

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 13th August, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.178

DISBURSEMENT OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Ruhiu not here? The Question is stood over for the moment. Question No. 296, Mr. Mulusya.

Question No.296

ADMINISTRATION OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Mulusya asked the Minister for Education:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the allocation of bursary funds to the needy students both at the national universities and secondary schools has been badly managed to the extent that most of the deserving students who are either orphans or from poor families are not benefiting at all; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, whether he could issue new guidelines on who should benefit and draw new modalities identifying the possible beneficiaries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Minister for Education in? If he is not in, the Question is stood over for the moment. Question No. 403, Mr. Ndicho.

Question No.403

FUNDING OF SPIRIT OF FAITH CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the existence of Spirit of Faith Children's Centre, Orphanage and School at Ruiru; and,
- (b) whether he could state the source of the funds being used to run the centre.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question is stood over for the moment because the Minister is not in the House. Question No. 497, Mr. Musyoki.

Question No.497

REMOVAL OF BOREHOLE PUMP

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Musyoki is not here and, therefore, the Question is stood over for the moment. Question 559, Mr. Farah.

Question No.559

PLANNING OF BULLAS IN GARISSA MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Maore, on behalf of **Mr. Farah**, asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) whether he is aware that Bulla Ift in, Bulla Madina, Bulla Iskadeg, Bulla Bura, Bulla Masalani, Bulla Riig, Bulla Market and Bulla Gadud in Garissa Municipality have not been planned for the residents;

(b) whether he is further aware that community services like schools, health facilities and sanitation for the 40,000 residents cannot be developed in the said *Bullas* because of the Council's failure to plan the area; and,

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what steps he is taking to have these areas properly planned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Minister for Local Government in the House? He is not here and, therefore, the Question is stood over for the moment.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You can see that the Government is not represented here and we are here to ask Questions. I think it is not right for the Chair to ask the Ministers to answer Questions when he can clearly see that there is not a single Government Minister here. Would I be in order then to---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I can see two Assistant Ministers in the House.

Mr. Mulusya: But they do not sit in the Cabinet.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would I be in order to ask the Chair to hold on for some time because some of these Questions are very important? There is not a single Government Minister present!

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Ndicho to say that there is no Government when it is represented here? The Assistant Minister, Office of the President, and I are here. The whole Government is here.

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Sumbeiywo in order to say that there is a Government here? The Government of Kenya, by virtue of the Constitution, is the Cabinet. There is no Cabinet here. Among these Assistant Ministers, none of them sits in the Cabinet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! We will go to Question No. 047 by Mr. Gitonga.

Question No.047

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS IN LARI

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Since Mr. Gitonga is not here, the Question is stood over for the moment. We will go back to the drawing board. Question No.178 by Mr. Ruhiu, for the second time.

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am suggesting that we adjourn the House for 15 minutes because this situation is embarrassing the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We have not come to the business of the House. We are still on Question Time and we will not adjourn.

Question No.178

DISBURSEMENT OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ruhiu still not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

For the second time, Question No. 296.

Mr. Mulusya: For the second time, I wish to ask Question No.296 to an absent Government.

Question No.296

ADMINISTRATION OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Mulusya asked the Minister for Education:-

(a) whether he is aware that the allocation of bursary funds to the needy students both at the

national universities and secondary schools has been badly managed to the extent that most of the deserving students who are either orphans or from poor families are not benefiting at all; and,
 (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, whether he could issue new guidelines on who should benefit and draw new modalities identifying the possible beneficiaries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Minister for Education is not here and so the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Question No.403, for the second time.

Mr. Ndicho: But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whom am I going to ask the Question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are Assistant Ministers here and they may wish to answer the Question on behalf of the Minister concerned.

Question No.403

FUNDING OF SPIRIT OF FAITH CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the existence of Spirit of Faith Children's Centre, Orphanage and School at Ruiru; and,
- (b) whether he could state the source of the funds being used to run the centre.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage! He is here and, the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think we need to be practical---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I know how to be practical much more than you can imagine, Mr. Ndicho.

For the second time, Question No. 497.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to apologise on behalf of Mr. Musyoki for not being here in time to ask the Question. Hon. Musyoki comes from Machakos Town and along that road, there is a lorry which is blocking the road. That may have caused his lateness. So, I wish to ask this Question on his behalf.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do you have instructions from him to ask the Question on his behalf?

