activities. If they know that they have no money, why should they ask parents to let their children travel to Nairobi for music festivals and so on, so that the children get stranded and abused? This is one area which really needs to be looked into. It is very important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Teachers Service Commission is doing a very good job under Mr. Sogomo. But when teachers retire, it is very difficult for them to get their dues on time. I believe this is because TSC is not properly computerised, and so their records are not in order. It is important that TSC be provided with modern equipment for keeping records, so that when people retire, they do not have to bribe for a file to be traced. Usually, teachers' files are lost until they produce some little money. That sort of thing should not be allowed to happen.

Finally, the Government negotiated with the teachers about their salaries. It is true that our economy cannot at

the moment afford what the Government promised them, but a promise is a debt. If we cannot raise the money that we promised them, at least we should sit down with the teachers, explain to them what is happening and give them some little money, however small, and then give them a programme of what we think we are going to do in the future, so that they have hope. But to leave them just hanging around, and telling them that it is unaffordable, is not good enough, because they are not properly motivated. If they are not properly motivated, it means they cannot teach and whatever amount of money we are spending on their salaries is wasted. So, rather than waste the money by paying them for doing a bad job because they are frustrated, we should sit down with them and explain to them what is happening, and also give them some little money that the Government can afford and promise them more when the time comes.

I beg to support.

**Mr. Obwocha:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. On the onset, I respect the Ministry because it is normally run by professionals. It is like the Ministry of Health. When I looked at the Recurrent Expenditure, I noticed that the Office of the President has Kshs18 billion; Defence - Kshs14.3 billion; Ministry of Roads and Public Works - Kshs3.6 billion; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Kshs6.3 billion; Ministry of Health - Kshs4.6 billion, and the National Security Intelligence Service - Kshs2.8 billion. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has Kshs52.6 billion. That tells you how important the Ministry is.

I would like to say that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) takes Kshs43.6 billion out of that amount and, yet, right now, the TSC has two major problems. One problem has just been mentioned by the previous speaker. When a teacher retires, it sometimes takes six years to get his or her money. I asked a Question about a teacher called Mr. Nyariki in 1996. Can you imagine that man was paid last week? It takes five years! There is something the TSC must do to streamline its filing system, so that the teachers do not wait that long for their money.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would have expected the Minister for Education to make a policy statement in this House about the teachers' remuneration issue. He should not talk in Harambees! How much money are the teachers asking for? The Minister is not implementing what the teachers are asking for. How much money is being asked for by the teachers? Even Parliament does not know! We expected, at least, Phase I to be implemented. In fact, we should implement Phase I because that is really about Kshs3 billion. So, you have that money. Out of the Kshs52.6 billion, you have Kshs9 billion set aside for equipment and other uses. So, the Minister should tell us what the teachers are asking for. He should implement Phase II of that scheme. Thirdly, still on that issue, there is going to be recruitment of teachers. We expect a transparent exercise, where qualified teachers are employed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since there are many issues on education, I would like to tackle one, two or three issues.

The major problem in our schools is lack of audit, and yet we have the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya. They can provide private auditors if the Minister needs them. Let us get the schools audited, so that the funds that are given to the schools are properly accounted for. Failure by schools to meet standards is partly because the money given to schools is not accounted for. There are no books of accounts and there is nothing being done there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the School Feeding Programme has Kshs144 million. As far as I know, the only areas that are justified to get food are the arid and semi-arid areas. Otherwise, the programme killed the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC). So, let us be told clearly what the Ministry's policy is on the School Feeding Programme. There are areas where schools need the food and should be catered for. A new scheme should be worked out in other areas by the Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to join other Members by saying that the bursary issue is very contentious! The bursaries being given should be channelled to schools, where the teachers should provide names of the students that should get the bursaries. But the major fundamental issue is: What are the proper laid-down procedures which are followed in giving out those bursaries? On top of that, as Mr. Wamae said, there is money set aside for scholarships. How many students from West Mugirango have received those scholarships? I do not know the criteria for awarding the scholarships. I believe I am speaking on behalf of other Members of Parliament. I do not think they know the procedures of issuing the scholarships. We need to know who are getting those scholarships and for what, in a transparent manner. We need to give scholarships to bright children who can undertake courses that are not provided in this country. They can go to good universities like Cambridge, Oxford, Sussex, Harvard and others that are known. Those scholarships should not be given to somebody who is going to do some "penguin courses" which are being offered at Kenyatta University.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I saw some Kshs30 million being requested for pending bills. I believe that is an issue that this country wants to know. The proper person who should have answered that is the Minister for Finance. What is the current policy on pending bills? There are just too many! The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has killed polytechnics. Why am I saying that? It is because they do not have a policy of paying

teachers and instructors. What is happening in those polytechnics? I believe the education people are listening. They need to find out what has gone wrong with our polytechnics, and how we can address whatever is ailing the polytechnics.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has got almost Kshs700 million. The other day, we were told there was between Kshs6 billion and Kshs9 billion outstanding. Why are we giving the HELB money? I know that we need to finance higher education, but I believe that is an institution which should be told that it should be self-sufficient. It should get the right people to chase those who owe the money and they will get it. The people who benefitted from that scheme are working. Let us get it right.

I would like to talk about the Schools Inspectorate Department in Nyamira and all over Kenya. Those people are not sufficiently equipped. They have no vehicles. How can you inspect schools if you do not have vehicles? I hope the Minister for Education is listening! Please, send a vehicle to Nyamira District to improve the education standards. I would like to congratulate the Minister for bringing a new District Education Officer (DEO) there. I hope he will carry out the recruitment exercise transparently and address the issue of inspection. But in so doing, please, give him a vehicle.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to finish by saying: Let us have a policy on the primary teachers training colleges. There are so many students who have graduated from those colleges. They have been out for up to five years and they have never been employed. Right now, you have advertised for a few vacancies. Maybe, a few of them who are lucky and have a little money to bribe will get the jobs. But what is the policy of the Ministry? Do you want them to train in the private teachers training colleges or not? The other day, the Ministry re-activated the teachers training colleges because there is a shortage of teachers in our schools. Many teachers are retiring, while others are dying from the HIV/AIDS scourge. What is the Ministry's policy right now? Will those colleges continue to train teachers or not? Will private teachers training colleges continue to train teachers or not? What will the Ministry do with the already qualified teachers from the teachers training colleges?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country expects the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to provide quality education, instead of putting emphasis on quantity. We want good education for our children. If the curriculum is geared towards producing professionals in this country, then we will be very happy. But we need enough teachers to do that. We would like to see education standards raised in every district and province. This is what we are asking the Ministry to do.

