

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 24th September, 1997

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Question No.303*

KNOCKING DOWN OF MR. DHADHO BY C-LINE BUS

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

(a) whether he is aware that a bus, registration No.KAD 177T belonging to C-Line Company Ltd, was involved in an accident on 5th September, 1996, at Minjila where Mr. Babuya Dhadho of Funja Village, Kinakomba Location, was injured;

(b) whether he is further aware that the driver of the bus failed to stop until the police at Garsen Police Post forced him to do so; and,

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what action has the Minister taken to charge the driver with the offence and compensate Mr. Dhadho.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Is there anybody from Office of the President? That Question will be stood over for the moment.

Next Question, Mr. Anyona!

*Question No.227*

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS FROM  
PRIVATE TEACHERS COLLEGES

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Anyona is not here? That Question will be stood over for the moment.

Next Question, Mr. Owino Achola!

*Question No.444*

QUALIFICATION OF KPTC MANAGERS

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Achola not here? That Question will be stood over for the moment.

Next Question, Prof. Anyang-'Nyong'o!

*Question No.579*

PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO MR. ODOO

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Prof. Anyang-'Nyong'o is not here? That Question will be stood over for the moment. Next Question, Mr. Shikuku!

*Question No.624*

NUMBER OF ESTABLISHED LAND  
DISPUTE TRIBUNALS

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Shikuku is not here? His Question will be stood over for the moment.  
Next Question.

*Question No.612*

DELAYED FINALISATION OF CASE  
HCCC No.268 OF 1980

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Ruhiu is not here? That Question will be stood over for the moment.  
We will now move to Question No. 303 for the second time.

*Question No.303*

KNOCKING DOWN OF MR. DHADHO  
BY C-LINE BUS

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

- (a) whether he is aware that a bus, registration No.KAD 177T belonging to C-Line Company Ltd., was involved in an accident on November 5th, 1996 at Minjila where Mr. Babuya Dhadho of Funja Village, Kinakomba Location was injured;
- (b) whether he is further aware that the driver of the bus failed to stop until police at Garsen Police Post forced him to do so; and,
- (c) If the answers in "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what action has he taken to charge the driver with the offence and compensate Mr. Dhadho.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming late. However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that a bus, registration No.KAD 177T, ran over the right foot of Mr. Dhadho as the driver was trying to park the vehicle at the road side. The victim was rushed to Pandya Hospital in Mombasa where an X-ray indicated that there was no fracture on the foot.

(b) The driver of the vehicle stopped and the conductor reported the matter to the police at a nearby road-block, who visited the scene of the accident.

(c) Garsen accident file No.4/96 was opened but Mr. Dhadho withdrew his complaints after they reached an out of court settlement with the owner of the bus.

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as indicated in part (b) of the Question, the driver refused to stop after running over Mr. Dhadho. It was the police who made him to stop. The bus company bribed the policemen with Kshs30,000 to silence the case. So, it is not correct that Mr. Dhadho withdrew the case. What is the Minister going to do to have these proceedings set in place again, so that the police could be disciplined; the driver of the bus taken to court, and Mr. Dhadho compensated for the injury caused to him?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, there was an out-of-court settlement. However, if Mr. Dhadho is interested in having this case being prosecuted again, let him report the same to Garsen Police Station or the nearest police station that he wishes to, so that the matter can be re-opened. I do not think the matter was closed finally.

**Mr. Kofa:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tana River District is in the arid and semi-arid lands and people there are being fed on famine relief. So, Mr. Dhadho could not have insured himself with an insurance company. What is the Government policy on such issues?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that the hon. Member knows that it was not a Government vehicle which was involved and, therefore, the hon. Member should be in a position to advise Mr. Dhadho on what his rights are with respect to insurance.

**Mr. Ndicho:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that there was an

out-of-court settlement between the owners of the bus company and Mr. Dhadho. Can he tell us how much Mr. Dhadho was given in order to agree to settle the matter out of court?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the exact terms of the out of court settlement. It was a settlement between the owner of the vehicle and Mr. Dhadho. I have no idea on what the out-of-court settlement entails.

**Mr. Obure:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming late.

*Question No.227*

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS FROM  
PRIVATE TEACHERS COLLEGES

**Mr. Obure**, on behalf of **Mr. Anyona**, asked the Minister for Education:-

(a) how many teachers graduated from both Government and private teachers colleges in 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether he is aware that those teachers who graduated from private colleges have not been absorbed into employment by the Teachers Service Commission; and,

(c) if the answer to "b" above is in the affirmative, whether he could ensure that those teachers are employed without further delay.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Is there anybody from the Ministry of Education? That Question will be stood over for the second time.

Next Question, Mr. Achola!

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming late.

*Question No.444*

QUALIFICATIONS OF KPTC MANAGERS

**Mr. Achola** asked the Minister for Transport and Communications whether he could table a list of the names and qualifications of the current general managers, corporation secretary, senior assistant Managers and assistant managers of the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

**The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications** (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The list of names and qualifications of the current general managers, corporation secretary, senior assistant managers and assistant managers of the KPTC is here, and I lay it on the Table of the House.

*(Mr. Morogo laid the list on the Table)*

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having looked at the list, it is obvious that nearly two thirds of the general managers in the list are all members of the Kalenjin community. Could the Assistant Minister explain the criteria used in discriminating against other great Kenyans, who could easily have been absorbed in these positions?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, the hon. Member did not ask for tribal lists. He asked to be furnished with a list of managers and assistant managers. So, I did not give a breakdown of the tribes of the individuals concerned.

Secondly, the members of staff are listed there according to their qualifications as asked. These days, the hon. Member likes to look at anything on tribal lines. Let me advise him that we are not inclined to tribal affiliations and so on. We look at Kenyans as Kenyans and we employ them to serve Kenyans. That is the way it is done.

**Mr. J.N. Mungai:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having gone through the list which is already here, it is important for the Assistant Minister to know that Kenya has become very sensitive about tribalism. Whatever you do may be considered as being inclined towards a certain tribe, in terms of favouritism. It will not be perceived that any genuineness was done by the way such people were offered jobs or anything. Can the Assistant Minister assure this House that, now and in the future, because we want to avoid the sensitivity of tribalism in this country, he will make sure that he balances the employment in the KPTC?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, we have never worked on tribal lines. That is not our policy and, therefore, it will never be so.

Secondly, if one was to be fair, I think one would request for lists of employees of various Government corporations and institutions in the country. In that way, we would be able to see the balance or imbalance of the whole issue.

**Mr. J.N. Mungai:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My question has not been answered. The Assistant Minister is trying to avoid my question. I am not talking about other corporations. No corporation in this country is supposed to employ people on tribal basis.

All I am asking is this: Could the Assistant Minister make sure that in the future, any recruitment and employment in KPTC will be balanced, so that we do not continue sensitising tribalism in this country?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I answered that question in my earlier reply. I said that it has never been our policy to employ anybody on tribal lines, and it will never be.

**Mr. Farah:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have gone through this list here. There is Maluki, Chepkonga, Muga, Katema, Omanga, Hussein, Kigen, Dindi, Maina, Otieno and all other Kenyans, except the very few Maasais and Turkanas. There are no Turkanas and Samburus. There is one Somali here. There are only three Muslims out of hundreds of names. Can he address this problem where it needs to be addressed? There are many Kikuyus, Luos, Luhyas, Kisiis and Kalenjins. Can he address this problem and give equitability to other deserving Kenyans?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this House passes a law that employment should be based on religion and special consideration for certain areas like Samburu and so on, my Ministry will adhere to that. But for now, the policy is that whoever qualifies gets the job.

**Mr. Achola:** If we were to believe the Assistant Minister, can he explain as to why a Mr. Chelimo, who is listed as number 32 in the list you have tabled, was made a stores manager, when in fact, he was least qualified? Apparently, he is the most corrupt in the KPTC.

Also, because he is contradicting himself, could he explain why a Mr. Chepkonga, a very incompetent officer, who had already been dismissed from the Coffee Board of Kenya, is actually the Corporation Secretary, in a job that he is least qualified to do? If that is not tribalism, what is it?

Finally, in view of the---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Can you ask one question at a time?

**Mr. Achola:** If you are going to give me another chance, that is fine. Otherwise, I would like to ask all the questions that I have now.

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, like in any other organisation, the KPTC also considers people who have served in the Corporation for a long time for promotion into management positions. I think that has been the case in some of the persons in the list.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Can we move on to Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o's Question?

*(Mr. Achola stood up in his place)*

I am through with your Question, hon. Achola.

**Mr. Achola:** I thought you promised that you would give me another chance---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): I never promised anything!

*(Laughter)*

*Question No.579*

PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO MR. ODOO

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o** asked the Minister for Transport and Communications:-

(a) whether he could explain what happened to Mr. Isaac Odoo regarding the case reference: HCCC No.194 of 1974; and,

(b) whether Mr. Odoo has been given his full retirement benefits by the Kenya Railways Corporation?

**The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications** (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Records on Mr. Isaac Odoo's personal number, designation, grade, department and last working station cannot be traced, as they appear to have been misplaced during the break-up of the East African Community. In the absence of these vital employment records, I am unable to explain what happened to Mr. Odoo's case.

(b) Since Mr. Odoo's employment records cannot be traced, I am unable to say whether or not he has been given his full retirement benefits by the Kenya Railways Corporation.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will realise that this is the same answer that was prepared last time, and that was rejected on the basis of being inadequate. You will recall that I did give the Assistant Minister the information in this House, and it is available in the HANSARD, on how far he can go in getting Mr. Odoo's records.

First of all, Mr. Odoo is still alive and he can be traced through the Provincial Administration, failure to which the Police Air Wing can uplift him from anywhere in this Republic, to give his own story. It is over three months since I asked this Question, and the last time that I talked with the Minister responsible, he told me that he had rejected this answer because it was inadequate, and the Ministry was going to make sure that they get proper records and answer Mr. Odoo. I gave the following information: First, they can get the records from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development. Secondly, they can get records from the High Court, where there is the case number. Thirdly, the Kenya Railways Corporation must have records of those they pensioned. If Mr. Odoo did actually work for the East African Railways and Harbours and he was pensionable, it would be a pity if the Kenya Railways Corporation is saying that it does not have records for those that the Corporation is paying pension. That means that their accounts are not properly audited, which is not true.

Therefore, I would like the Temporary Deputy Speaker to once more reject this answer, and ask the Ministry to provide a proper answer. This is because you cannot keep on giving the same answer day after day, and insist that you are going to get away with it. It is not possible! We ask Questions in this House so that the Government can provide us with answers acceptable to the House.

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the records are not available, there is little we can do. I would urge the hon. Member to furnish us with whatever details he has, or he can send this gentleman to our offices and we can pursue the case for him. We are not interested in hiding anything---

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to ask me to produce Mr. Odoo when I am not a PC, a chief or an assistant chief, and I do not fly the police airwing? There are elements available in the Government for making sure that Kenyan citizens who need to present some information to the Government are produced in proper offices.

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I find that comment by hon. Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o a bit interesting because the Question concerns his constituent and he is asking it in his interest. If he wants to be helped, I am sure he can go out of his way to do anything possible to---

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am asking this Question in the interest of a Kenyan citizen. A lot of Questions I have asked in this House are not only for my constituents. I am asking this Question in the interest of an employee of Kenya Railways Corporation wherever he might be because he has not been paid his dues by the Corporation and he has a case in the High Court. I have given the case number and the Government knows that this man has an identity card and he can be traced. So, I think it is not in order for the Minister to say that I produce the man.

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate that the gentleman may not be his constituent, but if he has asked the Question in his interest, in one way or another he must be knowing him. He can tell him wherever he is, and I ask him to come because I am interested in assisting him. If I get his records, my Ministry will pursue his case.

**Prof. Ouma:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is sad to see an Assistant Minister admitting that the Government is unable to find where another Kenyan is. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that things go right and the Assistant Minister will one day retire from this place or retire from life. Can we ask the Assistant Minister to ensure that he gets this information through the Government sources and ensures that this Kenyan is done his justice? He served and, therefore, deserves his retirement benefits. Either the Assistant Minister admits that they are unable to get that information or he assures this House that he will bring an answer to the Question to this House.

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know why we are complicating the issue. All we are trying to do is to assist this gentleman and if the easiest way of doing that is to ask him to come to our Ministry and provide us with whatever documents he has, it should not be a big problem. I do not know why such an issue should be blown out of proportion. I am only saying that we cannot get the records now.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your guidance. This answer was

rejected twice in this House as being inadequate. Is it in order to repeat the same answer and accept it? Last time, I did give some information which was supposed to be used to get this answer. Tell me whether it is in order for the House to accept the same answer which was rejected last time?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Why are you bringing the answer that was rejected?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that this answer was rejected. We are giving facts as they are and we want to assist the man if we get the information.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): The hon. Member says that this Question was on the Order Paper two weeks ago, but I do not know why we deferred it. Mr. Assistant Minister, why did we defer it?

**Mr. Morogo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot say why it was deferred unless I check from my records.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Prof. Anyang'-Nyongo, if you are dissatisfied with the answer, you know what to do.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** What we can do is to defer the Question.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): We have deferred it twice. You move a Motion for the Adjournment to discuss it.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** That is fine.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): We will now move on to Mr. Shikuku's Question.

**Mr. Nthenge:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask this Question on behalf of Mr. Shikuku in case he does not arrive---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Do you have instructions or you will ask it just in case he does not arrive?

**Mr. Nthenge:** If he does not arrive in time, I will ask the Question.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Then go ahead and ask it.