Mr. Mulusya: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Question No.497

REMOVAL OF BOREHOLE PUMP

Mr. Mulusya, on behalf of **Mr. Musyoki**, asked the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the borehole pump of Yakamote/Kamuthanga Water Project was taken away on 11th October, 1996; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, was this matter reported to the police, and if so, who was involved and whether any action has been taken against the culprits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development in? If he is not in, the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Question No.559

PLANNING OF *BULLAS* IN GARISSA MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Maore, on behalf of **Mr. Farah**, asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Bulla Ift in, Bulla Madina, Bulla Iskadege, Bulla Bura, Bulla Masalani, Bulla Riig, Bulla Market and Bulla Gadud in Garissa Municipality have not been planned for the residents;
- (b) whether he is further aware that community services like schools, health facilities and sanitation for the 40,000 residents cannot be developed in the said *Bullas* because of the Council's failure to plan the area; and,
- (c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what steps he is taking to have these areas properly planned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question is deferred because the Minister is not in.

(Question deferred)

Question No.047, for the second time.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to apologise for coming late.

Question No.047

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS IN LARI

Mr. Gitonga asked the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Kinale and Kereita forests in Lari Constituency are systematically being destroyed;
- (b) whether he is further aware that this is a water catchment area and as a result of the destruction, streams and wells are drying up; and,
- (c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, if he could initiate a crash tree planting programme and have the two forest officers removed from the area for inefficiency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question is deferred because the Minister is not in.

(Question deferred)

We will now go to Questions by Private Notice.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

REPAIR OF OLD MOMBASA-MALINDI ROAD

(Prof. Mzee) to ask the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that road communication between Mombasa Island and Barsheba, Mwandoni, Mtopanga and Bamburi, is cut-off because of a huge gully at Mlaleo on old Mombasa-Malindi Road?
- (b) As a matter of urgency, could the Minister instruct the Municipal Council of Mombasa to repair this road immediately?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prof. Mzee is not here and, therefore, the Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister for Local Government, hon. Kamuren, is out there making telephone calls. Can we go for him because this is very serious?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question has already been dropped.

Mr. Mbeo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum in the House.

An hon. Member: He is a product of a by-election!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Mbeo! Well, I know he is a product of a by-election, but he has been here long enough to know that we do not raise quorum hitches during Question Time because we have not come

to the Business of the House.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Ministers seem to be getting away easily by having the Questions deferred and the hon. Members who are not here lose their Questions. Can we seek your benevolence and mercy so that we defer the Questions until further notice for the benefit of the Members who are not here?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, hon. Obure.

PRIVATISATION OF VISA OSHWAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Mr. Obure) to ask the Minister for Education:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that Visa Oshwal Primary School, which is a public school, has been privatised?

(b) If the answer to "a" is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform the House the procedure that was followed in the privatisation of this school?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Obure is not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. D.D. Mbela.

BLOCKING OF ROADS BY FARM PROPRIETOR

(Mr. D.D. Mbela) to ask the Minister for Public Works and Housing:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that classified roads in Ziwani, Nos.E697 from the junction of the Voi Road to Ziwani Centre, and E694 from the tented camp to Njukini Trading Centre and Ziwani Godown in Taveta, have been blocked by a farm proprietor who claims that these roads are private property?

(b) If the answer to "a" is in the affirmative, what action will the Minister take to re-open these roads to enable public service vehicles provide service to approximately 500 families living along these routes and who have no means of transport to Taveta Township?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. D.D. Mbela is not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Practically, Questions by Private Notice are asked at the end and now, the clock shows that we have only been here for 10-12 minutes and some of the Ministers coming to answer Questions might be thinking that it would be coming within---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is too bad. They should never think that way. They should know their business in the House, if they have Questions to answer. It should start at 9.00 o'clock.

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my major concern is that the hon. Awori wants to answer the Question being asked by hon. Mulusya. Can the Chair give the indulgence to hon. Awori---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! No Minister has communicated to me that he is here now ready with an answer, then I could use my discretion.

Next Question, Mr. Achieng-Oneko.

COMPLETION OF OWIMBI-LUANDA-KOTIENO ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Public Works and Housing the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the contractors awarded the contract for gravelling Owimbi/Luanda/Kotieno Road abruptly abandoned the work after having received 85 per cent payment of the total cost of the contract?

(b) Is he further aware that heaps of murram along the road intended for construction have proved hazardous to motorists and that due to incomplete work on culverts, the remaining part of the road has been rendered impassable when it rains?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what urgent steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the contractors resume work on this road and that the road is fully maintained to make it motorable throughout the year?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there anybody here from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing? The Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

POINT OF ORDER

ISSUE OF LACK OF QUORUM

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is an obvious conspiracy by the Government to bring this House to a standstill and premature prorogation by the President because of lack of business, and this is part of it. When the Ministers choose not to come here to answer Questions and they are saying that it is because we refused the budget, and now that the IMF and World Bank are freezing aid, this is why they want to punish the Opposition. It is the Opposition Members who ask Questions in this Parliament. It is only one KANU Member, Mr. Douglas Mbela, who had a Question by Private Notice this morning, and he himself also deliberately chose not to be here.