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

**Mr. Angwenyi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Vote.

First, I would like to state that I support this Vote with some reservation. My reservation is that we have not given them adequate resources to run this important sector of our country. Any country which does not provide quality education to its citizens is doomed. You remember, when we attained Independence, we identified ignorance as one of the biggest enemies of this country. At one time, we were about to conquer ignorance. However, in the last ten years, since the introduction of the so-called cost-sharing policy in our schools, we seem to be losing the fight against ignorance. Enrolment in our educational institutions has declined. It is a pity that those who finish universities and other colleges education do not get employment. So, those two factors are compounding our fight against ignorance.

The Ministry is being run by professionals. In recent times, it has become quite clear that this is one of the best run Ministries in this country. The Minister is somebody who listens to people who approach him on matters pertaining to education. Additionally, both the Permanent Secretary and the Director are educationists. We have got very qualified manpower at the top management of the Ministry. However, we have not given them adequate resources to employ their professionalism, so that they can provide quality education to our people.

I am particularly concerned about the problem of cost-sharing in our schools at this time when the proportion of our people living below the poverty line has increased from 14 per cent to 69 per cent. How do we expect them to share the cost of education while they cannot afford to buy a pen or an exercise book, leave alone textbooks, for their children? I would urge the Ministry to devote adequate resources to the provision of learning materials in primary and secondary schools, and even to universities.

The problem of teachers' salaries still hangs around the neck of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I moved a Motion in this Parliament on teachers' salaries even before the 1997 agreement. I told the Ministry to devote a certain amount of their resources to this issue. For example, if I were the Minister, I could give an increment of about Kshs2,000 to every teacher in the country. We know there are about 250,000 teachers; that will amount to about Kshs6 billion a year. The Ministry should have approached the Treasury to cut expenses in areas where corruption is rampant in order to avail money to this Ministry to increase teachers' salaries by a minimum of about Kshs2,000 to every teacher per month. They will only incur additional expenditure of Kshs6 billion. In that way, we would solve the teachers' salaries problem for the time being.

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

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

My fellow colleagues have talked about teachers training colleges. Recently, there was admission of students to those colleges. The minimum qualification was raised from a D Plus to a C Minus. You cannot change policies mid-way. The Ministry should have given Kenyans enough notice to do so. They should have told them that this is what they will do in the next two or three years from now, so that they can plan and work hard for it. I earnestly request the Ministry to put aside that requirement for another one or two years, so that our people are prepared for it. We do not want to ambush them. We must provide them with enough time to plan their activities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount of money allocated to bursaries is not enough. At a time when our country is economically grinding to a halt because our people have been impoverished, we should avail such a public facility to assist them to overcome the difficult times. This is the time the Ministry would have allocated more money to bursaries to assist bright students from poor families in our schools. I have noticed here that they have asked for a similar amount of money as in the previous years. I believe they will ask for the same in the next financial year. It looks like they are not appreciating the fact that our country is facing economic problems and our people have been improvised. We do not want to make education available only to people who can afford it. We want to avail it to every Kenyan. Therefore, I believe that the Ministry will request for more bursary funds to assist our bright children from poor families in our schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of my colleagues requested the Ministry to send bursaries to schools. I think that is what is happening currently. I am surprised that the Minister did not tell him that. Right now, they send the money to the district education board, which then releases it to individual schools. It is the schools which mess up with the bursary funds. I hope the Ministry will insist that hon. Members are represented in this forum to ensure that the money is fairly distributed to the bright children from poor families.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the HELB cannot be self-sufficient. Some of us benefited from the HELB, but to date, we have not repaid our loans. We should allocate adequate resources to the HELB because it helps students from poor families to get university education. In fact, we should allocate more resources to the HELB so that we can even give loans to students who join approved private universities. We should even give loans to people who join parallel programmes in the universities and, mid-way, they discover that they are not able to finance their programmes.

With regard to universities, we would like to have a university in every region of this country. The Kisii campus is collapsing. I do not know where the problem lies. If it is lack of land, the administration of that institution should approach us, as leaders of that area, so that we can allocate it land from Kisii High School, the Coffee Research Station and the primary school next to it, so that, that institution can become a constituent college or a full-fledged university.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, technical education has not been expanded adequately in this country. The Kenya, Mombasa and Eldoret Polytechnics are doing a very good job. But we do not allocate adequate courses to these polytechnics. I would like to propose that we establish a national polytechnic in Kisii to provide technical education for the people of south-western region of this country.

My colleague, Mr. Wamae, referred to the issue of rent paid by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). We have got vacant offices at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Building and the Times Tower. I would like to urge the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to re-locate the TSC from the building where it is paying a lot of money, to one of those buildings which are vacant. The money saved can be used to give bursaries to our students. On the aspect of scholarships, the Ministry should advertise those scholarships in the entire country and give people adequate time so that they can apply for them. When the Ministry receives the applications, it should consider them on merit.

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

**Mr. Munyasia:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would also like to take this opportunity to support this particular Vote. At the outset, we have seen that the money that has been allocated to this Vote is too little. In view of what the Ministry does and the number of people it cares for, this Vote is too little. The Votes for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Health should be increased.

Having said that, there are just a few things that I would like to point out. First, I would like to talk about the universities. The universities will receive some money, but we would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the

wastage that we see in those institutions of higher learning. For instance, the Ministry built the Lessos Technical Institute, which I do not think has ever been occupied. At the moment, the building is complete. The buildings have been painted and everything has been installed, but they are lying idle. This is the case, and yet there is no space in Moi University. So, I wonder why this wastage should go on. Why does the Ministry not turn the Lessos Technical Institute into one of the areas which Moi University should use?

If you go to Egerton University, you will find hostels which have been completed three-quarters way. This Ministry should urgently complete these hostels because if they will not, this university will continue to waste students' time. This is because every student who is admitted to Egerton University knows that he or she will take his or her first degree in five years. This is because for one full academic year, he or she must be sent home because of lack of space. If those hostels, which have a capacity of 2,000 students, were completed, there would be no need of wasting students' time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still at the university, we have Module II Programme in Nairobi University, Private Sponsorship Course in Moi University and Parallel Degree Programme in other universities. This is a provision for those students who can pay fees for themselves to take advantage of university education which is offered. This particular programme should be supervised by this Ministry. This is because what is happening at the University of Nairobi, for instance, is that parents are now being cheated out of their money. The officers who have been given the task of managing this programme have now started printing their receipts which are similar to the ones that the university issues. Parents have no way of knowing who is who at the University of Nairobi. Trusting, they go to the relevant office and make payment. If that money does not reach the university, I do not think that, that is the problem of the parents. The university should ensure that those officers who sit in their offices are competent and are supposed to collect fees. Some parents are being asked to pay afresh because the university says that it does not recognise those kind of receipts. That should not go on.