**Mr. Nthenge:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in all fairness, I can wait for the second round.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): This is the second round.

**Mr. Nthenge:** I apologise for arriving late.

*Question No.624*

NUMBER OF ESTABLISHED LAND  
DISPUTE TRIBUNALS

**Mr. Nthenge**, on behalf of **Mr. Shikuku**, asked the Attorney-General how many land dispute tribunals have been established to date, and how many are operational pursuant to the provisions of the Land Disputes Act of 1993.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Attorney-General, I beg to reply.

A total of 43 land dispute tribunals have been established pursuant to the provisions of Land Dispute Tribunals Act No.18 of 1990, and all are operational.

**Mr. Nthenge:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, do you not think that the hearing of land disputes is sometimes unnecessarily delayed?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, all the land dispute tribunals that have been established are operational.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Nthenge, are you satisfied with the answer?

**Mr. Nthenge:** The Assistant Minister, being a lawyer, has evaded answering the Question in such way that I cannot even follow what he is saying.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): You can see that you have done a total dishonesty to Mr. Shikuku's Question.

Mr. Ruhiu's Question!

**Mr. Ruhiu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I ask Question No.615. This Question is very important. The widow has got four children to support and the husband died---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Mr. Ruhiu! You have asked Question No.615 which is not on the Order Paper.

*Question No. 612*

DELAYED FINALISATION OF CASE  
HCCC No.268 OF 1980

**Mr. Ruhii** asked the Attorney-General why the Case Ref: HCCC No.268 of 1980, Nairobi High Court, Ms. Elizabeth Nyambura and three others Vs. Ruaka Bus Service, has taken too long to be finalized.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Attorney-General, I beg to reply. The High Court civil case No. 268 of 1980 between Elizabeth Nyambura and others versus Ruaka Bus Service and others has taken long to be finalized because the plaintiff's advocates, who are Waruhiu and Muite Advocates have not prosecuted the case.

**Mr. Ruhii:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this case has taken 17 years. The husband of Elizabeth Nyambura died in 1980 and she was left with four children to look after. Now, since the advocates of the plaintiff have failed to prosecute and we know that the Attorney-General, by law, is the Chief Public Prosecutor, can he be requested to prosecute on behalf of Elizabeth Nyambura?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Ruhii, the Attorney-General has no *locus standi* in civil cases. Those are cases between parties. But hon. Sunkuli, if you wish to answer the question you can go ahead.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since you have answered the Question, I would like to inform the House that this particular matter was filed by Njoroge and Musyoka Advocates of Atlas House, Moi Avenue, but the plaintiffs later on changed their advocates to Waruhiu and Muite Advocates of Electricity House, Harambee Avenue. I presume that the plaintiffs did this because they trusted the efficiency of the advocates. Now that they can see that those advocates are not efficient enough to do their work, the best thing to do is to look for other advocates.

**Mr. Ndicho:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a very interesting scenario in this country as far as lawyers are concerned. What is the Government doing about lawyers who take clients' money and fail to represent them in courts, thus forcing them to look for other lawyers who, in turn, also con them off their money? With this kind of trend, how do you expect cases to be heard? What is the Government doing about the very many cases where Kenyans are deprived of their money by corrupt lawyers as the Attorney-General watches and does nothing? Kenyans are suffering!

**The Assistant Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Other than the last comments, which are unnecessary, about lawyers taking over I do-not-know what, I do agree with the hon. Member for Juja that some advocates are really very guilty of neglecting their clients' work. The avenues which are available, as the hon. Member would know, are that there is a complaints committee where the members of the public can complain about their advocates. There is an opening within our laws where persons who have suffered from the negligence of their advocates can sue their advocates in court. The other remedy, unfortunately, is that because that is part of the process of justice in this country, the clients concerned must look for other advocates.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Next Question, Mr. Anyona.

*Question No. 227*

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS FROM  
PRIVATE TEACHERS COLLEGES

**Mr. Obure**, On behalf of **Mr. Anyona**, asked the Minister for Education:

(a) How many teachers graduated from both Government and Private teachers training colleges in 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) if the Minister is aware that those teachers who graduated from private colleges have not been absorbed into employment by the Teachers Service Commission; and,

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, whether the Minister could ensure that these teachers are employed without further delay.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Were you instructed to ask this Question?

**Mr Obure:** Very much so, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Temporary Speaker:** (Mr. Wetangula): Anyone from the Ministry of Education? There is no minister and so the Question is deferred.

*(Question deferred)*

**QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE****OBSTRUCTION OF HOLA AIRSTRIP**

**Mr. Mbeo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice, although I have not received the written answer. Secondly, in my original Question, I had written "logs of wood" and somebody has changed it to "pieces of wood." Maybe there is some explanation for that.

(a) Could the Minister explain why pieces of wood, spikes and other obstructive materials were placed at Hola Airstrip on Saturday 13th September, 1997, to conceal the runway, thereby endangering the lives of National Development Party (NDP) officials, whose aircraft was due to land on the airstrip?

(b) What urgent action is the Minister taking against those persons who were behind this act to ensure that it is not repeated?

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following reply.

There were no pieces of wood, or in this particular matter, logs of wood, spikes or other obstructive materials placed on Hola Airstrip on Saturday, 13th September, 1997, as alleged by the hon. Member at all. The airstrip was checked by security personnel early that morning on a routine basis, and no such objects were found, and arising from my reply in (a), part (b), therefore, does not arise.

**Mr. Mbeo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I have lost my voice. Before I brought this Question, I asked the Speaker if he could allow me to ask for a Ministerial Statement on what happened to us in Hola on that day. I was told to ask a Question by Private Notice and this is what it is. I am shocked; I do not even know what to ask because I would not have been here to ask it if at all we landed on that airstrip because we would not be alive. It is a true fact that when we came from Garissa, along with hon. Raila Odinga, we could not land on Hola Airstrip because there were logs and spikes, everything you can name, on the airstrip, and not only that; we had a video cameraman who took a live-broadcast for KTN 7.00 o'clock, 9.00 o'clock and 11.00 o'clock news, showing what was on that airstrip. So it is shocking! I do not even know what to ask. All I would ask the Assistant Minister is to go back and check his facts before deceiving this House that there was nothing on that airstrip because a lot of things happened on it. In the spirit of the so-called IPPG Alliance, which I hear is going on in this House, I would request the Minister to go back and bring the facts to this House as they are.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are no more facts to bring to this House. The truth is that the NDP had applied for a licence for 13th September, 1997. The licence was issued to them. However, on 10th September, 1997, the NDP wrote to the District Commissioner and cancelled the meeting so that there was no meeting that day. Because there was no meeting---

**Mr. Ojode:** On a point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker**(Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Ojode, you should not be rude to your colleague. You can only respond if you hear what he is saying, however repulsive it may be to you, but if you heckle at him before he even says anything, then we cannot communicate. Let him finish what he was saying before I give an opportunity to another person.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know the truth bites. The truth is that the gentlemen of the NDP were not expected by anybody at Hola that day, and the question of anybody waiting for them does not arise. They are not telling the truth.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker**(Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, Prof. Ouma Muga.

**Prof. Ouma:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, may we be sober and talk soberly. The use of an airstrip when a plane is about to land is a matter of life and death for many people, regardless of the politics of the day. This is a repeat performance of what happened to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and his team in 1992. I was at Hola Airstrip myself and I saw people pushing even Camels, leave alone logs of wood, onto the airstrip. Regardless of whether a person has got a permit to hold a rally or not, it is a criminal offence to put logs or wood on to an airstrip. Can the Assistant Minister tell us whether he is encouraging criminality or not? Can he assure the House that in future, whether somebody has got a licensed rally or not, nothing of this kind of criminality and banditry will be repeated?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a lot of respect for the hon. Professor, but I think he did not listen to the full sentence. I said that the question of anybody having put logs there did not arise because nobody was expecting the NDP there. They were not scheduled to hold a meeting there. It is a fabrication on their side and it is not true that there were logs; it could have been a criminal offence if there were logs but there were no



such logs.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order Members.

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My point of order is this: Is the Assistant Minister in order to tell the House that because nobody was expecting somebody, the airstrip should have had logs on the runway? Airstrips should be very free in case somebody wants to land on an emergency. Is he in order to mislead the House like this?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi is one of the reformists and I do not know why he does not listen. I am saying that, because these gentlemen were not expected there---

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

**Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, Mulusya. You do know that he is responding to a question from Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, so under the Standing Orders you cannot rise on another point of order.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am just informing the hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi that I did not say there were any logs there. I said the allegation does not stand on its feet because nobody was expecting these gentlemen there. The airstrip was clean, serviceable and was capable of being utilised by any pilot. The hon. Members should not try and make political capital out of nothing. The hon. Achola was not even there.

**Mrs. Asiyu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, any landing is safe landing, any pilot will tell you. I cannot believe that the hon. Assistant Minister, whom we respect so much in this House, would answer this question the way he is answering it. It does not matter who is involved, all airstrips should be kept safe for emergency landing by doctors or anybody. Is the Assistant Minister now telling this House that the video taken by the pilot was fake? Can you ask the Assistant Minister to go back and check on his facts because I do not believe that a Government run by President Moi would want to hide such a terrible thing meant to kill these people? They definitely meant to murder these people. Can he go back and bring us the correct answer?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I do not believe myself, is that there was anybody who wanted to kill the NDP officials. There would be nothing to be gained by that, and there is also nothing to be gained by this untruth that there was anything on the airstrip.

**Mr. Raila:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very sad occasion indeed. Apart from the video photographs, we also had a photographer from the *East African Standard* newspaper, who also took a photograph. You can ask the *East African Standard* newspaper to produce that photograph tomorrow. There was no mistake in the fact that there were logs and several other items on the airstrip. But not only that; outside, the police themselves had placed several tyres to block access to the airstrip itself.

Is the Assistant Minister also aware that the District Commissioner (DC) for Tana River, Mr. Litunda, gave a Mr. Buyo Jillo, the NDP Chairman, Kshs.5,000 to announce that he had defected from NDP to KANU, a day before this rally? Is the Assistant Minister aware that the following three people: Sudi Omari, the owner of Sudi Hardwares; Mr. Jillo Komora Mbere and Mr. Said Manduli, on the very same day, led a small group of people to the NDP office, invaded it and repainted it with KANU colours saying that this was a KANU zone and that they did not want the Opposition to come there? Is he also aware that the police beat up and terrorised the big crowd that had gathered to meet the NDP officials on that day of the rally?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not ministerially aware of some matters. But I think hon. Raila is also exaggerating his greatness. Nobody wants to disturb the party, NDP. The NDP will take part in the elections and will be defeated.

**Mr. Farah:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think we ought to spare ourselves. Although we are going through some kind of a farce of a reform, we are calling it a reform all the same. We will spare ourselves a lot of trouble if we become a little bit honest. Hon. Raila was in Hola, in Garissa, which neighbours my district, Garissa.

*(Dr. Wameyo consulted loudly  
with other hon. Members)*

He was in Hola and it is neighbouring my district.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Dr. Wameyo. You are addressing an illegal meeting.

Carry on, Mr. Farah!

**Mr. Farah:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the Assistant Minister to mislead this House? From his reply, I would say that he is dishonest. Even if he was to go with me outside this House now, and

meet anybody from Garissa or Hola, he would tell us that logs were placed on the airstrip. This was common knowledge and it was known by everybody. Since it has happened, he should apologise on the part of the Government and say that we will reform that too and let it come along with his sham reforms of IPPG.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do blame hon. Farah for a number of things, but I have never blamed him for dishonesty. All I know is that he has more faith in hon. Raila than I do.

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary, Deputy Speaker. You heard hon. Raila say that on the day that Mr. Sunkuli prevented the landing of Raila's plane at Hola, Sunkuli's men were repainting the NDP office and he wanted Mr. Sunkuli to deny this allegation or confirm that this happened. Is the Assistant Minister in order to evade that straight question? Was the NDP office repainted with KANU colours on that day when hon. Raila was to land with his men at Hola? Could he answer that?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Munyasia must be referring to the day the NDP offices were repainted at Oyugis with FORD(K) colours!

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Mulusya:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister, whom we now gather is not a genuine Kenyan citizen, to evade answering a genuine question about Hola?

*(Mr. Sumbeiywo stood up)*

I am on a point of order.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order!

**Mr. Mulusya:** He is avoiding answering the question concerning Hola and converting it to Oyugis. Can he not, first of all, answer that question about the possible death of Raila whose offices were repainted with KANU colours? He should also tell us whether, for sure he belongs to Kenya or to a neighbouring country because now we have no faith in him as a Minister of this Government.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure the hon. Mulusya has faith in me. I do not think he is serious. As far as I am concerned, I have answered the question well.

**Mr. Sumbeiywo:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You heard with your own two ears the allegation that hon. Sunkuli here is not a Kenyan. According to the laws of Kenya, we are not supposed to elect non-Kenyans to be Members of Parliament. Can hon. Mulusya substantiate this allegation?

*(Loud consultations)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Mulusya!

**Mr. Mulusya:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir. Hon. Sunkuli has not bothered to deny the fact that he is "Ndugu Sunkuli," because he knows it is the truth.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Mbeo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a saying that---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Mbeo, ask a question; we do not want sayings.