Is the Chair not at liberty to rule against those specific Ministers who were supposed to be here this morning and answer Questions because this has made this House "impotent", and the hon. Members who represent the majority of the Kenyans are not being served by the Government which is a party to this conspiracy? We require your indulgence on this matter.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Wednesday morning is a very important day not only for the Back-benchers, but also for the whole country because that is when issues that the Government does not deal with are brought up for debate in the House. For three weeks consecutively now, we have lost the Members' Day on Wednesday morning simply because there is no quorum. I recognise that we, on this side, are equally as much to blame as the other side, but when the Government is absent from Parliament, the responsibility of running this country is in the hands of the Government. Would we be in order to ask that the people responsible for order in this House, the Leader of Government Business and the whips, be censured strongly because, where is the Vice-President? Where is the Leader of the Government Business? He is the Leader of the House; why is he not here?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Well, I could not agree with your sentiments more, hon. Anyona, I think hon. Members have to take the House seriously, and it creates a burden even for those who prepare the Order Paper to have so many Questions deferred at a time because the Ministers are not here to answer them. I think Mr. Speaker himself, the hon. Francis ole Kaparo, did as it were, reprimand Ministers for the habit of not turning up to answer Questions, particularly on Wednesday morning. But also as you said, hon. Anyona, you said, I fully agree with you really that it is both sides of the House which are to blame, especially on Wednesday morning. All the three Questions by Private Notice have been dropped.

The much we can do in this kind of situation, the rules allow us, and I think really that is the fairest thing to do, is that the Government must never get away with the excuse of not turning up and answer Questions. That is why where the Minister has not turned up to answer the Question, the Question is deferred. The problem keeps on following the Minister, whereas where the Member who has the Question fails to turn up for good reason, the Question is dropped unless later, of course, he can demonstrate to the Chair that there was an intervention of this nature which made him absent himself. Now, I will use my discretion this morning to allow those Questions which had been deferred, but which the Ministers responsible for those areas are here, the Questions be asked again. It is a practice I would not really want to resort to often and I hope it does not establish a precedence. I think it is important that we stick to the Questions on the Order Paper.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I agree with you. Some of the Ministers have now come and some of the Members whose Questions have been deferred are here. Through the mercy of the Chair, could we ask these Questions again?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I have said exactly that. I have used my discretion to re-visit Questions which were deferred, but those that I announced were dropped, are dropped. Yes, they cannot now be re-visited. Let us go through the Questions again for the third time.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.178

DISBURSEMENT OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is hon. Ruhiu here? I give him that special dispensation to ask the Question for the third time. Hon. Ruhiu is not here? In any case the Question was dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, hon. Mulusya.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that the Minister who is the Secretary-General of KANU has woken up from the KANU Headquarters, I wish to ask Question No.296.

Question No.296

ADMINISTRATION OF BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Mulusya asked the Minister for Education:-

- (a) if he is aware that the allocation of bursary funds disbursed to the needy students both at the national universities and secondary schools has been badly managed to the extent that most of the deserving students who are either orphans or from poor families are not benefiting at all; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, if he could issue new guidelines on who should benefit and draw new modalities of identifying the possible beneficiaries.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to apologise for coming late and failing to answer the Question on the Order Paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the allocation of bursary funds disbursed to the needy students both at the national universities and secondary schools has been badly abused.

For national university students, my Ministry disburses bursaries to only the very needy students through the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) which relies on information provided in the student's loan and bursary application form to carry out the mean testing assessment that enables the Board identify the very needy and deserving student. There is a provision for any deserving needy student who does not benefit to appeal to HELB for further consideration. In secondary schools, bursaries which are disbursed through the DEBs are awarded to needy students identified by a committee and approved by the board of governors.