I do not know whether the number of students admitted into this programme are controlled. This is because I am concerned about the facilities, especially the books. A university where students will not have access to books or library will be one which will not provide quality education. The libraries which we have at our universities might have been built and equipped sufficient for the regular students. Are we sure that the parallel degree programme students have as easy access to the library or book resources as the regular students? Are the libraries being expanded? This is because the story we have is that this is not happening. So, we are admitting students who cannot read because they do not have access to the library resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while talking about the TSC, it would appear as if it is now unable to balance the staffing. This is because we still have areas which have surplus teachers and others where the shortage of teachers increases year after year. What is happening? It might be a question of taking courage. Why can this problem not be solved? At the moment, we are happy that the TSC will recruit a few more teachers. I would like to appeal to the TSC to ensure that the areas which have shortage of teachers are allowed to recruit teachers from their zones instead of getting teachers from the areas that have surplus, and after a short while, they come up with excuses that they should go back to their areas because the climate is not suitable to them. Usually, they will come up with some excuses.

I would like to talk about the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC). I think this body behaves like a rogue bull because it does not want to listen to the cries of parents. The KNEC does not know that a candidate is like an athlete who has gone to an athletics meeting.

In an athletics meeting, an athlete may take several events. But when he does not perform according to the rules in one event, he is disqualified in that particular event. Those who organise athletics competitions do not penalise the athlete by cancelling events in which he participated, and where awards had already been made. We have brought that to the attention of the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) but up to now, they appear to be deaf. If cheating or collusion has been detected in a particular subject, it is only proper that the results of that subject are cancelled! But results for other subjects where cheating has not been detected, and awards have been given, should be upheld. Of course, the certificate will be given according to the rules that have been laid down; that you must have a pass in each subject grouping. So, if one cheated in a subject that is alone in its grouping like mathematics, then it means he would not get his certificate. But if the cheating was in one of those peripheral subjects, for example, chemistry practical paper, then the student should lose that **[Mr. Munyasia]**

particular score. I do not think it is fair to penalise students in other subjects where cheating did not occur.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my attention has also been drawn to the bursaries under miscellaneous items. We know how the bursaries allocated to schools are given out. But there are funds here for overseas scholarships and bursaries. At one time, there was an abuse of such funds on the Seventh Floor of Jogoo House, where people of means could go and get bursaries allocated to their children. I hope this item is not meant for such purposes. I wonder why we should continue paying money for those who go to study outside the country when we now have



parallel degree programmes in our state universities.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Kariuki:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving the opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

From the outset, I would like to compliment the Ministry for contributing towards a very important sector in the nation. The Ministry is manned by very professional people who have the experience, because they are former educationists. There are certain areas in the Ministry that require urgent attention, so that the Ministry could be fast in the delivery of its service to the citizens of this country. The other day, I brought a Question here on the standardisation of examinations at the university level. Now, we have over ten universities, both private and public. One wonders how university examinations could be standardised, just as the case is in both primary and high school levels. By so doing, some universities will not be looked upon as being inferior to others. There are certain graduates who cannot get jobs because they come from certain lowly universities. There are those universities that are rated much higher than others. We should not force the nation to jeopardy, particularly when parents spend so much of their money in educating their children. So, the Ministry should come up with a system to ensure that the level of education in the nation is standardised. We appreciate that the Ministry believes in nurturing the human resources in the universities and coming up with challenges between universities. But while doing that, we should take steps to ensure that the level of education is standardised, so that mercenaries who get involved in private universities do not take advantage of the ignorance of our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the payment and control of fees in private schools is another worrying factor within the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. You will find that private primary schools are charging as high as Kshs140,000 per term. Are we becoming a man-eat-man society as was alleged by other nations at one time? The Ministry should look into the possibility of limiting school fees in private schools, as they have given guidelines to public schools. The same should apply to private schools and private universities so that they do not overcharge. The other aspect which arises in those private institutions is that they require students to pay money for development of those private institutions. Institutions like Banda or Breaburn are developed by the parents. Those parents are not shareholders in the companies that own those institutions! That benefit will go to those shareholders and not the parents! There should be a criteria in place so that development funds come from the resources of the shareholders who own those schools, but not from the parents.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other aspect which we should look into is that element of the poor and disadvantaged people, particularly with regard to accessing education at the university level. There are students who come from very poor families. Some of them could be children from the streets, Mathare Valley, or orphans whose parents died because of HIV/AIDS and other diseases. When it comes to university education for those type of children, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) should have a way of ensuring that those students who come from such backgrounds are not disadvantaged or do not lose their education because they cannot afford school fees. The HELB should look into the possibility of giving 100 per cent loan facility to them, so that they could be educated in order to liberate their families from social ills.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am worried about the quota system in education. Is there rationale of merit in such a system, so that we do not give undue advantage to people who end up taking positions in very prestigious institutions like Alliance Boys High School and Alliance Girls High School, thus making those schools not to perform well because of unfair admission criteria? We should go by merit because that is what we require in education. I believe that every Kenyan should be given the opportunity to compete with others. The criteria for securing places in secondary schools should be purely on performance and not any other criteria.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am worried about the literacy of degree holders in this country. Those of us who graduated 40 years ago are growing cobwebs. We should have refresher courses so that graduates who obtained their degrees many years ago could go back to the university and get acquainted with the latest technology. Some of them have been accused of not being computer literate, while doctors have been overtaken by events because new medicines have been manufactured. There should be a way of making old graduates go back to the university for at least one or two weeks, to get new tools of trade. If there is none, then we are going to end up with illiterate degree holders. By so doing, we will refresh the minds of our degree holders and keep them abreast with new technology.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been talked about teachers' salaries. There should be a way of having dialogue between teachers, the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and any other stakeholders, like the Ministry of Finance and Planning and other Ministries, so that a compromise can be reached on this issue rather than engaging in confrontations. There has been too much confrontation and talk about promises made and promises not kept. We would not wish to subject our students to loss of hours being out of school due to teachers' strikes. We would like to request the Minister to take it as a challenge

upon himself to ensure that there is dialogue between KNUT and the Government so that the possibility of a teachers' strike is reduced, particularly when it is near the examinations period because KNUT would take advantage of such a situation to blackmail the Ministry by downing tools. So, the Minister should fight to pre-empt that possibility, by creating room for dialogue in order to come up with a solution to this problem rather than waiting until it explodes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are worried because there has been a lot of misappropriation of funds in primary schools, high schools, and tertiary institutions due to lack of proper auditing within these institutions. I think we should privatise auditing because, as far as manpower is concerned, there is lack of enough auditors in the Ministry. The Ministry's auditing unit is too small to cope with the magnitude of all auditing requirements in the whole nation! I think the Ministry should privatise auditing services so that they are done by private practitioners. That way, the Ministry will be able to ensure that, at least, a school is visited once a year by an auditor because some schools take five to 10 years before their books are audited.