**Mr. Mbeo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am building my question. There is a saying that "if you argue with a fool, you might be mistaken to be a fool too." I would like to inform the Assistant Minister that on that day when we took off from Wilson Airport, the flight plan was very clearly drawn, showing that we were going to Garissa and Hola. It is also a known fact that it is against IATA and Civil Aviation rules to put pieces of wood, logs or anything on an airstrip, especially when an aircraft is expected to land. In view of the fact that the Assistant Minister has continuously denied that nothing of this sort happened, we have facts, and we would like to bring a video tape recording here tomorrow of what happened on that runway as was shown on KTN. We also would like to bring the photographs taken by the *East African Standard* newspaper man here tomorrow. Should we bring those and prove that these things were there, what action is the Assistant Minister prepared to take after that?

**Mr. Busolo:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Mbeo in order to say that it is

IATA which regulates the movement of air traffic when we know that it is ICAO. International Air Travel Association (IATA) only regulates fares.

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have answered the question satisfactorily. But I do agree with hon. Mbeo's proverb that when you argue with a fool, people might not know the difference.

**Mr. Mbeo:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I categorically made a request to the Assistant Minister and I have seen that he has completely avoided answering any questions put to him since he started answering this Question. I said we are prepared to bring the video cassette---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** Under what standing order?

**Mr. Mbeo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know; you find out. We are also prepared to bring photographs taken by the *East African Standard* newspaper photographer from the same aircraft regarding what was happening on the ground and, therefore, we could not land. Should we bring them in the House tomorrow and confirm that this is true, what action, if any, is the Assistant Minister prepared to take?

**Mr. Sunkuli:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Mbeo knew he would ask his Question today. If it is true that those items actually exist, which I now believe do not, he would have brought them today.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** That ends Question Time! There is one point of order from hon. Imana.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also have a point of order.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** I was not aware!

### POINTS OF ORDER

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT:

#### MASSACRE OF TURKANAS BY CATTLE RUSTLERS

**Mr. Imana:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to raise a very important issue which concerns what hon. Members and Kenyans in general have read in the daily newspapers in Kenya. The horrifying information is that, 42, people were massacred in cold blood in Lorengiki and Lokirama on 19th and 20th of September, 1997, at 5.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m., respectively.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the raiders were believed to be a combined force of Pokots of Kenya, Pokots of Uganda and Tepes of Uganda. The massacred were women and children. They made away with an unspecified number of cattle, camels and goats and entered Arale Division.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am, therefore, seeking a Ministerial Statement from the Minister in charge of internal security in the Office of the President, as to whether the raiders had a sinister motive; secondly, to establish why the raiders were wearing security uniform and, thirdly, why the raiders targeted women and children, because this does not happen in normal cattle rustling situations. For example, in Lokirama, 10 women were killed and eight injured. Fourthly, he should explain why the Kenya Police Reserve weapons were delayed until after the raid and fifthly, the DO and chiefs in Arale Division and the Member of Parliament for Kacheliba were aware about this, but did not stop it in good time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like the Minister to explain what the Government will do with 162 families whose livestock has been taken by these raiders to Arale Division. I would also like to be told where the security intelligence on the border of Turkana were when these raiders, who are said to have been more than 1,000, entered Turkana.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got information from the Chief of Lorengiki that the raiders are intending to burn Lorengiki and Lokirama centres.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give the Ministerial Statement tomorrow.

#### INSULTING REMARKS BY PC

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to make a point of order under Standing Order No.69 regarding a statement that appeared today in the *Daily Nation* newspaper, page 3, on the visit that hon. Ngilu and I had paid to the Provincial Commissioner (PC), Coast Province, regarding insecurity at the Coast.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *Daily Nation* reports that when we handed this letter to the Deputy PC, Mr. Haji, to be passed onto the President, he called our letter "trash". The Deputy PC, in actual fact, used other

four-letter words which I would not like to repeat in this House.

**Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir,** I am making this statement so that Members can know that, indeed, when they pay visits to Government offices, they should be treated with the respect they deserve and that Government officers should be civil in their language. I would like the Office of the President to take up that issue and ensure that the Deputy PC, contrary to the District Commissioner, Mr. Olando, who treated us with a lot of civility, overstepped the mark of civility and used a language that was unbecoming of a civil servant. To be on record, I would like to read the letter so that it is a record of the House. In this way, the House itself can decide whether indeed the word "trash" is deserved in the content of this letter.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, you simply wanted to protest against the words used against you by the Deputy PC. We do not have time for you to read the letter.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in which case I will not read it, but table it so that it goes into the records of the House. But, I would like to make a very firm statement that the Deputy PC, Mr. Haji, was extremely uncivil and I would like to commend the DC Mombasa, Mr. Olando, who I think is an exemplary civil servant. Thank you.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while noting the comments made by hon. Anyang'-Nyong'o, I would like to bring to the attention of this House that indeed, I was planning to explain the context in which the word "trash" was used. I will do it tomorrow because the hon. Member has put the word out of context.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** Order, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o! Under Standing Order No.69, the matters you raise do not give right to debate.

**Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o:** He is not the Minister concerned with this!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** He is from the Office of the President, in charge of the PC and has a duty to tell you what action he wants to take.

Next Order!

## MOTION

### ADOPTION OF SESSIONAL PAPER NO.4 OF 1997

THAT, this House adopts Sessional Paper No.4 of 1997 on AIDS in Kenya laid on the Table of the House on June 17th, 1997.

*(The Assistant Minister for Health,  
(Mr. Criticos) on 23.9.97)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 23.9.97)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula):** Who was on the Floor?

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was contributing to this Motion when I was interrupted by lack of quorum. I was trying to say something on the dangers faced by the medical personnel. In conclusion, I would also like to talk about the dangers posed to obstetricians and gynaecologists.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known that body fluids of those people who are HIV positive or having fully blown AIDS contain the virus. Therefore, we are asking the Ministry of Health to be protective particularly on midwives, gynaecologists and even obstetricians because during delivery, there is a possibility of AIDS infection through spouts of fluids into the eyes of those who are aiding women in labour. There is also a possibility of these people having hands that have got wounds on them. It is normal that during delivery, at the time the kid comes out, there is always a flow of fluids that comes from the womb.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, it is very, very important that midwives and obstetricians should have glasses that cover the eyes so that the AIDS virus does not enter into their eyes. It should also be noted that the AIDS virus can pass through the eyes. The eyes cannot protect it from going through the way the skin does.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, after saying that, I would like to commend the Ministry of Health for coming up with this booklet on AIDS. This is one of the most wonderful masterpieces that they have come up with.

*(Dr. Lwali-Oyondi waved the booklet)*

It has done extremely useful research and everything that is contained in here is very valuable in AIDS prevention. Therefore, we need to give it a new political punch and will on this paper so that this very well researched paper can be concretised and made into something that will go a long way in, at least, controlling AIDS in Kenya and possibly East Africa.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I was speaking yesterday, I said that I would bring a research paper done here in Kenya about the possibility of having circumcision as a means of at least minimising the chances of infection. I would like to table this paper here although I do not have one that was more conclusive. But this paper is very, very important. I hope the research workers who prepared this report here have already gone a long way because this one was done in 1993. I hope that by now they have done even further research and I wish to lay it on the Table for the information of any Member who would like to look at it.

*(Dr. Lwali-Oyondi laid the document on the Table)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are in a very desperate position when it comes to this pandemic called AIDS. Therefore, if we can lay our hands on anything that can minimise the chances of one catching AIDS, it would be very good. I think we should do all we can to make use of these reports because at the moment there is no drug or a vaccine of practical importance as far as we are concerned.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while speaking to my fellow politicians, I think it is high time that all of us got some ideas of what this disease is all about. In our speeches we should, at least, at the end of every speech in a public rally, try to say something that would help us to prevent the spread of this pandemic because our people are going to be finished. If about 70 per cent of the beds are being occupied by AIDS patients, that speaks for itself. It is a serious situation and, therefore, we should do all that we can in our speeches to try to make people knowledgeable.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should also speak to young people. We should be very honest in imparting knowledge to them about their reproductive systems so that they can know at what stage they can use them. As I said yesterday, we have just to tell them that they better hold their guns because sooner or later they will be married and they will be staying with their wives in their houses, possibly in the same cube and beds and that there will be no wonderful things that they will do that other people have not done. Therefore we have to go back to the old method of staying away from illicit sex.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the aim of this paper is to disseminate information. It has got a lot of information and, therefore, this information should be turned into something that would help in preventing the spread of the AIDS menace. However, the politician and particularly the one in the Government, should be honest. Let us make use of the money that can be available from the Treasury. Let us make use of the money that is coming from various world bodies to reduce this AIDS menace. Let us not misuse this money. Let us not take part of it and use it for political purposes and so on. Let us go round and let our people know and after they have known, let us ask: "What can they do to prevent this menace after knowing all that we have told them?"

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one way of making wananchi respond to all these things is to involve them. They have got methods of preventing AIDS once they have gained the knowledge. After giving them all the knowledge on how AIDS comes about; how it affects them; how it kills people; how it incapacitates them and how it affects their socio-economic status, then we can ask them: "Look, these are our ways of protecting you from getting AIDS. Now, what can you do within your locality to prevent it?". Let us involve them and let them lecture us instead of us lecturing them. After that, they will outline the methods they would like to use and once the villagers are convinced, they will go round and convince their own people. Immediately we become very scientific and knowledgeable and start lecturing to them, without involving them, I do not think we shall go a long way in curbing the menace.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing is that we should also tell them about the success stories. Uganda, for example, was leading in AIDS infections. Just about every one person in three had AIDS in Uganda. The position today is that at the moment, AIDS cases are becoming less. The Ugandans and the Ugandan Government were very, very open. They said: "We have a problem here and AIDS is actually devastating our country. It is actually decimating the population, and now, what do we do?". All people came and the ordinary mwananchi discussed about it and the results are coming out. Therefore, we should borrow a leaf from Uganda and start telling people about the success stories that have been achieved. We should tell them about success stories that we have achieved.

I know of a place called Chulaimbo where, according to the medical statistics that I read somewhere, almost 50 per cent of the population was infected. This is an area where tankers from Zaire, Uganda and so forth stop. AIDS seems to be connected with areas where tankers stop. Here in Nairobi, Eastleigh has been very much affected because tankers used to stop there. In Nakuru, AIDS became a very big factor because of these tankers. We had to warn our

people against these tanker drivers because they stay away from their homes without getting into contact with their wives. Therefore, they hire women along the road and since they are given a lot of money for travelling and accommodation, they spend part of it to pay the local girls who are very poor.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty is a factor in the spread of AIDS. Poor people tend to have AIDS more than the rich people. In the third world, the problem is worse. That is one of the reasons why we have more AIDS cases than in developing countries. Even in developed countries like England, in the city of London, specifically in a place called Brixton, which is situated in the south of London where the common wananchi stay, you find that there are more AIDS cases there than anywhere else due to poverty. Where there is poverty there is no water. Most poor women will try to get some money by trying to do a bit of prostitution so that they can survive. Therefore, we have this question of AIDS coming in. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government will have to be transparent. The transparency we are asking for here in the Opposition is that we want our money to be well used and not be embezzled. Money should be used to make the lives of people better. It should particularly be used on housing, supply of water and so on. If we did this, we would not be having AIDS in Mathare, Kibera and so on. Therefore, transparency in the Government is very important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are losing a lot of well-trained people. When we lose well-trained people we breed poverty. Poverty breeds AIDS which kills well-trained people and so on. This vicious cycle must be got rid of somehow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our women too, have to be helped. We have to begin convincing our people that we shall not stay in the same way we used to in 1950s and so on. Women have to be emancipated. Nobody will marry all of them. Therefore, we have to empower them politically, economically, and give them a better social status. There is no need of trying to look at women as slaves. This cannot be done again by lecturing to the people, but we have to begin by telling our people, the ordinary wananchi, that since we cannot marry all the women and keep them under our care---

**An hon. Member:** You can marry four!

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend is telling me that you can marry four. Yes, if you can, but the problem is that we have to deal with the fact that not all of them can be married. Therefore, if they have to stay alone, they need to have some economic power and that is why we should encourage women traders, employ those whom we can employ, and to let them have as much education as possible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the moment, we have child prostitution in towns. There are a lot of people coming from Europe who are called paedophilic people; those who like going about with little children. Even among Africans, it is amazing that old people of up to 60 years of age will get hold of a little girl of two years or three years and hopefully think that they can have sex with such a child. It is madness! I cannot imagine what sort of mind such a person has. But we read about them all the time in the papers. But there is one fallacy that has been propagated by very evil people and which I ask the politicians to try to dissuade their people from believing in. They believe that if you have got AIDS and you go about with a virgin; or since virgins are so rare, if you go about with a three year old child who is obviously a virgin, then the AIDS will get finished! That is a very fallacious idea. I ask the politicians and the medical people to say that is nonsense and it will never work.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Health, as I said, has done a lot, but I do not think AIDS can be tackled by the Ministry of Health alone. It is too big to be tackled by the Ministry of Health. In fact, as far as we know, it is a disaster. It should have even a department of its own, if not, it should have a Ministry of its own so that, that Ministry can get hold of other Ministries and do a lot of co-ordination with NGOs because it involves water, housing, labour and so on. This is the only way we can get rid of this thing or reduce its effects on us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Prof. Mzee talked of the possibility of a vaccine not being there. I have a belief that a vaccine is possible. Research in Kenya has revealed that there are some women within the City who cannot be infected with AIDS whatever happens. It means that there is a resistance. Once there is a resistant, it means there will be a vaccine. Just as we used to have East Coast Fever disease in cattle, we knew that there were animals which were resistant and we were unable to get a vaccine by then. But, at last, we did not only get a vaccine, we also got a drug to cure it. Therefore, we should not put our hands up and say there will never be a vaccine; there is a vaccine.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another very hopeful thing that makes us think that there will be a vaccine is the fact that children who have been born with AIDS or from AIDS parents, and they have fully blown up AIDS, at a certain age, off-load it and become completely HIV-negative. These are on medical records and that is a very big hope that we can have a vaccine.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should not wait for research works from overseas; just like in the case of East Coast Fever in cattle, we did not wait for overseas research work. Research work was done at Muguga here and we got a medicine which nobody had ever imagined against the ulirypofer(?) which causes East Coast Fever.