(b) My Ministry is satisfied that the current criteria for identifying needy students both at the national universities and secondary schools are fairer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to add that if an hon. Member has any specific case of a student who might have been denied bursary or loan in the universities and the case is needy, I am ready to take up the matter with the relevant authorities. I know many students whose parents have seen me in the past after they have been denied loans by the HELB, and these parents have appealed and thereafter awarded the necessary loans.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is a very sweet and loud talker. What he has explained here are not the policies. It takes a poor parent a whole year to get a reply from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), for his child's bursary appeal. The loans are even given to children of very rich people. In secondary schools, children of civil servants like the district officers, assistant chiefs and agricultural officers are the ones getting bursaries, and yet they have salaries to pay the fees. It is very important for the Minister to set up rules, regulations and conditions for one to qualify for the bursaries. He should also have independent people, other than the chiefs and headmasters who give themselves and favoured parents bursaries, to allocate these bursaries. He should come up with a system which can benefit those who are basically poor and needy cases.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to maintain that the formula that the Government uses in the allocation of bursaries is adequate. The rules and procedures are there and they are adequate. Therefore, I would like to challenge hon. Mulusya to tell this House and nation, what board of any secondary school in Kangundo he has attended and participated in the deliberations of allocation of bursaries to needy students. This is because I have stated again and again that every Member of Parliament is an *ex-officio* member of the respective District Education Boards (DEB) in their home areas. They are also respective members of Board of Governors in their respective places. Therefore, it is unfair for hon. Mulusya to come here and make generalisations and condemnations of DOs, chiefs and headmasters, while he has no specific cases of needy students who have been denied bursaries.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is deliberately provoking me. I have attended all the meetings in all the secondary schools in my constituency. There are some secondary schools where the Minister has specific interest, especially those which are run by women. This is where the biggest problems are.

Mr. Kamotho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Are you satisfied with the allegation that I have personal interest in secondary schools, particularly those run by women, as alleged by hon. Mulusya? Can he produce any evidence rather than making general condemnation and allegations in the House?

(Mr. Ndicho interjected)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Ndicho! Hon. Mulusya, I think that is in bad taste and it is unparliamentary. I would request you to withdraw and apologise, and then ask your question.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is nothing wrong with hon. Kamotho making several calls to those schools. In any case, I also go to those schools---

An hon. Member: Oh, so there is competition! There is a struggle here!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I think it is a little serious, hon. Mulusya. I suppose you would want to be treated with the same courtesy and respect that you are expected to show to your hon. colleagues. To be very blunt, the statement you made is quite disrespectful and unparliamentary. Therefore, I have ruled that you withdraw and apologise, and then ask your question.

Mr. Mulusya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to apologise, but in the same breath, hon. Kamotho should not be allowed to make a blanket condemnation against---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Mulusya! Let us be serious. You will withdraw the statement and apologise. Let us not have conditions.

Mr. Mulusya: I withdraw and apologise, but let him desist from attacking me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question!

An hon. Member: But we want to ask supplementary questions!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Question No. 403, by hon. Ndicho!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the third time, I beg to ask Question No. 403.

Question No. 403

FUNDING OF SPIRIT OF FAITH CHILDRENS' CENTRE

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the existence of Spirit of Faith Childrens' Centre, Orphanage and School at Ruiru;
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, when it was started and who manages it; and,
- (c) whether he could state the source of funds being used to run the centre.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply. But before I do so, I would like, on behalf of the Government, to state that generalisation is not right. Quite a number of us---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could you just reply to the Question?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

- (a) I am aware of the existence of Spirit---

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can the Assistant Minister substantiate the generalisations he is talking about?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! It is not in order and I have told him. Your business is to ask your question and you heard it.

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

- (a) I am aware of the existence of the Spirit of Faith Childrens' Centre, Orphanage and School at Ruiru.

(b) The Spirit of Faith Childrens' Centre, Orphanage and School was started in 1984 by Rev. and Mrs. Dick West, both of American origin.

(c) Initially, the funds running the centre came directly from Rev. Dick West and his wife, from their own personal savings. Later on, Rev. Dick and his wife were able to attract donor funds, both from local and foreign sources. For the past three years, the management of the centre has been running appeals to the donor clubs through the local dailies and have managed to raise a substantial amount of money for the centre's day-to-day activities.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very sad state of affairs. The way this question has been answered does not portray what is on the ground. This couple had a very noble idea of starting this orphanage. But later on, the Rev. Dick West turned this centre into a personal institution through which he could collect money from Kenyans and other donors abroad. He has put up a very big house, almost like a State House, at Kajiado. Is the Assistant Minister aware that Rev. Dick West touches the breasts of little girls? He even impregnated one girl called Priscilla, and she gave birth to a child at Pumwani Hospital in Nairobi, and the child got lost. As a result of that, his wife left him and went back to America. Now, he has married another girl from United States International University for Africa (USIU - Africa). He is misusing the money---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your question?