After the schools' books of accounts have been audited, head teachers should not be transferred from one school to another. If anything, they should either be demoted or sacked because, at the moment, there is a tendency of transferring ills from one school to another. This practice of transferring teachers does not help! We are appealing to the Minister to ensure that a headmaster who does not perform well, or a principal who misappropriates public funds, should be demoted from headmastership to the cadre of an ordinary teacher, so that others could see the example that we wanted to set of ensuring that there is discipline in the management of public funds.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what should the Ministry be aiming at? Is it qualitative or quantitative education? I think quality of education is important. We would like Kenyans to stand the challenges of any institution of learning anywhere in the world. Therefore, there is need to ensure that the school curriculum and the content is within the international standards. It is important, therefore, that we develop institutions that can cope with any other challenges elsewhere in the world. I am directing my attention to the 8-4-4 system of education. I am asking myself how credible the 8-4-4 system of education is vis-a-vis what other nations in the world are offering? If our system of education is not acceptable internationally, we should swallow our pride by ensuring that we follow international standards, so that Kenyans anywhere in the world, can be accepted as having reasonable levels of education.

With those remarks, I support the Vote.

**Mr. P.K. Mwangi:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is one of the vital Ministries we have in this country. But it is regrettable that, to date, the Government cannot be able to allocate enough funds for this Ministry in order for us to fight ignorance, as Kenyans had been promised, when we achieved Independence.

When we started debate on Votes, this Ministry's Vote should have been the first one to be discussed, but not the seventh, so that we can make sure that young Kenyans achieve education. But to date, the Government still rates this Ministry as one of the second-class Ministries, when, in fact, it should be the first one to be respected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a time when we used to say that Kenyans should continue to receive education. But today - this is a fact - we have a very high rate of children dropping out of school because of poverty. There was a time when school enrolment in this country was more than 100 per cent. Today, the enrolment is below 90 per cent! Does it mean that our people have been practising family planning and, therefore, there is a drop in school enrolment? We have to question ourselves why enrolment has dropped. We should look at school levies and see whether there is a problem with those levies. If those levies are the problem, let the Government come out with a clear-cut policy to assist our people get education.

When we talk about education, we should not look at it in terms of quantity, but quality. If we are not able to provide quality education to all our children, some of our children will be discriminated against. Therefore, we shall have people who will be rated as having received their certificates from first class schools, and others from second class schools, just because of lack of facilities in those schools. The issue of facilities in schools must be addressed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy because when the Minister was moving this Vote, he said that they will start supplying equipment to schools in over 70 districts in the country. But some areas are very much affected due to weather conditions, and I think it is high time the Ministry started supplying this equipment to schools. There is no need of supplying books which are already in schools! First of all, they should do some analysis in order to verify what those schools need.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue is with regard to teachers' promotion. There was a time when the Ministry said that, all teachers with "A" level grades be promoted from P1 to S1. Hitherto, they are still serving under P1 grades. To date, P2 teachers have served for more than 20 years without being promoted. We have "A" level holders who are still P1 teachers! They have not been promoted and, therefore, we are not giving our teachers incentives. They should be given incentives because those who are working in other Ministries may have an alternative, but a teacher does not have any other line where he can be promoted, except in education. If a teacher

performs well, he should be told "thank you" by way of promotion. By so doing, teachers will feel that their work is being honoured and they will give our children all they need in their academic pursuit.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know very well that the Government has been contradicting itself in its policies. We know very well that the policy of the Government is one; that we should have free primary education. But then the same Government does the contrary! Parents should decide whether we should really have free education or not. If the Government states that we should have free education, then it should provide everything in schools, for instance, classes, desks and books. But when you go round, you will find that it is the parents who are providing such facilities. The Government should come up with a clear-cut policy, and say: "If the parents have to provide those facilities, then school fees should be standardized."

In my own constituency, some schools charge Kshs500, while others charge Kshs1,500. I really do not understand how this money is used. At the end of the year, you find that there is no development which has been done by the schools. Recently, the Ministry started sending auditors to primary schools to verify the expenditure of these levies, which is very good. The exercise will help to seal any existing loopholes. Some head teachers have been using parents' money at will. Now that primary school expenditure is going to be audited, such head teachers will change their behaviour.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry should ensure that auditing is carried out by people who understand their job well; they must be professionals in accounting. As it is now, inspectors visit one or two primary schools and then claim to have completed an audit exercise. What kind of auditing is that? Let us have an office specifically for this job. Let us have an accountant in every zone to go through the books of all primary schools, so that their expenditures can be known. This will enable parents to understand how the monies they contribute are expended. I have realised that the meetings to which parents are invited by primary schools are stage-managed. Headmasters and their school committees select some parents in advance to endorse some proposals without realising that they are actually creating problems for other parents who cannot raise large sums of money.

I am grateful that the Ministry is now going to employ some of the trained teachers. However, I was very disappointed by an advertisement posted by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) in today's newspapers. For instance, Maragwa District has a shortage of 61 teachers, but it is allowed to recruit only nine teachers. What percentage is that? The Government claims to be committed to providing quality education to our children, and yet it cannot employ an adequate number of teachers. Therefore, I plead with the Ministry to, at least, provide 50 per cent of the human resource required in our schools. Otherwise, it will not solve the teacher shortage problem in our schools.

The Government should look for more money elsewhere. We have got so many qualified teachers. Let us try to fill up the gap. Otherwise, the measure being taken may turn out to be cosmetic. If it is Government policy to provide teachers to schools, why is the same Government running away from this responsibility? Who is going to provide the remaining teachers? We have no policy for parents to employ teachers for public schools. It is the Government's responsibility to provide teachers to our schools. So, the Minister should consult his colleague at the Ministry of Finance with a view to raising more money for the purpose of employing more teachers. Our schools need to have all the teachers required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the final issue I would like to address is the teachers' salary increment. Teachers are very important to this country's education sector. So, I urge the Government to honour the promise it made to teachers sometime back by implementing the remaining phases of the salary increment awarded to them. Alternatively, the Government should talk with them with a view to arriving at an amicable agreement on the matter.

With those few remarks, I support.

**Mr. Musila:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. In doing so, I want to commend the Ministry for the role it has continued to play in the development of human resource in this country. I want to join my colleagues in congratulating the professionals who are running this very important Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to commend the TSC for the manner in which it has handled the affairs of teachers, particularly the decentralisation of the functions of the TSC. I would like to give as an example, the recent decentralisation of the recruitment of teachers and transferring of this function to the Boards of Governors (BOGs) and the District Education Boards (DEBs). This is very commendable; it is a step in the right direction. I have read with interest, statements attributed to the TSC Secretary to the effect that the TSC intends to continue with this decentralisation process. I think this House should continue to encourage the TSC and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to decentralise some of their functions to the district level.