Here in Nairobi, we should have a research station immediately so that we do research on AIDS only. We can do it as Kenyans, but I think because of the expense involved, we could do it on a regional basis, just like it was in the case of East Coast Fever where we involved Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. We can pool our resources together so that we do not duplicate the research. And also, when we are getting help from overseas, such money can be channelled to one research centre and we can easily get a drug.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the curative side, there are signs that there are drugs which can do this, particularly the protease inhibitors and reverse riptoty(?). These are things that interfere with various enzymes of this particular virus. But their cost is prohibitive and they are very poisonous and many of them are resisted by the virus on the usage. Therefore, it forces people to have what we call a "cocktail", where we combine so many drugs which have to be swallowed, and usually they have very bad side effects like diarrhoea, kidney infections, liver damage and so on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those drugs are extremely expensive and are bought at \$15,000 a year and none of us can afford that sort of treatment, and the drugs only control the spread of the virus they do not get into the cell where the virus is, they wait for it outside. Therefore, they are more or less of a control, as opposed to being curative.

We have our Pearl Omega. One of the doctors, a professor, has claimed that his drug can cure AIDS. With all due respect to this person, who is a very intelligent professor, he has been applying the drug as if he is a witchdoctor. We have methods in science on how to prove whether a drug can treat or it cannot treat. Our professor here has not been using scientific methods and, therefore, in that case he has not been transparent and he has not been using the internationally accepted scientific methods and as a result, he has been trying to have a short-cut. In any case, he has been trying to hide the formulae with the result that he cannot put his hand on anything. If a drug works with so-and-so, it should work with any doctor. In any case, I have found a lot of this drug in Bondeni, Nakuru, and as far as I am concerned, those who used it died. We have only one family which is now having AIDS and were using this drug. I have yet to check on them to see whether they have died or not. It would appear that this drug is not consistent in its results. I would like the professor concerned to call other medical persons to do proper scientific research on it and give us proper results.

We should also remember that he had this other drug called KEMRON which turned out to be a fiasco. It was a useless thing; it did nothing, and yet there was a lot of hullabaloo about it and even the politicians went into it and tried to advertise it only to find that it was much ado about nothing. I am wondering whether Pearl Omega will turn out to be the same thing. But if it is a real drug, let us have proper scientific research and the Government should not impede the professor, in conjunction with the other scientists, from exploiting this research chance. We should promise him that if it works, all the patency will be on him and all the profits will be his. It would be very unfair for a person to discover a drug only for other people take it over and make use of it without him being recognised or being given due profits from it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to advise those who have got AIDS already not to keep on spreading it because it makes it worse. Those who have AIDS, if they have to do it, should rather use condoms. The reasons why some people tend to stay long--- We have heard of certain prominent people who tend to linger on and they do not seem to be dying. It is not because of any other miracle; it is because they do not keep on infecting and getting infected. When you are infected and you keep on getting reinfected, the problem becomes worse and worse and, therefore, the best thing is to stay away from it and do not get reinfected. Even if the wife is already infected then you are condemned to using condoms and you may live longer. With a bit of exercise and good feeding, you may live 10 to 15 years longer.

With those few remarks, I beg to support this very important Paper.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nimemsikia daktari akizungumzia mambo ya Ukimwi.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Wetangula): Huyu ni daktari wa ng'ombe!

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting** (Mr. Nassir): Ijapokuwa yeye ni daktari wa ng'ombe, lakini anajua mambo mengine machache. Ametupatia wosia mkubwa hapa kuhusu jinsi sisi wanasiasa tunaweza kuwaambia watu wasiguse mambo haya. Ninamwambia mhesimiwa kwamba siwezi kupanda jukwaani na kuanza kusema kwamba usitafute msichana, nisije nikapigwa mawe. Pia alizungumza juu ya wazee kutafuta wasichana, nami sijaona mzee akitafuta nyanya. Sijaona mzee akitafuta nyanya. Katika ulimwengu huu, hilo sijalion.

Lakini ugonjwa huu wasikitisha na katika familia tano au sita, mtu ana ndugu yake au mwenzake ambaye ni mgonjwa. Huu si ugonjwa ambao ulitokea humu nchini; ni ugonjwa ambao uliletwa katika nchi hii. Ugonjwa huu uko katika ulimwengu na katika nchi ambazo zimeendelea ambazo ziko na madaktari wa hali ya juu.

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

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

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, huko Mombasa kuna watu wanaokuja kwa meli. Na watu hao wana dola tele. Hatuna njia ya kuwahifadhi watoto wetu wa kike kwa sababu watoto hao wanataka Kshs.10, Kshs.4, Kshs.2,000, Kshs.5,000 ili wapate pato lao. Nafikiria kwamba kitabu hiki kitajaribu kuwatahadharisha wananchi wa Kenya wasiambukizwe zaidi huu ugonjwa. Lakini kimetoa mapendekezo ambayo ni muhimu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, watu wanaosafiri hadi Ulaya wakisafiri kwa ndege wanaambiwa kwamba ni lazima wawe na chanjo ya kipindupindu na ya homa ya papasi. Nafikiri umefika wakati katika nchi ya Kenya ambapo ni lazima mtu yeyote anayeingia nchini apewe cheti cha kuonyesha kwamba yeye hana ugonjwa wa UKIMWI. Ikiwa hatuwezi kuzuia ugonjwa huu kwa njia hiyo, yafaa watu wetu waende hospitalini kupimwa na kuchunguzwa kama ni wagonjwa au la. Kama ni mgonjwa, yafaa aambiwe kisirisiri kwamba anaugua ugonjwa huu ili ajihadhari asiwaambukize wenzake. Lakini jinsi meli zinavyoingia nchini zikiwa na mabaharia ambao wamepita nchi nyingi zinazo ugonjwa wa aina hii, wakija ni lazima waje Mombasa na kuishi katika vyumba vya kukodi. Wamewaambukiza watoto wetu ugonjwa huu na sasa watoto hao hawana la kufanya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, Wizara ya Afya ina kazi kubwa ya kufanya. Kuna watoto wetu wachanga wa umri wa miaka 12 au 15, walio na uchafu, umaskini na ambao wanapata UKIMWI kwa urahisi. Ule uchafu peke yake na sijisifu--- Haifai kwetu kujisifu kwa magari aina ya Mercedes Benz na nyumba kubwa na hali watoto wetu tunawaacha katika barabara namna hii.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, watoto wetu wachanga wa miaka 12-15, wanapata ugonjwa wa UKIMWI rahisi kwa sababu ya uchafu. Sisi tunasijifu kwa sababu tunavaa vizuri, tuna magari na nyumba nzuri ilhali watoto wetu tunawaacha barabarani. Hawa ni rahisi kupata ugonjwa huu wa UKIMWI nao pia wanaweza kuwaambukiza wengine.

Ni lazima Kenya itenge kiasi fulani cha pesa za kuwatumza watoto wetu kwa sababu watoto hawa ni wa kila Mkenya. Watu wengine wanawatupa watoto wao barabarani. Tuna mambo mengi ambayo tunahitajika kufanya kuzuia ugonjwa huu ijapokuwa hauzuiliki. Tunataka Serikali ichukue hatua madhubuti ili kuhakikisha kwamba wageni wanaokuja hapa nchini wamepimwa na wana vyeti vya kuonyesha kuwa hawana UKIMWI. Ikiwa wanao, pia, tujulishwe kwamba wageni fulani wanaugua ugonjwa wa UKIMWI. Lakini si rahisi kuzuia ugonjwa huu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kulikuwa na daktari mmoja hapa ambaye alisema amegundua dawa ya UKIMWI, lakini hakupewa fursa kutetea dawa yake, watu walimkataza tu. Ingefaa dawa yake ijaribiwe wagonjwa fulani ili ijulikane kama dawa hiyo inafanya kazi au la. Lakini mgonjwa hata ukimpa chumvi au maji yaliyochanganywa na sukari anaweza kupata nafuu kwa sababu mambo haya yote yanategemea imani. Kwa hivyo, ingekuwa vizuri kama tungewapa nafasi wale madaktari ambao wanasema wamegundua dawa ya ugonjwa fulani ili dawa zao zijaribiwe. Wakati umefika ambapo watu wanatakiwa wajihadhari na UKIMWI. Hata ingawa hakuna dawa ya UKIMWI, lakini kuna njia za kujikinga. Ni lazima tuwe na uhusiano mwema na nchi za nje na wageni wanaokuja wawe na vyeti.

Nchi zingine hazitaruhusu watu ambao hawana barua za kuonyesha kuwa hawana ugonjwa wa kipindupindu na homa kali kuingia katika nchi zao. Kwa nini haiwi barua ya ku sema mtu huyu hana ugonjwa wa UKIMWI? Hiyo itasaidia kupunguza shida hii tulinayo. Wakubwa wa Wizara ya Afya wako hapa na nimesema kwamba---

**Prof. Mzee:** Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Ninafikiri umemsikia mhe. Sharrif Nassir akisema kwamba yafaa mgeni yeyote anayetoka Bara Hindi akija hapa, apimwe kama ana UKIMWI. Tunajua kuna kesi nyingi hapa za UKIMWI na sisi tutaambiwa tukienda huko Bara Hindi tupimwe. Sisi tutaumia sana kuliko wageni wanaokuja humu nchini.

**The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir):** Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nilifikiri kuwa Prof. Mzee ni mtu ambaye anajua hesabu na anaelewa mambo yote. Tumeletewa ugonjwa huu. Ninataka ajiulize: Ugonjwa huu ulitoka wapi na uliingia vipi? Uliingia Uganda, kisha tukaupata. Lakini kuuzuia ni lazima kwa maana sisi ni nchi maskini, hatuna madaktari. Hakuna haja kwa wagonjwa kwenda nchi nyingine, bali wapate matibabu hapa nchini. Ikiwa watu wengine wanazuiwa kuingia katika nchi fulani kwa visingizio vya ugonjwa wa kipindupindu au homa kali hadi wakapitiwe chanjo, sisi tunataka kujua kama mtu fulani ana UKIMWI ili asiwaambukize watoto wetu. Hatuwezi kushughulikia ugonjwa huu kwa sababu ya umaskini wetu. Huko nchi za ng'ambo wana hospitali kubwa kubwa za kuwaweka wagonjwa wa UKIMWI na kuwachunguza. Hapa kwetu Kenya hatuna hospitali kama hiyo. Kilichopo ni kwamba tujaribu kusaidiana ili tuweze kutatua taabu tulinayo katika Kenya.

Zamani watoto walikuwa wanachanjwa katika skuli ili kuzuia magonjwa. Kwa hivyo, hakuna ubaya wowote kumwambia mwanafunzi fulani kwamba ana UKIMWI na pia kuwahimiza wajilinde sana. Lakini ikiwa



tutasema tu vivu hivi pasipo kutafuta njia ya kuuzuia ugonjwa huu, itakuwa hatari sana.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Osogo):** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute to this Sessional Paper which, in my opinion, is one of the Papers that are written by civil servants and simply kept away. I understand the civil servant in the Civil Servants' Bench is the officer in charge of this exercise. I would like to urge him to take seriously that similar Papers have been passed in this House since Independence, and they only find themselves being covered by thick dust in the shelves. They are not implemented. I do hope that this is not one of them, although, it does not contain what we think should happen. It is very theoretical and it does not say exactly what is going to happen to either eliminate or reduce this disease in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for once, the scientists should admit that this disease is not an ordinary disease, and that this disease is the disease that is predicted in the Bible in the last chapter of the Bible; that a disease will come that will eliminate people and it will have no cure. The scientists should accept that this is what is predicted in the Holy Book of God. I do not believe that in the present era of science, that scientists cannot find a vaccine or a cure for this disease, when they are already going to the moon and diseases such as smallpox and leprosy, which are as old as human beings, have a cure invented by scientists. But this one, in the days of improved science and high technology, cure is not being found. It seems deliberate that scientists all over the world are not prepared to find a cure for this disease. I am not saying only Kenyan scientists. They should admit and leave this disease to God. Let it take its course and finish the people of God.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this booklet has several flowing expressions and statements, that actually when analyzed, leave a lot to be desired. If the Assistant Minister has got this booklet, I am going to go page by page, to point out what I am saying. The booklet itself is not going to help and what is stated here is not going to be implemented. I can see that a lot of money has been given for this exercise. But what this money is doing is calling conferences of the elites in hotels. I wish the hon. Member for Nakuru Town had gone into my constituency to lecture on what he has been doing here. It would greatly help my people, because he has got the scientific knowledge. But nobody is approaching people in the rural areas and talking to them about this disease. They are calling the elites in hotels using this money for conferences and lecturing to them about this disease.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was one of those persons invited to Kakamega Golf Hotel to be lectured on AIDS when that money was released. The people who need those lectures are in the rural areas, so that they can realise the dangers of this disease and not the rich ones. The rich ones know about it but they get it and die, although they are capable of reading about it. But the people in the rural areas are not capable of reading about it. So, those people should be reached by the Ministry of Health officers. They should be educated through public meetings, so that they can know the dangers of this disease.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 4, it says: "The World Bank approved a credit of K£40 million from International Development Association (IDA) in 1995 for sexually transmitted infections." It goes on to say: "The Government is appealing to certain donors to help--- The annual requirement for HIV prevention alone is estimated at K£40 million." Prevention is the word that is operative there. This basically refers to condoms. They are not talking of eliminating the disease but about prevention. Prevention can only be useful if people are taught and not condoms being thrown around in the streets for youngsters to pick up and use. It needs education. This is a huge sum of money and it could be used by health officers for travelling from one village to another, to explain to the people the dangers of this disease. They have to be informed that this disease has no cure and it should not be taken lightly. The hon. Member for Nakuru Town talked about Uganda and that is true. Uganda borders my constituency and it had many of its people dying of AIDS. Most of the widows ran from Uganda to the islands of Lake Victoria and fishermen from my constituency who go fishing in the lake found those widows and thought they were young ladies free of everything. God help us! They came back with the disease and infected their wives and my constituency is highly affected by it. That is why I am speaking with a lot of concern and bitterness. In fact, my constituency lies in a "High Pressure Belt" because Ugandans come through the islands of Lake Victoria to my constituency. Besides, those who come to buy fish there from Mombasa and Nairobi with huge trucks of lorries bring the disease. All of them come to Bunyala. So, they have made that place a "High Pressure Belt" for the disease. There is nothing taking place there as provided for by the Sessional Paper. No health officer has ever regarded this place as a "High Pressure Belt." Busia Town was the third highest infected area after Kisumu and Mombasa; Port Victoria has now come into the category of those three. And K£40 million will be used for prevention alone. We should be told by the Minister, when he replies, how he is going to use this money for prevention. Somebody might say they are going to buy condoms but those ones have failed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 5 it goes on to enumerate its major achievements. In paragraph 1.2 it says: "There is still need to intensify AIDS awareness, particularly among young people and people living in