Having said that, I would like to ask the Ministry to, particularly, consider taking the decision-making process to the district level. As you are aware, most of the decisions affecting secondary schools are made by the Provincial Directors of Education (PDEs). Of late, there have been so many cases of unrest in secondary schools. As I speak now, we have, at least, 14 such cases in Eastern Province alone. Most of the problems that arise in schools, particularly in matters of discipline, on which decisions need to be taken quickly have to be referred to the PDEs.

Therefore, I would like to encourage the Minister for Education, Science and Technology to decentralise the decision-making process from the provincial level to the district level, even if it means posting more competent officers to the district level, to ensure that decisions relating to secondary schools are taken at the district level, of course, with some supervision from the provincial level. Currently, district education officers only advise their PDEs.

Every now and then, they go to their provincial headquarters, so that decisions on some key matters, which ought to be dealt with on the spot, can be taken. So, the Ministry should look into this aspect very carefully in the interests of this country's education sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the prevailing shortage of teachers is a matter of concern to all Kenyans. I was very surprised when my colleague, Mr. P.K. Mwangi, complained that, although his district has a shortage of 69 teachers, it has been allowed to employ only nine teachers. Mwingi District, where I come from, has a shortage of 750 teachers. So, I could not understand why Mr. P.K. Mwangi should complain that his home district has a shortage of 69 teachers only. The Ministry should look at the staffing levels in the districts countrywide and ensure that districts which have a sufficient number of teachers do not recruit even a single teacher until all the districts attain the same staffing level.

Why should Mwingi District have a shortage of 750 teachers when Maragwa District has a shortage of only 69 teachers? Do children in Mwingi District not require education like their peers in other districts? I think something is wrong here. Some districts in this country have more teachers than others. Mwingi District has a shortage of 750 teachers when some districts have excess teachers. It is, therefore, high time that the disparity in the employment of teachers and their posting was removed once and for all. I submit that districts with excess teachers should not be allowed to recruit any more teachers. I believe that the House will support me on this one.

**Mr. Khamasi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Musila to mislead the House that there is a shortage of teachers in Mwingi District? Only a year ago, the then Minister for Education came from Mwingi District!

**Mr. Musila:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Khamasi should commend the former Minister for Education because he was very fair and did not post teachers to his district only. He made sure that he posted teachers to all districts fairly.

Shortage of teachers is a matter of concern. May I request that teachers be distributed equally to all districts. We should recruit teachers in districts which have shortages, so that we have an equal number of teachers in all districts. We should not have a shortage of 700 or 1,000 teachers in some districts while other districts have no shortage of teachers. This is important because we have to educate our children. We also need to address the issue of pre-primary school teachers. Up to now, I know that the Ministry is not concentrating on this area. This is a very important area if we are to improve primary and secondary education standards. Improvement of educational standards will be good for the country.

Let me touch on the issue of bursaries. Secondary school fees is now too high. It is beyond the reach of the ordinary Kenyan. We have so many secondary school drop-outs. We are told that no children should be denied education for lack of school fees. How untrue this statement is! Children are dropping out of schools for lack of school fees. The bursary money that we have allocated here is not adequate, particularly in areas such as arid and semi-arid ones, where poverty is prevalent. We ought to look into this issue more critically.

May I ask the Minister to explain, when replying to debate on this Vote, why Mwingi District was given bursary in form of maize and beans, yet in this House, we did not vote to the Ministry maize and beans? We voted money to it. It appears as if there was a fishy deal somewhere; some money was allocated for bursaries and it bought maize and beans and we were given them instead of money. The result was that we were given excess maize and beans, which has been destroyed by weevils. We should be given money and not maize and beans. I know that somebody made money out of this deal. We know that someone sold maize to someone in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and it was distributed as bursary. In fact, we could have obtained a bag of maize at Kshs100, but we were told to assign the price of Kshs1,000 to each bag of maize we received. That could have been a scandal, but I hope the Minister will respond to this issue when responding to debate on this Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about overseas bursaries very briefly. There are some students out there who are, perhaps, doing some specialities, such as doctorate degrees, and need to be assisted. That is commendable. However, during the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations' tour to Berlin last year, we discovered that some people who have been receiving bursaries for many years still continue to receive them even after they have left school. We even had cases of some married ladies who, even though they live with their husbands in their homes, go to the embassy to collect bursaries. We visited Moscow two months ago and found that, unlike in Berlin, students there are actually in need of assistance. We can only request that, perhaps, bursaries for students in such areas be increased. May I appeal to the Minister now to post an education attache in Moscow. We have a population of about 350 students in Russia and they need guidance and counselling from an education attache.

We were told that one had been posted there, but had not reported. I hope that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will consider posting a mature professional education attache to Moscow. We found that students in Russia need a lot of guidance and counselling because of problems arising from racism and drugs. So, I think this is a matter that needs to be looked into.

I want to commend the Minister for Education because of initiating the School Feeding Programme. This is the best thing that has ever happened to our children. During the difficult years of famine, our children have immensely benefitted from the School Feeding Programme. This programme is still continuing. I want to urge the Minister for Education to do everything possible to ensure that the School Feeding Programme continues to exist because it has made a lot of difference to the educational standards attained by our children. It is only through this programme that our children, particularly in hardship areas, will learn just like children in other areas.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Mwalulu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to debate on this important Vote. I want to support the Vote, but the following must be said.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology must change its attitude towards teachers and the teaching. Teachers have cried for too long. I do not want to revisit the old song about the failed 1997 salary increment agreement between the teachers and the Government. This afternoon, I was watching news and saw that the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) officials are back on television screens grumbling about things which have gone wrong. It appears as if there are negotiations going on between the teachers and the Government about the salary increment. It appears as if the KNUT officials have realised that something has gone wrong. Why can the Government not just hear the cries of the teachers and talk to them? Even if there is nothing to be offered, it can give a promise to them?

I want to talk about teacher promotions. Some teachers joined the teaching profession as untrained teachers. Then they took the trouble of joining teacher training colleges; they trained as P1s. In my constituency, teachers have been promoted to this grade, but have not been given the corresponding salary. Why should the Ministry demoralise teachers by up-grading them without paying them the corresponding salaries? That is an area which the Minister should talk about when responding to debate on this Vote.

I want to talk about recruitment of teachers. I want to congratulate the Ministry for advertising jobs for trained teachers who have never been employed. I want to question the procedure of this recruitment exercise. Is it based on district or constituency quotas? What are the criteria being used? There are many teachers out there, who trained many years ago, who have not been employed. Their hopes have been raised now that teaching jobs have been advertised. But these teachers are not sure whether they will be employed because they do not know the criteria that will be used to employ them. Why can the Ministry not employ teachers on the basis of district quotas so that each district can know how many teachers to employ? It is the district which knows how many trained teachers are in it. We need to be told what procedure will be used to employ teachers.

When the Minister for Finance presented the Budget Speech, he indicated that Kshs600 million would be provided as bursary money. I did my simple calculation and I found that if Kshs600 million shared out equally between the over 200 constituencies, each constituency will receive, at least, Kshs3 million. We know that some constituencies do not need this money. Hon. Members have proved to be very efficient and successful in managing the Fuel Levy Fund. The same could be done in connection with the bursary money, so that once each constituency is allocated about Kshs3 million, the money could be under the management of hon. Members of Parliament. It is us who know who needs the bursary, and how many needful cases exist in our constituencies. So, I am proposing that Members of Parliament should be left to manage bursary funds so that the allocation can be done efficiently.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members of Parliament have been disturbed a lot by Harambees in order to construct classrooms. In my constituency, Taveta, the existing schools were constructed sometime in the 1960s or 1970s on the basis of the then population. The population has soared but the classrooms remain of the same size and number. Congestion is a very big problem in my constituency and I want to appeal to the Minister to allocate some money to construct classrooms in those schools which need expansion. This is because the role of building classrooms should not be pushed to Members of Parliament. Firstly, they cannot afford it and secondly, we are promoting corruption by doing so.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are in the era of information technology and given that we want our education standards to compete favourably with those elsewhere in the world, I want to propose to the Minister that he should liaise with the relevant Ministries - the Ministries of Energy and Transport and Communications - so that schools in the rural areas all over the country are supplied with electric power and telephone services. You cannot expect a student who comes from the rural areas and who has never seen a bulb to compete favourably in the international job market when he has not learnt computer skills. We are talking about information communication technology (ICT). Our schools must be equipped with computers so that students can learn ICT. Let them first have

electricity and telephone services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, related to the above services is the question of water. There are schools in my constituency where primary school kids travel more than three kilometres to fetch water. What time do these students read, and can such a school maintain good hygiene? I am urging the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to liaise with the relevant Ministry, to make sure that schools in the rural areas are supplied with clean and reliable water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Ministry for bringing the school feeding programme to my constituency, but I want to raise a concern here. Pupils in primary schools in Taveta are supposed to pay Kshs100 per month so that they can be included in the feeding programme. First, I do not understand why they are paying that money while that food is supposed to fall under the relief programme, and schools are turning away pupils who cannot pay Kshs100. They are being sent home and they are missing classes because of that. I want to ask this: Is it the business of the school administration to know whether my child feeds or not? Is it their business? If my child cannot afford Kshs100, that is not justification for the school to send him or her home and, therefore, miss classes. That is a problem I am very much concerned about. I must confess that, that is an anomaly that must be corrected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, then there is an even bigger concern. Each year, hundreds of thousands of students leave primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, but a very minimal number of these young Kenyans either proceed to the next grade of education or get employed. The question I want to pose is: Where do the rest go? Are we not courting a revolution?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of parallel degrees has been raised here. In the past, question marks have been put on the education system, especially with the introduction of the 8-4-4 system of education. I want to know the policy of the Ministry in relation to parallel degree graduates. Are they recognised officially by the Government?

Secondly, are they sellable in the job market? For example, is hon. Ndicho going to open a law firm and practise like any other lawyer when he finishes his parallel degree programme? These are our concerns, and our education standards must be seen to rhyme with the international educational standards so that we are not a laughing stock.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this very important Motion.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to contribute to this Motion that seeks to allocate money to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology both Development and Recurrent Expenditures. One of the things that are extremely important is the education of our children from kindergarten to high school, if I do not mention higher education in the university. I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry that we have a major problem in this country with the boy child. The boy child in our education system is suffering. If you go to our boarding schools, and I have said it in this National Assembly before, but I would like to say it when we are debating the Vote of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; you will find that in girls, boarding schools the regulations are very strict and the teachers are much more disciplined. Girls find it very difficult to leave the school compound and go out *ovyoo ovyoo*. When they come back from any outing, they are properly inspected by the teachers. So, we have very few incidences in girls' boarding schools of drinking, drug-taking and so on. Indeed, over the last couple of years, the rate of dropouts in primary and high schools among girls has reduced considerably compared to the previous generation whereas dropout rates among boys has actually gone up, and particularly in boarding schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in boys' boarding schools, discipline is lax. The boys go out of the school compound very freely. The amount of drug abuse in boarding schools is going up. Quite often, when they go for extra-curricular activities like drama festivals and so on, they are not properly accompanied by responsible teachers. Even teachers who we used to know when we people were growing up were disciplined. A teacher was a teacher. He was somebody who was properly dressed. He combed his hair and cut his nails. He inspected students and made sure that they were properly dressed and they cut their nails. I do not remember, when I was in primary school, intermediate school and even in high school, meeting a drunken teacher.

I am a chairman of the boards of governors of about two schools in my constituency, and in one school the mathematics teacher was a perpetual drunkard. I do not know whether it goes with the nature of mathematics that you must be drunk. However, what surprised me is that even though he was drunk so frequently, very little disciplinary action was taken against him and, therefore, he was a very bad example to students. That is why I would like the Ministry to pay particular attention to the boy child. The future of the boy child is in jeopardy, particularly because of the way boarding schools are run. I had an occasion of visiting one boarding school where satanic worship was practised by boys, but teachers took stern action. But I was surprised that the practice existed among the boys and had been going on for sometime. It is because of this deteriorating culture in boarding schools, and the danger that the boy child is in, that we find this thing percolating into the universities. When I was in university, both as a student and a

lecturer subsequently, I do not remember any day when students demonstrated in town, either at Makerere or at the University of Nairobi, and threw stones. Students demonstrated in line with the cause for which they were demonstrating, but they never let out their anger on members of the public. They never threw stones and crashed people's cars. This weekend, one of my friends asked me whether this behaviour is reminiscent of university education where it starts early, or whether it is at the family level that discipline has broken. But I think discipline has broken at the primary and high school levels because we have very many primary boarding schools in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Republic of Kenya to discourage consciously boarding schools for primary schools. I think it is too early for a child of six to 12 years to leave the home and go to a boarding school. This is a practice that we inherited from the British, but it deprives the family of the role that the family needs to play in bringing up a child. I do not think that boarding schools, especially for primary school children, are a good environment to bring up a child. I think, in my own experience, all these primary boarding schools appear to be good, but they are not good in character formation. So, I would like the Ministry to review very seriously whether, indeed, in this era, we need boarding schools for primary school pupils. I think for high school, it is reasonable. But for primary schools, it should not be encouraged.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing I wanted to talk about is the condition in the halls of residence in our universities. At the University of Nairobi, students run restaurants and laundry marts. I would be surprised if they also do not run bars, with the full knowledge of the administration. If, indeed, there are no proper systems of catering services in our universities, the university system should tell this National Assembly so that appropriate finances are voted for proper catering systems. In Germany, education is free up to university level, and yet here in the Republic of Kenya, we are given the dogma of the World Bank that there should be cost-sharing at the university, leaving no doubt the deteriorating services in our universities. If we had a proper national saving system, we could have a proper insurance for both education and health, including housing. Our students could not suffer the kind of indignity we find in this Republic at the university level, where there is absolute breakdown of services.