rural areas." But it does not say how this is going to be done. In the proceeding sentence it had said, "however, there is a misconception that HIV is transmitted by mosquito bites and kissing which has got 50 per cent response." We want the money that is being given, to mobilise mobile cinemas into the villages and show people the disasters of this disease. The concentration is in towns and I am told that there are women in Majengo who are actually immune to this disease and they do not get it. But the people who are really suffering and are dying from this disease are in the rural areas. The report says that K£10 million is required every year to maintain an effective HIV blood screening programme. There are blood screening machines in some hospitals. These machines arrive and they are pronounced ineffective and not working. Nobody takes care of them. They are thrown aside and there is no blood screening any more in hospitals. There is an hospital near my home and we have requested for this machine, but they say they have no money.

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Osogo has stated something very serious. He has said that there is no blood screening in his area which is an endemic HIV area. Could he substantiate that because the Minister for Health is here? That would be very disastrous.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): There is no need of substantiating because that hospital is only 50 metres from my house. I usually visit that hospital, because I was instrumental in building it. There is no HIV blood testing machine in that hospital. I have written several letters to the Ministry of Health about this. I am speaking with bitterness on this issue just as the hon. Member from Nakuru spoke with bitterness, because of the concern I have for my people.

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There may be no blood screening machines, but if blood is taken for transfusion in that particular hospital, then that would be the most dangerous thing.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): He should not talk about blood transfusion. Blood is taken from school children even and it is taken to Busia District Hospital, where it becomes stale before it is tested because the machine there is not working. They are saying that there will be K£10 million for the blood testing programme every year. This is what this Paper is saying. I am saying that this is one of the several Papers that have been written, since I came to this Parliament in 1963, and have been kept in the shelves. This is one of them. There are billboards that are displayed on roads. I have travelled throughout my constituency, an area that is so dangerous, and there is no single billboard either in Lunyala, Luluhya or whatever language, informing people to be very careful of the disease. I have seen several billboards on the roads. But in my constituency, which falls under the high pressure belts for this disease, no single billboard is there. Could the Minister, and the officer who is now listening in the Civil Servants Bench, send those billboards tomorrow, written in a language understandable to my people? It might frighten some of the people about this disease.

On the same page, he is talking about surveillance of the disease. He says: "Kenya is one of the few countries in the world, with an effective HIV Sentinel Surveillance, AIDS cases surveillance programme and reliable epido-managical data base on AIDS". That may be true, but it is not true as far as Bunyala is concerned because what he says here has never reached there. I am asking the Minister: When will it reach there? Even in Kisumu and Busia districts, what he says has not reached there. He further says---

**An hon. Member:** How will you know it is done?

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

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

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): We only want to know how this is going to be done. If it reaches there, I will know. He further says that: "Districts' capacity to implement HIV prevention has been realised through the establishment of district inter-sectoral AIDS co-ordinating committees, which bring together representatives from Government departments, NGOs and community based organisations".

First of all, Busia District does not have any NGO, nor community based organisations. If it is civil servants and departments that are being brought together for his purpose, I would like to inform the Minister that he should do something to make Busia a party to what is happening, if it is happening at all. This is because we have never seen that kind of thing.

On top of page six, he further says: "The Ministry of Health has, since 1995, decentralised AIDS activities to the districts, by issuing Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) to district medical officers for AIDS control". We had

the Ministry of Health Estimates here. I went through that particular Vote and Busia District did not have any allocation. We were told that there were pilot districts. In fact, hon. Munyasia who is sitting opposite me queried very seriously, why Bungoma was missing. But still, we are told here that in every district, they are going to issue AIEs to control AIDS.

This Paper is telling untruths of what the estimates gave us, and what we passed here only a few weeks back. I would like the Minister to take the Paper and give it out to his people. On the same page, it says that there is participation of NGOs. It says: "Many NGOs and community based organisations are involved in HIV prevention and care activities". Mark the word "many". A consortium of NGOs working in HIV prevention and care exist-- I have added in red ink, "only in Nairobi" in my book. This is because we have not seen these NGOs and community based organisations in Busia. There are orphans that have been left behind, and nobody is taking care of them. I would like to give the Minister, an NGO called Stream of Faith and Love (SOFAL), that has been incorporated in that area to try and assist the orphans in the district. Faith in the fact that this disease will come to an end, and love for the children that have been left behind. It is an NGO; care of P. O. Box 1 Port Victoria. I would like the Minister to find out about this consortium of NGOs, to assist or work with that NGO to assist people in that area, which, as I have said, is a high pressure belt. If the officer can take note of that, and if he still needs it, I will give him the name in writing. He can convince and write to other NGOs to go and assist these people. This is the only NGO that has been formed to go and help. But it is helplessly stationed there without any funds to help.

Further down on page six, we are told that: "Within these communities, a new epidemic of orphaned children and widows has emerged within these communities". These communities here include Banyala and Busia people. Are they going to be assisted if they have not even been discovered up to now? I sincerely do hope that they will be discovered.

In fact, the late Dr. Martin Kayo, whose name appears here, was a PMO in Western Province. He knew exactly the dangers that I am talking about. But when he reached Nairobi, he forgot that those areas existed. God help him.

This Paper goes on to say that the Sessional Paper on AIDS will give direction on how to handle controversial issues, while taking into account prevailing circumstances and the socio-cultural environment. I am asking the Minister: Which are these controversial issues, if they do not apply to the Banyala in Port Victoria?

On page nine, we are told that there will be more single parents, especially mothers with AIDS orphans, who will raise the demand for social services. This is very true. But when the husbands die, their wives follow them very quickly, and leave behind the orphans. The Paper is not telling us what will happen to the orphans. I am wondering why this Paper does not come out nakedly and say: For the sake of trying to control this disease, let us isolate - in fact, put a quarantine on people infected with AIDS. They should put all the males and females who are HIV positive differently. We are so shy that we do not want to tell people that HIV exists in certain people. Let us be bold and say that we will isolate them. We will experiment with the drugs that are being experimented on people; like Pearl Omega. There are some men in Kakamega who came up and said that they can cure AIDS. Even some doctors in the Ministry of Health also came up with something two weeks ago. Let all those drugs be tested on these people, when they are already quarantined. A veterinary doctor has said that the most dangerous thing is somebody suffering from the disease and going to "eat more of that disease". That is a fact from a scientist and, we who are not scientists, get scared when we hear that. That is why we think these people should be quarantined so that they do not get out. In this way, they can be treated and we can discover how effective the medicine which is being invented in Kenya is. The history behind Prof. Obel is that his father is a herbalist and his grandfather was also a herbalist. So, Prof. Obel is only following the footsteps of his parents and grand parents. He should be given an opportunity. I cannot write him off just like that. I think he should be given an opportunity, isolate patients for him and let him deal with them. We have heard the hon. Member for Nakuru Town say that some people from Majengo in Nakuru took this medicine and eventually died. Maybe they were "eating" more from outside and that also finished them quickly. Let these people be isolated and then we administer this drug on them.

On page 6 of the Sessional Paper, it is stated that religion and culture are going to have a lot in controlling this disease. I agree with that fact entirely, but what are we going to do so that the Ministry of Education introduces moral teaching in our schools? Lack of that education is what has brought about most of the problems. When I went to school I was taught by some white priests on the importance of upholding morality. That is missing these days and yet the Minister for Education comes here and talks big. Our children's morality has decayed. This Paper should expound on what plans the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education have in as far as moral teaching in our schools is concerned.

On page 13, the Paper also talks about insurance companies. It says:

"The Government will work closely with the insurance companies to establish guidelines pertaining to policies and benefits for people affected or infected with HIV".

This is the only disease that the insurance companies have kicked out openly. If you want to take a policy with an insurance company, you first of all have to undergo an AIDS test. They have now forgotten diseases such as Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases and concentrated on AIDS. We would like that clause to be elaborated when the Minister for Health stands up to reply. We would like him to elaborate on how he is going to convince the insurance companies that they should insure AIDS patients. We do not want civil servants to state theories in the Sessional Paper No.4. We want to be told what has happened. We want to hear whether they have talked to the insurance companies and what the insurance companies have said, otherwise, they are giving us false hopes.

I have talked about the high risk areas. On page 15, the Paper says:

"The economic demand created by social needs also makes HIV prevalence in Kenya to follow the pattern created by male labour migration".

This was effectively put by the hon. Member for Nakuru Town when he said that truck drivers move with this disease. They are actually "moving corpses". They infect low income earners with the disease. Girls have to go and look for a bit of income and in the process come out infected.

The Paper goes on to say:

"Spousal separation worsened by poverty, nature and conditions of works encourage high risk sexual behaviour among men and women."

This is very admirable, but he is not telling us how he is going to take care of this situation. Poverty is here to stay. Nature and condition of work is here to stay. He is not telling us how we are going to get rid of that. In fact, I thought the Sessional Paper should be giving us solutions to what is being said. There is no solution given anywhere in the Paper and I have read it very closely.

On the last sentence of page 15, it is said,

"Socialization of girls in many communities dictate submissiveness thus creating a situation where girls cannot negotiate or reject sexual advances".

Indeed, I will take this opportunity to give a short story of what happened in my own constituency. I took it upon myself and sacrificed my votes from the youths of that constituency by banning discotheques because school children used to run away from schools to attend discos at night. In town, there were plenty of discos because of the commercial fish buyers. They came with discos which were playing throughout the night and they were there with plenty of money. So, young boys and girls from schools used to run there. I was forced by circumstances, as a parent and a teacher, to declare an emergency so that there would be no discos. Do you know what the DO did?

**An hon. Member:** You did that illegally!

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Osogo):** It was illegal because I did not use the Chiefs Act. The DO negotiated to buy equipment for discos so that he could also benefit from the lucrativeness of what was going on. He said that I was playing politics. I came here, to Harambee House, and told the PS that if that DO did not leave the area, I was going to leave it although I had nowhere to go since that was my constituency. He had to go. That was a sure way of promoting immorality among the youth and, in fact, disregarding what I had said to my people. I even stopped commercial cinema shows. I wrote to the mobile cinema shows in Industrial Area and told them not to appear in Bunyala until AIDS was controlled. Fortunately, those ones stopped because they saw my concern. When children come from those shows they run into bushes and what happens there is anybody's guess.

The Paper further says:

"Groups such as beach boys, watchmen, soldiers, prisoners and truck drivers may usually establish casual relationships because circumstances separate them from their regular sexual patterns for long periods".

That is a true statement, but what is the remedy? I am afraid there must be a remedy. The Government has got the power to get a remedy for this. It should either build fences to separate the soldiers and truck drivers from the youth or undertake other measures. If we just make that statement and leave it at that and do not say what the Government will do about it, we are playing with the minds of people.

On the same page, the paper says that recreation facilities as an alternative to entertainment will be set up to reduce idleness and exposure of anti-social behaviour both in urban and rural areas. God help us! That is a good, well stated statement, if only it can happen. When the Minister stands up to reply, he should tell us where these social centres will be set up, especially in urban areas when all land where these could have been set up has been grabbed. He should tell us where he is going to set up all these things. Children are yearning to play football in rural areas which would keep them out of this mischief. But even football fields are being grabbed by land grabbers and yet we are brave enough to say in Sessional No. 4 that "recreation facilities will be created." The word used here is "will" not even "shall". When the Minister stands up to reply he must tell us where they have set up even one of these. If there is a plan, let us be told in which district such facilities will be set up. I would quickly invite the Ministry to set up one

in my place. There is a serious problem there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is better stated than done is on page 17. Here, it is stated: "Any exploitation, discrimination and violation of the children's human rights will be addressed accordingly."