I have been to Maseno University and going into those halls of residence, to me, if I remember when I was a student, is a shame. The kind of conditions under which the students are living is horrible. I get completely shocked when I am in Maseno and I stand at the petrol station on the road to fill my car and students come to beg from me like street urchins. It is completely undignified for an African, who is properly dressed, to beg. If our students are begging, that is an indication of the kind of nation we are building because we are becoming beggars from the Head of State to the sweeper. If this kind of begging is going on among students in our universities, the Minister, the Permanent Secretary and all the officials of the university systems should stand accused for not exercising their responsibilities to bring up our students as properly mannered Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing I wanted to talk about is the school broadcasting service. When I was a student, we used to have the schools broadcasting service broadcasting subjects and discussions for schools, particularly primary and high schools. I served at the School Broadcasting Service here in Nairobi when I was in college and high school for about five years and produced many projects for that system. Sometime ago, because of this same World Bank dogma that is preached to our nation, we abandoned the Schools Broadcasting Service in the pretext that it was not economical and that we could not pay the Voice of Kenya (VOK) or the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) for that service. All the tapes were taken to the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) and they are rotting there to this very day. If I remember well, some of those programmes were very good. It has been proven the world over that education through the radio is a very effective system of education because students throughout the Republic will be getting the same information, with the same emphasis so that they can have the same level of information, particularly for their examinations and future posterity. I remember one programme we did for schools called "Cry the Beloved Country" by a South African writer, which was so successful in the late 1960s, and many students did very well in the Kenya School Certificate Examination. I would like the Ministry of Education to revive the School Broadcasting Service.

**Ms. Karua:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey):** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The country might think Members of Parliament on the KANU side are not contributing because you have given opportunity to three consecutive Members from the Opposition side.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara):** The Temporary Deputy Speaker recognises Members of Parliament and not parties.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the parties are represented in Parliament!

**Ms. Karua:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a bit disappointed with the way the Ministry has presented its budgetary requirements. This has come after we have passed the Children Act which provides for free

and compulsory primary education. I would have expected this Ministry to tell us how much it would take for this country to provide free and compulsory education for all the primary school-going children. The Ministry could rely on the figures of the children enrolled today and also the projection of how many more children would enrol if education was free and compulsory.

We cannot just believe that we are not ready financially without talking about concrete figures. I am trying to look through the Vote of this Ministry and I am seeing various figures for bursaries, school feeding programme, textbooks and so on. When one looks at this, one sees that the total amount of money voted for primary education, which is actually going into supporting education, and not paying emoluments and maintaining buildings, is just about Kshs1 billion. This is too little. The Ministry should have made an attempt to comply with the provisions of the Act and presented credible figures so that we can support primary education. We passed this Act consciously. The Government knew that it would be called upon to provide free and compulsory primary education. Why pass the Act to please donors and then fail to implement it? If we really mean to develop this country, we must invest in education. We would also want this Ministry to tell us in what way they can subsidise secondary school education so that it is affordable and accessible to everybody. How much would it cost this country to give automatic loans to university students? My colleague who has just contributed has alluded to this.

In other countries, university education is supported by the Government. Some countries even give free education from primary school level to universities. Since university education loans are repayable by the students, is it possible to give all qualifying students loans and ensure that our machinery for recovery is more efficient? We shall never be able to answer this unless the Ministry comes up with a proposal, showing how much it would take to offer automatic loans to all qualifying entrants. This way, we will ensure that the children of the rich, along with those of the poor, will be able to get education, each according to their ability. When I went to university the issuance of loans was automatic to all entrants. That way, a lot of people were able to go through university education. Today, it is only those students with able parents that can go through university education. The majority of students from poor families are not able to access the loans or bursaries. What is the Ministry doing about this? Are we getting serious about educating the population for purposes of development?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also been looking at emoluments of teachers. This is a thorny issue that has been presenting the Ministry with problems. The Ministry seems to relish in management through crisis. Very little has been voted for increasing the teachers' emoluments. I noticed that the money going to teachers' emoluments for last year was slightly over Kshs23 billion. This year there is a slight increment; it is now Kshs24 billion.

Bearing in mind the number of teachers we have, this amount is negligible. What is the Ministry doing to implement the agreement it willingly entered into with the teachers? We need to be serious and vote in more money.

I noticed that the total Vote for the Ministry is Kshs54 billion. Somebody will argue that this is quite a sizeable proportion of the national Budget. I want to say that the Office of the President has been allocated a whopping Kshs40 billion. They have tried to section it into the Directorate of Personnel Management, the State House and all that, but their total Vote is Kshs40 billion. If we can give Kshs40 billion to State House, we need to give twice that amount to education. Why is this Ministry not being bold enough to ask for sufficient funds? We need to invest in education. I believe that if we were able to collect taxes from everybody who should pay them without fearing sacred cows like companies that are milking this country, we would be able to collect twice the amount of revenue we collect every year. This way we can invest enough in education, pay good salaries to the teachers and subsidise our education. We cannot expect the quality of education to be maintained or improved without remunerating teachers properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is another problem that has been troubling me. There is no health scheme for teachers. If there is one in place, then let the Minister tell us. But what I know is that teachers, just like other civil servants, sometimes get ex-gratia payment when they find themselves in difficult circumstances. Instead of the Kshs15 million I see voted for giving teachers ex-gratia payment, can this money not be paid into a health scheme where all the teachers are covered, instead of a select few who will happen to benefit from the ex-gratia. Teachers can also make a small contribution. I think it is time the Government thought of a comprehensive health scheme for all civil servants so that we can alleviate the suffering of teachers who are unable to pay for the cost of maintaining their health with the meagre salaries that we pay them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also been looking at the issue of teachers training. What is the policy of the Ministry regarding this matter? We are training teachers, but we are not employing them, and then we talk of shortages. Let the Ministry take the numbers of trained teachers who are unemployed and tell us whether we need to train more teachers until we absorb those we have already been trained.

It is a bit confusing when we keep admitting teachers to training colleges, yet we are unable to employ them. I think all is not well in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I would like to ask the Minister and his staff to spend a little bit more time to help us get some direction about the policy of education, and how far the Government



can support education in this country. We should remember that we cannot develop unless we invest in education. We shall not manage to get good education unless we are able to pay the personnel serving in the education sector. I am urging the Ministry to go back to the drawing board and show us the way forward.

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 an opportunity to make a few remarks.