**Prof. Mzee:** What is that?

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): Prof. Mzee is asking what that is. Indeed, I am also asking myself what it is. Exploitation, discrimination and violation of children's human rights has been happening, but now the Minister says here that they will be addressed accordingly. God help us. The language is flowing very well, but then he does not explain how "accordingly" he is going to do it. He must be able to tell us exactly what he means by that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 18, the Paper says:

"Youth vulnerability is increased by such factors as early exposure to sexual experiences through cultural, economic media and erosion of traditional values which were used as sanctions for regulating expression of sexuality."

This is also well said and it is true, but then he is not telling us how he is going to bring these old traditional values back. As I have said, and teachers will agree with me, it is a matter of teaching children morality in schools that will help on that. In the early 1940s, during my school days, moral education was taught in schools. But this Paper is saying this and the Ministry of Education is planning to bring here a paper--- God forbid, but the President said it might not come up in this House. I hope it does not, because it was going to be opposed. In the Ministry of Education's Paper, a teacher, who is 20 years old, and who, according to me, is a child himself, is expected to teach sexual behaviour to a child. He himself is a child and he is supposed to be teaching another child how to behave sexually. That is something that is---

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Osogo to refer to 20-year old as a "child" while we know that one stops being referred to as a child at the age of 16 and 18 years?

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Marketing and Development** (Mr. Osogo): That is your scientific translation. As far as I am concerned, a 20-year old person is a child and I treat my children as such. There are some who are even between 25 and 28 years of age, and I treat them as children up to now, and as such, I control their morality. I became a member of the African District Council (ADC) when I was only 23 years old, but immorality was out of my bounds because of the manner in which my father brought me up.

It is further stated in this Paper that the problem is made worse by the fact that parents and leaders, like the hon. gentlemen seated in this House, and teachers have difficulties in discussing matters related to sexuality with the young people. So, if they have got difficulties, what do you do? Whip the hon. Members of Parliament for them to talk sexual related matters in their political meetings and election rallies and teach the people to refrain from lose sexuality?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure I have dealt with this Paper in detail, but towards the end, the Minister talks of how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. He gives a list of ways of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections on pages 19 and 20, but he carefully avoids to include teaching of good morals in schools. I would like the Minister to go and add that point. Of the things he has tabulated there, teaching of good morals in schools should be part of the good intervention methods to be used in the prevention of this disease. He goes on to state that protective material for midwives and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) including gloves, disinfectants and gowns, will be provided. One of my wives is a nurse and she is not protected. The hon. Member for Nakuru Town who knows how these things happen, was telling us here how pressure can explode in one's face. This can be injurious and cause infection because the eyes have no protection. That was a statement from a scientist.

In my constituency, when one's wife is due to go into labour and you drop her at the maternity, if you are lucky to be there, you are told to run to a nearby chemist shop and buy gloves. An ordinary fisherman and farmer does not even have money to buy the gloves and these women are left unattended. The midwives say they will not risk their lives by handling deliveries of these children without gloves. There are no gloves in the hospitals, yet Sessional Paper No.4 is talking of gloves, gowns and disinfectants. Take these things to the hospitals, protect the midwives and save the women. In fact, most of these women have difficulty in giving birth because they end up delivering their babies in the hospital verandahs on their own without any assistance from nurses. The nurses have gone on strike because they do not want to risk delivering babies without wearing gloves, and these women's husbands do not have money to buy gloves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been made to suffer giving out money to these women to purchase gloves and I do not have that much money. The little that this House pays me cannot afford to buy gloves for these women all the time. I even have to leave some money to my wife, because sometimes, as I am here, there are

women going to the hospital. So, she has to be there all the time to provide this little money to buy gloves. Yet, there is a Ministry producing the Sessional Paper No.4 and saying that these items are going to be provided. Those things are not found in the hospitals. So, the Minister should assure us, when replying, that the midwives will have gloves, disinfectants and gowns for themselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I talked about the screening and on page 20 it states that:-

"Provision and maintenance of blood screening facilities including protective materials will be provided".

I have already talked about that and I hope you have taken it seriously, that blood screening facilities will be available particularly in high risk areas. I can only mention the areas I know, I hope they are in Mombasa because it is also a very high risk area and Kisumu. But Busia and Port Victoria are really high risk areas for reasons I had given earlier on. On page 21, it states:-

"Training for health care providers especially traditional practitioners to enhance sterile practices".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am told that HIV is a virus. I am ignorant, and I must plead my ignorance. Does a virus die from sterilization?

**An hon. Member:** Yes!

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am told that it does, so I am very relieved from my ignorance.

It goes on to state what the community will or should do. On page 22 it states:-

"Interventions at this level will focus on the general public who comprise the majority, and will include mobilization of community resources".

We are not told which resources these are. When replying, the Minister should tell us which community resources these are, so that we can go and tell our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I still insist that holding educational rallies at village level should replace what the Ministry of Health officers are doing at the moment. Holding seminars in hotels where people are fed with tea, discussions held and then giving out papers is not good enough. When time comes, there will be no money because they will have spent it on first of all, driving big cars to hotels and then making hotel bookings. Rallies should be organised in the forests under trees which you do not need to hire, then call people and talk to them. I assure you I will not attend such seminars which are held in hotels. I was once invited to attend such a seminar and I refused. I wrote to them and told them not to waste money calling people in hotels, because people coming to hotels have nothing to do with spreading the gospel to the rural people. When they got that message, they hired another hall and invited chiefs and their assistants. I again declined to attend and told them to call people under a tree and address them in every village. This would have helped people to get the message about this disease.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Paper is also talking about reforming the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) to accommodate the increasing health burden on the contributors. A Bill to that effect has been passed, but it has not been ratified, yet it is just a matter of amending it. In fact, it is just a one sentence amendment to that Act, and if it is brought to this House before we go and face the electorate, it would greatly help. The former Minister for Health mentioned about the amendment of that Act. He is now the Minister for Commerce and Industry and yet, in 1997, Sessional Paper No.4 is talking about amending the Act to reduce the increasing health burden which has been there for a long time and needs just one sentence to be amended to include out patient treatment. The Minister should tell us what has delayed this.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although there are quite a number of issues that should be emphasised, I understand, a few other Members would also like to contribute before it is replied to. I would like to end by saying: In the terms of reference of the National AIDS Council, as indicated on page 30, encouragement of research into AIDS cure and vaccine is conspicuously missing as one of its functions. If the Minister finds out that it has been outlined there, I will be very grateful. But I read through it and I found out that, that is missing. Unless research in AIDS cure and vaccine is encouraged locally, then we will not be doing a good job. We are told that deaths from AIDS will be about a million persons yearly in due course. What we are not being told is how many births there will be in a year vis-a-vis the deaths of a million persons.

**Dr. Lwali-Oyondi:** On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think hon. Osogo has misunderstood what is written there. It means that up to the year 2000, we shall have had a million deaths since the beginning and not yearly.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing** (Mr. Osogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought I had read that well, but I will come back to it when I get where it was. I thought I read it well. In any case, if that is the case, in that year, how many births will have been there? I am trying to get to the question of birth control, because this disease is finishing people. It is killing faster than the births. So, if by the year 2000, a million people will have died from HIV, they should tell us how many babies will have been born by

that time, hopefully AIDS free.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Mak'Onyango:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for according me this opportunity.

Let me, of course, in the first place, thank the Government for having made this first step by documenting or coming up with a document attempting to address this very serious matter. At least, this is an indication that the Government is somehow beginning to come up with practical measures to address the scourge of AIDS.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to first of all raise the question whether with AIDS, one begins to wonder whether we still need to have family planning because as statistics already indicate, we are losing people on so large a scale that if at the same time we are going to lose them in this way and on the other hand we are also limiting the rate at which the population in this country is growing through family planning. I think with the level already assumed by what you call the stage that we have reached with the AIDS problem in this country, I feel that time has come for us to review the issue of family planning. I am saying this basically with areas like my own in mind. Hon. Osogo has spoken of his area as being what we call one of the most affected areas. Similarly, my area is also one of the most affected. Much of Alego-Usonga and Siaya District as a whole are terribly affected that we are finding it difficult to cope with funerals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rate at which people are dying has reached an alarming proportion and it is in itself a clear indication of the gravity of the problem at hand. As a country, it is not going to be enough to simply come up with Sessional Paper No. 4 and, maybe, think that: "Yes, we are there." We have a very long way to go. This country must come up with some tangible measures in the control of AIDS and what is being suggested in this Paper, most of it is theoretical and very little of it is practical. So, we need practical measures to be put in place in the control of AIDS. In this regard, I want to again join hands with those colleagues of mine who have spoken before me on the question of the need to intensify our research on what you call an AIDS cure. Although there is no cure as we are told, that is no reason for us to keep trying or, at least, to intensify research in that direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying this because this country, at least, made news the world over when we came up with the KEMRON drug. It did not take long before we ourselves dismantled or disgraced whatever efforts that had been initiated. I think we need, and the Government needs to come up with some measures to show that it is serious on matters of AIDS control and what have you. This is because ever since the KEMRON saga, there seems to be very little on the research front with regard to AIDS control. Nothing seems to have been done or if anything has been done, there has been very little in terms of communicating with the people in this country as to what was being done in this respect. Well, one can understand that, maybe, to inform the few that something positive is being done could lead to some kind of recklessness that needs to be avoided. But be that as it may, still there is need for us to come up with well co-ordinated research and proper documentation as to what is being done in order to at least effectively come up with some control on AIDS.

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

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

I would want to call upon KEMRI which, at least, developed KEMRON, to still pursue its research programmes and, at least, see what needs to be done to develop that particular drug. It cannot be doubted that, at least, the drug had its impact. However, small the impact was, it was an impact all the same and, at least, had a positive impact. That to me is a clear proof that there was some kind of foundation upon which this country could be built in terms of research in this particular field. I think I want to call on KEMRI to still intensify its research on that particular drug and that the country should be kept posted on whatever could be going on with regard to improvement or development in that particular line.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, alongside that, one is necessarily reminded of the efforts by some of our energetic scientists like Prof. Obel whose efforts again have been frustrated by none other than the Government itself. It is not going to serve any useful purpose for us to come up with this document and say: "Yes, this is a very serious matter. Something needs to be done and so on and so on." when practical efforts made by indigenous Kenyans are frustrated. The mere fact that we have been privileged in this country to have people who came up and said: "Look here, we are addressing the problem of AIDS in this particular way." whether these people made wrongs, I think what the Government ought to do is to come up and say: "Yes, here you went wrong." You should correct them, but after correcting them, encourage them. But if you take up the so-called corrective measures that completely discourage and kill the interests that such people have displayed, in that case we are doing such damage not only to Kenyans, but also

to the entire international community.

So, the mere fact that there are some people, at least, who have made some efforts in this country, I feel very, very strongly that this Government should go out, since it is not too late yet, to find ways and means of encouraging these fellows. We have what we call the Government laboratory through which it should be easy to detect whether what these guys have come up with is a complete nonsense. Even if it is a complete nonsense, what I am saying is that the mere fact that we have seen it fit to address this scourge or serious problem, I think they should be encouraged and this Government should go out of its way to try and even come up with some funds that could help these people to improve on their research capability in this particular area rather than to discourage them. To discourage them is itself proof that what we are doing is mere lip service. So, it is time we showed that we are concerned and that we are making practical contributions to AIDS research and the developments of the necessary control measures and what-have-you.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in looking at that Paper, I am concerned with that area that deals with economic impact. Much of this Paper is superficial, and if you are talking of the economic impact of AIDS on Kenya, there should be some statistics which show the extent to which this thing has impacted on the country. To merely say superficially that it has done this-and-that is not enough. We should be able to say in no certain terms as to what extent the AIDS scourge has already undermined the economy of this country by, perhaps, showing how many of the economically active members of the society have had to abandon their jobs, having died and, therefore, their contributions to the economy is what we call loss as a result of this disease. So, to merely say in passing the way that it has been done here, I think this again does not show any degree of seriousness on the part of the Ministry that has produced this Paper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, one expects us to be told, say, for example, how many people who, at least at this stage, are economically active are being lost, perhaps, per year. That already will show the gravity or impact this disease has on the economic situation and not just passing words.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to agree again with my friend, Mr. Osogo, that a lot of what is provided for in this Paper leaves so much by way of explanation. I think the idea of such a Paper should be able to explain things in a such a way that anybody coming across this Paper should be able to take certain actions on their own. But then if you just make sweeping recommendations, out of which people cannot on their own take up some practical measures, at least, in terms of control, we are not at all serving this country. So, I would like to see some practical suggestions put here and there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on page 19, for example, under the strategies and interventions, the Paper says:- "Therefore, the strategies and interventions aim at preventing and protecting people not yet infected with HIV and empowering them to avoid risky behaviour."

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we speak of empowering, surely, what are we talking about here? Are we going to have a special fund to be able to give people money so that they can buy what they need to protect themselves against the HIV virus? What are we talking about? There is hardly anything, at least by way of practical measures laid down, which any person picking up this Paper and reading it can say: "Yes, out of this, you can learn something which you can practise yourself".

So, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to see the Government come up with some practical measures as to how some of these activities can be undertaken by people on their own without having to rely on others in creating awareness in them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also wanted to make a suggestion that some kind of fund or levy should be established that could help towards AIDS control. Now, some kind of research has to be undertaken to show some of the very practical measures and programmes that need to be put in place in order to bring about effective control of the AIDS scourge. Were that to be done, then one would say that we do need some kind of fund - call it an AIDS Control Fund - to which every industry in this country and organisations could be called upon to contribute. I am saying this because when it comes to AIDS, we are talking of a very large constituency that calls for active participation by the Government, the industry, the religious sector and everybody else in this country. So, we are talking of a disease that knows no boundary.

That being the case, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we need to come up with some kind of fund as a practical measure towards the control of AIDS. Now, the various industries or whatever could be called upon to contribute towards this fund as a means of facilitating or implementing the practical programmes that will have been put in place. I am saying that first of all, we need to have some thorough research done on practical measures that need to be put in place as effective control.

Once that has been laid down, then we need to have the means because if we were to come up with those recommendations or research programme without the means, we would not be achieving anything. So, I am saying that with that kind of research and programmes laid down, let us have some kind of AIDS control fund which can be used



to effect the implementation of that programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to say that given what a big problem AIDS in Kenya is today, I have a feeling that one sure way of bringing about education to the people on this matter, is to introduce AIDS as a subject in schools. I think there has to be found a way of ensuring or making sure that children, at least, are made to understand what a dangerous thing this is throughout the school system. Of course, it will have to start at a particular age. But let us have this thing taught in schools so that the children, at least, get to know what a terrible thing it is so that when they grow into the age where they will be ready for sexual intercourse, they will have known the dangers and that will make them avoid what is likely to land them into this kind of problems.

By the same token, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that, again, given the large constituency that AIDS occupies, chiefs throughout the country should also employ youths in spreading information or awareness about AIDS. I think this is the time we organised chief's baraza, and ensured there is somebody who is sufficiently aware or who can help in dissemination of information about AIDS.

Not only that, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir; I think we should go a step further. For example, things like condoms are most acceptable or readily available method for control of AIDS. Can we have a way out, so that condoms are made available at the chief's centre so that access to this facility is guaranteed? In that way, I think, through the fund I was talking about; maybe if we have such a fund again, we would be able to have a facility through which we can provide condoms and so on at village level in order to get the people have access to them. In that way, I have a feeling that we will be able to achieve a certain measure of control.

Be that as it may, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again back to research, I think, given what AIDS is, if it is going to be KEMRI. Maybe KEMRI is a general research body I have a feeling that we also need to come up with a particular research body on AIDS. This body would be able to benefit from the WHO and other international bodies concerned with the development of medical care. We need to have a body that would undertake national AIDS research in a systematic way and also be able to co-ordinate more efficiently. I am saying this because if you took KEMRI, for example, it is a medical research body, but it is general in nature and the chances that it focuses on other areas and allowing this equally important area to suffer in the process are very great indeed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, we should be moving towards addressing the whole issue meaningfully and systematically. If we had a national AIDS research body that could concentrate on AIDS and be able to benefit from an AIDS Control Fund to further their research, then, besides that, we would be able to benefit from the international research facilities. I have a feeling that, given that this problem is of an international nature, a national body co-ordinating this matter and liaising with others will be able to, not only attract international research funds, but would be able to move systematically and, in the process, make the Kenyan population benefit from their research findings. It is not only that; they will also be able to co-ordinate, in a more meaningful manner, personal endeavours like what Prof. Obel has tried--- I am sure if there was a body that is entrusted with that particular responsibility, it would be able to control what they do, and in that way, we would be addressing the question of AIDS more meaningfully.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement** (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion, which, I think, has come at the right time, if not late.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that AIDS is a deadly disease which people say has no cure. It is my belief, as a Christian, that, there is a cure for this kind of disease. For example, if our youth who have embraced the Western culture and way of life can revert to our old system; where we used to have our youth being given some lectures when they were growing up before they became adults-- These youths used to be given such lectures by their grandmothers and grandfathers. The girls used to live in their grandmothers' huts; but because of modern education this may not be possible at the moment. I would urge that, we should go back to our old system where parents used to advise the youth and the youth took very seriously, pieces of advice given by the elders. However, you will find that currently, grandmothers, grandfathers, fathers and the mothers have now abandoned their responsibility regarding the youth. The youth need to be properly educated and advised about the functions of their reproductive organs when they are growing up. They should be told when to interact between different sexes; male and female. Also they should be educated about the essence of not hiding sickness because presently, when a person is infected with AIDS or is HIV-positive, he tends to hide the symptoms of this deadly disease. It is better to expose this disease so that, at least, some kind of medication can be administered to the affected persons.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as opposed to what another speaker said earlier, that the low class people are more affected, I would say that even the high class people are also affected because of their wealth. Due to their easy access to money, and as a result of their ability to afford high class lifestyles, they are also prone to being infected with this disease. We know very well that herbal medicine can, at least, cure some mild HIV cases. This has

been possible in some areas and I would urge the Ministry of Health to do some very serious research on herbal medicine so that this can be introduced in our medical establishment. By so doing, I am sure we will help in reducing the number of cases, in as far as AIDS or HIV cases are concerned.

In some cases, you find that in our communities in this country--- I have heard people say that inheritance of wives is a must. I think this is another practice that we need to discourage. Wife inheritance is an old out-moded culture and it needs to be discouraged so that the spread of HIV can be eliminated or, at least reduced. I do not know why in other areas wife inheritance is considered to be good. It is even against religious norms.

We are all aware that so many jobs which were earlier on being manned by professionals have been affected.

We find that most of our professionals are dying in their thousands and we may, at the turn of the century, find that we have got jobs which cannot be manned by anybody because of the number of professionals who have been affected by this deadly disease. This reduces production in our economy and makes us become dependent on foreign aid and expatriates. We are told in some quarters that, HIV or AIDS, as is known today, was either manufactured or developed in a laboratory in one of the developed countries. If it is true that the country which developed this virus wanted the Africans to become extinct, or to reduce the number of Africans so that they can come back and recolonise us, then Africans are actually in trouble. We have AIDS, drought and famine and we are told that we must implement Structural Adjustments Programmes (SAPs).

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we find that there is an acute shortage of employment opportunities in developing countries and this is a very serious issue in the African Continent. I think it is the wish of those who developed this virus to eliminate Africans because we were fighting between ourselves and diseases like AIDS that are finishing the Africans. So, we should try, as a country, to educate our people, so that they are aware that we have a responsibility as elders.

I would also like to echo the sentiments expressed by other speakers earlier on, that we need to educate our people. We need to sensitise our people. It is the responsibility of hon. Members, the civic leaders and the public servants to educate our people on the seriousness of this deadly disease. We should not leave this responsibility to the medical staff, because they do not reach the interior parts of the country. I am being asked by my colleagues whether this kind of disease is in some of our areas, and I would like to inform them that Kenya is a very small country. So, our people who are working in other areas where this kind of disease is prevalent, interact with them, and when they come home, it is natural, that they also meet their opposite partners. By so doing, the disease affects very many people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in all seriousness, we need to find ways and means of reaching the remotest parts of this country to educate our locals in the outlying districts. I am told that there is some medicine which, and I would like our colleagues, like Prof. Mzee, to tell us, whether, when you combine CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>3</sub>, you get some gas. I hear that this kind of medicine which is in gaseous form, when it is injected into the blood of an AIDS patient, it kills some cells which carry the virus of this deadly disease and increases the white cells, which in turn, fight the HIV. The Ministry of Health can do a research on this one, there is a Dr. Stone either from the United Kingdom or USA, who is researching on this one. I hope that he comes out with some medicine which is more effective than KEMRON.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would like to say that, if all our people are careful, and if we can embrace both Islamic and Christian norms and values, at least, half of the people who might be affected by this disease will escape the trap.

With these few remarks, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support.

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government** (Dr. Wameyo): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this discussion.

AIDS as it has been shown in this Sessional Paper, is a real problem in this country. It is a virus and we have many other diseases in this country that are caused by viruses for which medicine is not available. It is nice to think that they may discover a cure for this particular viral disease, but that is something that may come many years to come.

AIDS, as we know and it has been said in that booklet, is transmitted in a big way sexually, but there are several other ways through which this disease is transmitted, particularly if you are transfused with blood from an infected person, obviously, that is a very big dose you will get AIDS. If one syringe and one injection is used on several drug addicts, if a few of them have got the disease, eventually others will pick it up.

There is one thing that is not said very much, but there was a little child in Germany who had a blood clotting problem, a disease called haemophilia. For the blood to clot, he was being given blood products and some of these came from some people who already had AIDS, and the little child eventually ended up with AIDS. The little child was playing with his little brother, and he went ahead and bit his brother with his teeth and left him with the saliva. The brother ended up with AIDS.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those are the few things that cause AIDS. But we have certain cultural practices in this country, some of which help in stopping the spread of AIDS, but others do cause the spread of AIDS in a very big way. Some of these cultural practices are found in Nyanza and Western Provinces among the Luos and the Luhya's respectively. I have tried to educate my people in my constituency about the spread of AIDS, as a result of these cultural practices, but some of them have ignored me and said, I am just campaigning.

One of the problems which the hon. Sumbeiywo tried to highlight goes with wife inheritance and also husband inheritance. Like in my constituency, I had a cousin who came to see me in Mombasa, where I have stayed for a long time and I realised he had the disease. I asked the other cousins to send him home when he is still alive, because it is cheaper rather than waiting until he is dead. When he got home, he eventually died, but he left two widows behind, so, his brothers got interested in the two widows. But when I went to the funeral, I pleaded with them not to be interested in the two widows because they too have the disease that had killed our cousin. Well, a few listened, but somebody came and thought I was campaigning and he took the most beautiful of the two widows, the youngest. Fortunately, I was very happy when his two wives heard about that, when he came back home, they ran away. I congratulated them. But this lady, having realised that her husband died of AIDS and now she had got it, vowed not to die alone. So, she went around and when she was dying, she said, "Yes, I have died, but eight men are following me". So, that man died of AIDS, but people never wanted to believe it. They rushed for the two widows.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a cultural practice in Western and Nyanza Provinces whereby when one's wife dies of AIDS, the parents of the dead woman decide that she has left children and the husband must be given the sister of the wife who has died, in order to inherit the husband without taking into consideration the cause of the wife's death.

**Prof. Mzee:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was wondering whether it was in order for him to point at the KANU side when he was referring to Western Province and pointing at the Opposition side when talking about Nyanza people. Is he in order to do that?

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that was a very nice joke. I was talking about cultural practices where people do not want to know what has killed either a husband or wife of a particular person. These things are very common and it would be better if we come up with some law, apart from educating people. This is a very common practice and it has raised the level of AIDS among some of those communities. I have stayed in Mombasa as a practising obstetrician and gynaecologist for 28 years and I have a wealth of experience from that area. If you take the Somali community whose religion is Islam, you will find that this disease among them is very negligible except in those who are long distance drivers who go up Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire. Those are the only ones among this community whom you will find with AIDS. Otherwise most members of the community do not have this disease because of their cultural practices, together with the Islamic Arab Community in Mombasa. When young girls get married, they must be virgins although sometimes they have created some artificial virginity, to save the parents from embarrassment. But one will find that because of that practice, that disease is not very common among those communities. They have their own cultural practices about virginity and morality.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the only problem which has brought the level of AIDS to be a little bit higher at the Coast is the tourism industry. Many of the tourists come to this country when they are HIV positive and they make sure that they move around with quite a number of unsuspecting people. They even keep the record of the people whom they slept with. There was a young German girl who came to Voi and got hold of a young man who was working. She lured him out of his working place in order to go and have a nice time together. The young man spent almost a month touring the national parks with that young girl. When she went back to Germany, she wrote him a letter saying: "Thank you very much for the enjoyment you gave me. It was my last one on this earth. I have got AIDS and I now know that you have got it. Here are 70,000 Deutsche Mark. You, spread it." When that young man got the money and the story, he could not sleep for some time but then, he forgot about it and started going round. He did not last for two years and he died. We have had people in this country who have died of AIDS. We had one whose wife was a nurse at the Coast General Hospital. After the death of her husband, she started going round all the bars in Mombasa town. Whenever she met people drinking in any bar, she would exclaim: "Oh! I have seen you. You came one day to Coast General Hospital bringing a patient. I have been looking for you since that time." The purpose of her doing so was to spread that disease. She really spread it and many were infected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to enforce the law because the Public Health Act is very particular about all the sexually transmitted diseases, such as Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and others. Whenever a person went to a police station to complain of having got a sexually transmitted disease from a lady he could identify, the police could take action to make sure that, that person is taken for treatment. Even if you report today to the police that so and so has this disease and has refused to come for treatment, they will not heed you. So, we need to come up

with a classification of the sexually transmitted diseases and, therefore, if somebody is found to be deliberately doing like some of the people do--- The first person shown in this book to have died of AIDS in Kenya in 1984, came from Western Province. He was a civil servant. When he realised that he had the disease, he went to his co-operative society and borrowed Kshs50,000 and went to Nyeri where he was working. He started paying Kshs500 to every lady who slept with him and people went on spreading AIDS because the ladies were rushing for that money. When it was realised that he was suffering from AIDS, he was reported to the police and they arrested him. When he was arrested, he gave a list of the names of all the ladies whom he had slept with. He was sent to his home but he died soon after. So, people who have got this disease have got a very bad motive. They do not want to die alone. Tourism has spread that disease in a big way at the Coast.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some cultural practices which we should borrow from the Islamic religion, if we want to reduce the spread of AIDS. When I talked about this, the hon. Member for Butere wondered whether I was the only doctor. My colleagues, for a person who is not circumcised, it is very easy to get AIDS at the very first score, because of the little wounds and cracks that he develops. The virus cannot penetrate an intact skin. But it penetrates through cracks in the skin. Ladies develop that thing very easily because the neck of the uterus, through which the baby passes, has a small little wound at the end, which we call an erosion. It is a wound and, therefore, the virus goes through it with a lot of ease.