I stand to support this Vote because education is the mother of development. I first of all want to join my colleagues in congratulating the officers of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, from the Minister, Permanent Secretary, Director of Education and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). For the first time--

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): Order! You are claiming that it is only Members from one side of the House who are commending the Minister. They are coming from both sides of the House.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I said "my colleagues". My colleagues also include Members of Parliament.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): You complained that the Chair was not recognising the KANU side. That is what I am commenting about.

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for reminding me that they also joined me in congratulating this wonderful team. For the first time we have a team in the Ministry that is very sympathetic to almost all the regions in this country, and especially to the current education predicament in North Eastern Province. I know for sure that the Minister has on several occasions, gone there to assist schools and institutions of higher education.

I have just one problem with the training institutions. Recently, there has been a directive from the Ministry that teachers training colleges should admit students that have got a minimum qualification of grade C. I find that condition very harsh for regions like North Eastern Province. We used to have a good number of our students joining educational institutions especially P1 training institutions with a minimum qualification of grade D+. Since this minimum qualification has been elevated, I fear that we might not be able to recruit as many students as we would like to recruit from the province. I would like to urge the Minister to reconsider the admission criteria and give opportunities for students from that region to be admitted to Garissa Teachers Training College. We should be able to see whether we can admit P1 trainees with a qualification of D+. I would say that the grade D- is a little too low, but D+ has sufficiently produced a good number of teachers and some of them are already teaching. I think if we insist on grade C, as we are already doing, we might lose a good number of our young people who would like to pursue a career in the teaching profession.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to join my colleagues who had thanked the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for the decentralisation in the recruitment of teachers. For the first time, parents, boards of governors (BOGs) and local leaders in respective constituencies have got a say in terms of recruitment. I think it gives the schools significant support from the local community because they know that they own them and they have got a role to play, even in the recruitment. Therefore, I think that is a welcome development. I would encourage the TSC to continue doing that, and also to go a step further in trying to see whether they can support these particular schools, especially in the North Eastern Province, where teachers are required. I know that for now we are unable to get a sufficient number, and we are not complaining about the lack of teachers in our schools. This is because we would like to see teachers who teach subjects like Mathematics and Physics posted to schools which are in dire need of support.

I know that the TSC had a problem of posting teachers, especially to the North Eastern Province. At the end of it all, the turnover has been very high because they do complain about harsh realities on the ground. I would like to encourage them to see how fast those particular teachers who complain get replaced so that students do not suffer in the process.

There is a particular problem that has faced institutions of higher education in the North Eastern Province; cheating in the national examinations. For two consecutive years, we have had substantial number of schools suffering from this particular problem, but we have not seen education managers in these respective schools being prosecuted. This is because students are always tempted to cheat if the necessary environment is provided by the invigilators and supervisors. I have not seen people being accused for that gross misconduct. In the process, what happens is that parents spend four years paying school fees and students go for referral examinations. The exams are cancelled on the basis of cheating, and yet nobody is taken to court; nothing happens, and life continues. By the end of it all, it burdens the family's father because of his or her child repeating. Or, you will find children who are half-baked staying at home.

The other issue that I would like to raise some concern about is the rising level of indiscipline in schools. We know that as a policy, we do not allow caning of children in schools. Personally, I have been on record to have said that if you do not cane; if you do not provide a certain level of discipline in schools, the level of indiscipline will, definitely, rise and the student-teacher relationship would be hostile because the teachers cannot be provided with an

opportunity to discipline. I do not agree with a situation where a child is caned to an extent that he or she is taken to hospital, or he or she is killed in the process, but some minimal form of caning is necessary to be able to instil discipline and some sort of fear in the children so that they know that if they make a certain mistake, then, some sort of reprimand would be given to a particular child.

I would like to encourage the Minister to increase the bursary support for secondary schools in North Eastern Province (NEP). The retention level is very low. Almost all the time, the children who enter in Form One class do not find an opportunity to complete Form Four because, in the process, they drop out as a result of lack of fees. I know that the Ministry has provided certain support, but it is still not very sufficient to be able to retain them, especially children who come from nomadic families where parents have continuously got to rely on their livestock. At times, livestock sales cannot fetch as much amount of money to allow these children to remain in schools. I would, therefore, urge the Minister to provide special provision and attention for these schools in that particular part of the country.

The grants that have been given to schools, especially to replace fixed buildings, have not been very sufficient. We have a school in my own constituency; it was put up in 1970, and it is now being condemned. It is a primary school, with eight classrooms and the school has been condemned. We are trying to see whether we can raise money through the normal Harambee support. I think if the Ministry can find schools like that, and see how they can assist parents in trying to replace these structures, it would be good. This is because we might end up replacing them, when we destroy or when we have buildings collapsing. In the process, quite a number of these young children can either be hurt or die in the process.

I want to make a special appeal from here in the presence of the Minister and education managers who are here. I would like support to be given to this particular primary school in my own constituency whose buildings have now been condemned, and we are trying to see how best we can raise support to replace them. I know that the Minister would say that it is not a responsibility of the Ministry to build schools any more, but I also know that I am appealing to his very sympathetic sense of feeling, so that he sees how best they can bail out in situations like these.

We have an education institution in Garissa which is the only one in the entire province. I would like to encourage the Ministry to ask the universities to use part of that institution as a constituent college. They can even provide degrees of Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts so that students who would otherwise have come to Nairobi can get opportunities to study in the Garissa Teachers Training College in Garissa because the facilities are perfect. The road network between Nairobi and Garissa is good. You only require probably three-and-half hours to reach Garissa. I think the lecturers can travel to Garissa and provide lectures there and come back. But so far, we have not been given that opportunity, and we appealed last year to the Minister to see how best he can make that institution a constituent college of Kenyatta or Nairobi university, or one of our local universities, so that degree programmes can be provided right within the reach of the communities in the region.

I support.

**Mr. Kibicho:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to join others who have commended this Ministry for running our education system not so efficiently, but fairly well. However, if you look at the title of this Ministry - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology - we may ask, who is fooling the other? This is a country which has no science and technology policy. We just put up a big title for the world to think that we are taking care of science and technology. We call upon this Ministry to very quickly set up a science and technology policy and an Act of Parliament.

We are unable to feed ourselves in this country because we are too many. It is only science which is going to get us out of this problem. This country is lost; it was left out during the "Green Revolution." When information technology came, we joined it when it was too late. Now, we are in the age of bio-technology and this country has no policy. It is only a science policy that will make our people employed. Are we going to wait until we get oil from Uganda or Tanzania being produced from trees or from genetically-modified organs? Is that what we are going to wait for? This Ministry has had that name for too long and it is very embarrassing.

Regarding education, if you go to some parts of this country where children are learning under trees---

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Kibicho! You will have seven minutes to continue tomorrow.

Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 31st July, 2002, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.