Some of our cultural habits are contributing to the spread of AIDS very much. If we start a practice where we circumcise our children when they are seven to ten days old, we may reduce the spread of AIDS. Today, if you go by statistics, there are particular areas where AIDS is common, and the Ministry has not told us why this is so. We should ask ourselves why it is common in certain areas. It is because of cultural practices.

A lot of people have made efforts to try and get drugs for this disease. They have now turned to swindling people. This is because this is a virus and there are many viruses in this country like polio, smallpox, measles, hepatitis and so on, and they have no drugs. So, I do not know how somebody can easily come up with a drug of AIDS and yet we have had polio and smallpox for years. Such people just want money. These are the people who are telling others that they have drugs for this disease. These people are just making money in a very deceitful way.

But, definitely, this disease was very extensive in Uganda because the majority of the people in Uganda do not practise circumcision, except the Bagisu and the Moslems. In other areas where people are not circumcised, the disease is rampant. Even here in Kenya, in areas where people are not circumcised but they have nice cultural habits and practices, they do not have it. But where we inherit wives and where fathers give their son-in-laws their younger daughters if their wives die, and yet they do not know the cause of the deaths, there are many cases of AIDS. In this way, the disease spreads very much. This is an important fact that we need to accept. The Ministry should come up and classify the diseases among the sexually transmitted diseases, so that a person who has a disease, and who deliberately infects people because he does not want to die alone, should be arrested and charged in a court of law.

There was a story in the newspapers the other day that in the prisons, AIDS has become rampant because of sodomy and homosexuality. Money is being used to pay the warders to send to these particular cells, young men who have been imprisoned recently. If this is the practice, it is very important that we look into the problems of our prisons. There was a young civil servant working with the Customs Department in Mombasa. He believed, despite the fact that he had a wife, in being sodomised. Homosexuals used to go to his home, and even if they found him having dinner, he would leave the ugali there and take off. The wife did not protest. One day, he was taken to Malaysia by the homosexual tourists. When he came back, the disease had blown up. So, he ended up infecting the wife. He eventually died and was brought and buried here in Central Province. He left his wife who is quietly suffering from the disease. So, through homosexuality, the disease is transmitted and it is a big problem now. It is killing people. In Mombasa, we have had a lot of problems collecting money for funerals of such victims. Nowadays, when a person has died of AIDS, his body can stay in Mombasa for nearly two or three months before it is taken home because people are tired of contributing money towards such causes. The Kenya Ports Authority has lost a lot of employees because of this particular disease.

I had a client patient whose tubes were blocked, and she could not get pregnant. So eventually, I discovered what made them block, gave her some treatment, operated on her, and opened the tubes. One year after the tubes were opened, she did not get pregnant. So, I decided to check if the husband had "live bullets", or whether they were dead. I found out that they were dead, and that is why she could not get pregnant. So, when I called him to give him the advice and to see whether we could treat him, he refused. But he went home and collected a young woman who had two children of her own, and told his wife that the woman was his wife and the children were his. But the wife knew the truth and she became annoyed. She left and took off to Nyanza. She went into the "bush" and fortunately, she got pregnant. When she came back to Mombasa, I had to check whether she got more than what she had bargained for. I found that she had got the pregnancy plus AIDS. When she gave birth, and I delivered her, I checked and she and the baby were still HIV positive. Eventually, the baby has since died.

There is a practice in the Provinces of Western and Nyanza where, if a man is found to have no "bullets" and the wife has to have children, the man is fined one cow for the wife to be allowed by her parents to go into the "bush". It is called *ing'ombe ya masinde*.

**Prof. Mzee:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like the hon. Member to define the word "bullets".

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government** (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. But I am sure it is common sense; everybody knows the "human bullets" that make babies.

**Mrs. Asiyu:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Dr. Wameyo is suggesting that women go to the bush. He is a qualified medical doctor. Can he tell us how to treat or prevent AIDS, instead of suggesting that women go to the bush? This is because women will take him seriously!

**The Assistant Minister for Local Government** (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not saying that women go to the bush. What I said is that there is a cultural practice amongst the Luhyas and the Luos, which increases the spread of AIDS. If a husband is unable to make his wife pregnant, and it is found that the mistake is his, he is fined one cow. The cow is given to the parents of the daughter who allow her to go to the "bush", or to one of the relatives. This is because in the "bush", there is no bed. This cultural practice assists in the spread of AIDS. I am talking about cultural practices that assist the spread of AIDS, and not that women go to the bush. I did not say that. I was talking about where a woman is allowed by the parents, because they have received a cow, to go to the bush, instead of going for artificial insemination. But even if she goes for artificial insemination, she can also get the wrong ones from a person who has AIDS. So, she can still get it. I am talking of the cultural practice of fining the husband a cow so that the wife can go out and contribute to the spread of AIDS. She might bump into somebody with AIDS like the one in the example that I gave, who travelled to Nyanza to get pregnant, but also got AIDS.

There are other cultural practices which also contribute to the spread of AIDS. For example, in Maasailand, your age-mate can come to your house when you are not there, and just put a spear on your doorstep. When you come and find a spear, you just walk away and he sleeps in your house. If he has AIDS, he will leave it there. As a result, there is a certain disease which makes women sterile in that area. It is very common because of that practice. Therefore, a time has come for us to examine our cultural practices fully. Practices that create problems like these, aiding the spread of the scourge AIDS, should be stopped. Some of them are difficult to stop unless we have a legal system that can enable us to stop the practice.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for having given me the opportunity to contribute on this debate.

**Mrs. Asiyu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you. I agree with most of what Dr. Wameyo has said and especially in as far as the traditional practices are concerned. There are certain modern practices that must be discouraged. There are men who actually defile their two or five years old children. Such men should be castrated. We have to be very specific now. We cannot beat about the bush any more. I do not believe in capital punishment.

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

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

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Mrs. Asiyu, you are using a very strong word. I do not think the word "castration" is Parliamentary.

**Mrs. Asiyu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no other word in the English language that would equal what I am trying to express.

Many children are in danger now---

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought you told hon. Asiyu that the word "castration" was unparliamentary. Would she be asked to withdraw and apologise for using that word against us when I thought she was gender sensitive?

**Mrs. Asiyu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that this particular word is unparliamentary, but I would like to say that it is important to make men not function as men, if that is more Parliamentary.

*(Laughter)*

These men who are notorious for defiling their children and even killing them in the process need to be castrated. There is no other phrase that will describe them.

**Mr. Wetangula:** On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think Mrs. Asiyo should use the phrase, "should have their manhood dismembered".

**Mrs. Asiyo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that description is coming from a learned colleague and I accept it.

Having said that, I also want to suggest that all Members of Parliament who are elected or nominated be exposed to this knowledge so that they speak about it openly when they address members. We are losing very many people in our country through AIDS. There is no way we can leave it to the NGOs and people in hospitals to spread this gospel. I think Members of Parliament are very well placed to do that. They should go there and tell people who elected them the truth. There is a programme that is aired in the Vernacular Service in Dholuo language and when you listen to it, you will know that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is actually spreading AIDS. I was listening to a radio programme in Luo where some self-appointed elders were answering questions from women and young people. There was this young man whose father had died. He married and the woman had to go and live in another woman's house because his mother had not been "inherited" before she died. Then this other woman also refused to be "inherited". This man was telling this young man to move away from that woman because she would bewitch him and in that case fail to have a proper home. He was supposed to insist that the woman gets "inherited" or moves out of that homestead. It is such messages that are spreading AIDS and I want to appeal to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to always censor any information on this disease.

People suffering from AIDS are like us. This is a disease that can afflict anybody. We should be able to counsel these people. First, the doctors must inform them that they have AIDS so that they do not go around infecting everybody. It is also important to counsel them on the importance of not spreading AIDS. We should accommodate them and take care of them. There are certain medicines that can reduce their sufferings. Let the Government subsidize these medicines because they are very expensive. If it does this, we can help those victims so that they do not suffer too much before they die. Most of the victims spend all the money and even sell their property in order to get treatment. Let us tell them that it is not possible to get treatment and let us help them to get some relief for the remaining number of days of their lives.

One other thing that must be stopped by law is polygamy. There is no way you can stop men from marrying more women. When men marry many women they do not know the dangers they are exposing themselves to. When they see a fat woman, they think that they cannot be AIDS carriers. They bring them home or take them to other places and then they bring this disease home to their wives. Men are killing very many women in Kenya. There has to be a way of stopping them from killing women. The law here still allows a man to marry more than one wife, yet way back in 1968 it was recommended in this House - and I was in that commission that was appointed by the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta - that polygamy be outlawed. Tanzania took the very recommendation that our commission made and made those Bills into an Act. Kenya has refused to do the same until now, 30 years later. I am suggesting very strongly that polygamy be outlawed and that the consent of marrying be established and the minimum age of marrying be also established so that children are not forced to marry old men.

There is a way in which the African people took care of the orphans. If you go round your constituencies, you will see very many desperate orphans. If our African traditions have died, we can ask the Government to pay foster parents to take care of the children? A foster parent can be a relative of the child or any person who offers to take care of the child. There are many people who would love to do that, but they cannot do it because they do not have the resources. If they are given some resources to bring up these children in their own homes so that they have a natural upbringing, it would be very good. The Government can pay school fees, buy school uniforms and other items for these children because if their fathers were alive they would have done it for them. The Government is now "father" and "mother" to very many orphans in this country. I want to appeal to the Government to make sure that these children do not miss out on love and education which could be provided by foster parents. There are also children's homes in many parts of this country, but we can also deliberately create children's homes that will admit and take care of these orphans until they grow up and are able to stand on their feet. Any government that ignores the plight of children has no business being in power. We must attend to children first and foremost before we attend to anybody else. I feel very strongly that with definite determination by our Government all these children who are roaming our streets can be brought up to be very good citizens in this country.

**The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Col. Kiluta):** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. From the contribution on the Floor, it would appear that we do not have very new material coming forward and so, would I be in order to call upon the Mover to reply?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto):** Order! Order! Mrs. Asiyo, just wind up your contribution

and then I will put the question.

**Mrs. Asiyo:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to recommend that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) like church organisations be given the funding necessary for them to offer---

### QUORUM

**Prof. Mzee:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order, Prof. Mzee. No, we do not have a quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

*(The Division Bell was rung)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ndotto): Order! There is a quorum now!

*(Question, that the Mover be now called upon to reply, put and agreed to)*

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply. I would like to thank hon. Members for their overwhelming contributions on this Sessional Paper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the truth of the matter is that, there is no known cure for AIDS in the world, but there are some drugs on the market which only suppress this disease. However, the end result is a fatal one. I agree that on numerous occasions we have passed in the House, Sessional Papers similar to this, without implementation. However, I would like to assure the Members, that the Ministry of Health is very concerned with the increase of AIDS in our country and action will taken as we have set out in this Sessional Paper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Health has recognized AIDS as a health and development problem in our country. Through the Department of AIDS education, the Ministry of Health is supporting the Kenya Institute of Education in the development, production and dissemination of educational materials on AIDS, alongside other donors like UNICEF and the World Bank. Regarding moral education, it is a collective responsibility of the society and not just our Ministry or the Ministry of Education. Parents and teachers must work together to shape the moral behaviour of our youth. Prevention or transmission of HIV in order to prevent HIV amongst rural population---

*(Loud consultations)*

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a lot of loud consultations in the House.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order, hon. Members! We cannot hear what the Assistant Minister is saying. Can you consult quietly please! Proceed!

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to prevent HIV amongst the rural population, my Ministry has finalised a contract with the private sector for development, production and dissemination of rural films, radio, cinema, TV on campaigns about AIDS. This will involve the active participation in villages and the local community. Radio messages in local languages will also be broadcast in the local stations of KBC.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on HIV screening, I am glad to say that stocks of HIV screening equipment and reagents procured in 1995/96 Financial Year have been serviced on a regular basis and the blood is screened. The Ministry of Health has also made it mandatory for hospitals to have screening equipment for HIV and monitors for screening the blood. On public education through bill boards and print media, the Ministry of Health did a pilot scheme on billboards in local languages which we have been placed at strategic areas. This has created more awareness.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with this problem, the AIDS week is prescribed on a Kenya health policy framework of 1994 financial year with the participation of NGOs. The MOH has facilitated and supported the Kenya AIDS NGO consortium on the district level and the MOH with the approval of the Treasury has developed a memorandum of understanding for distributing and disbursing funds to the NGOs and CBOs involved in AIDS work up to district level. These funds administered under the leadership of the MOH and the District Inter-Section on AIDS Committee. Controversial issues such as confidentiality and isolation of AIDS patients cannot

be done for the simple reason that the moment we start identifying these people, they would start going underground and it will be very difficult for us to identify the patients who are suffering from AIDS and, therefore, we believe that the AIDS scourge will spread.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on insurance and AIDS, we will continue with dialogue and see to it that several insurance firms take part in development of this Sessional Paper. We have approached ALICO and Madison Insurance through the Commissioner of Insurance. It is an on-going process and its successful implementation will be realised with the establishment of the national AIDS control which we are proposing in this Sessional Paper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are just some of the few points which we have got. I would beg hon. Dalmas Otieno to contribute for two minutes. Obviously he is not here. So, I beg to move.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Ndotto): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 25th September, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.23 p.m.