Mr. Ndicho: The question is: Is the Assistant Minister aware that this man has deviated from the original programme of this institution, and he has now turned it into a personal place for making personal money? He has used the money that he receives from the donor clubs to put up a personal house at Kajiado. He impregnated this girl and his wife left him. Is the Assistant Minister aware of what he is doing there?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Reverend puts up a house for his personal use in Kajiado, but continues to run an orphanage in Ruiru, I do not see the conflict. There is no proof whatsoever of the allegations made by the hon. Member, that the man has impregnated the girl. If he had, perhaps, there were good relations between the two.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no quarrel with the Reverend putting up his personal house. My quarrel is that he uses that money which he purports to contribute to this centre. Today, that centre is falling down and we are contributing money to feed those children. The Chief of Ruiru, who is under you, had to intervene when this girl was impregnated. You can even go ahead and ask him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is too bad that this Assistant Minister is not responsible for this Ministry. Can the Government - I know hon. Awori is a very serious Assistant Minister sometimes - promise this House it will send a team to Ruiru and investigate whether the funds this man has collected through the donors have been utilised in that centre properly, and also send the team to Kajiado to see whether the money he is collecting is for his personal house or for that centre?

Mr. Awori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can give the undertaking that investigations will be made as to whether the orphanage in Ruiru is being run properly or not. But, I am afraid, I cannot give the Government's undertaking to dig into the private life of Rev. West.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question No.497 by Mr. Musyoki for the third time!

Mr. Musyoki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming late.

Question No.497

REMOVAL OF BOREHOLE PUMP

Mr. Musyoki asked the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development:-

(a) if he is aware that the borehole pump of Yakamote/Kamuthanga Water project was taken away on 11th October, 1996; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, whether this matter was reported to the Police, and if so, who was involved and if any action has been taken against the culprits.

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Mokku): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) If the hon. Member is referring to Metuma/Kamuthanga Water Project, then I am aware that the water pump for the borehole was stolen on 10th October, 1996.

(b) The matter was reported to the police by the area chief on 13th October, 1996. No arrests have so far been made and the police are still investigating.

Mr. Musyoki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arising from the answer the Assistant Minister has given, I think the part which was stolen was especially meant to use diesel to pump water for supply in the whole of Kaloleni Market. Now that the Kenya Power and Lighting Company has already supplied power even to the nearest stations to the borehole and since the matter is being investigated and there is no water now, there is no point using the diesel pump which was stolen. Could he tell us what plans the Ministry has to supply power to that borehole? It costs Kshs70,000 and the area is now experiencing water problems. Could the Assistant Minister supply us with power?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no harm if the Kenya Power and Lighting Company are on the ground. There is also no harm with my Ministry liaising with them so that we can assist the people on the ground.

Secondly, this project has now been proposed for rehabilitation under the Belgium funded Water User Association Project.

Mr. Musyoki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, the Kilimanjaro Water System has proved to be inadequate in supplying area residents with water, yet there are so many boreholes. Behind the DC's office, there are four pumps which are not operating. There is also the Kasinga Kyanguli water pump which is not operating and four water pumps at Mua Hills Water Project which are also not operating. Could the Minister embark on a serious rehabilitation programme of putting these boreholes into working condition so that the area residents can get adequate supply of water? And could he tell us how much money he has budgeted for rehabilitation of those boreholes in the 1997/98 Financial Year?

Mr. Shikuku: And does he know that you are KANU damu?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Ministry will be serious in rehabilitating those boreholes. As regards how much has been set aside in this financial year, since it was not in the original Question, I will check out the figure and give an answer to the House.

Mr. Musyoki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister give this House a specific date when he will bring the answer on how much money is going to be spent to rehabilitate those boreholes?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, next Tuesday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question No.559 by hon. Farah Maalim.

Question No.559

PLANNING OF *BULLAS* IN GARISSA MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Maore on behalf of **Mr. Farah** asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) if he is aware that Bulla Ift in, Bulla Madina, Bulla Iskadeg, Bulla Bura, Bulla Maslani, Bulla Riig, Bulla Market and Bulla Gadud in Garissa Municipality have not been planned for the residents;

(b) if he is further aware that the community services like schools, health facilities and sanitation for the 40,000 residents cannot be developed in the said *Bullas* because of the Council's failure to plan the areas; and,

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what steps he is taking to have these areas properly planned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Minister for Local Government? He was there!

An hon. Member: He is in the other room!

Mr. Mulusya: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Kamuren was here and when it was Question Time he ran out. It is because he did not have a file in his hands. Can I go and drag him here if it is in order?

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to enlighten the House that I saw hon. Kamuren in our Television Room. I think he has got a problem in getting an answer from his Ministry. He was trying to call them up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, the Question stands deferred!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question No.047 for the third time by Mr. Gitonga!

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the third time, I beg to ask Question No.047.

Question No.047

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS IN LARI

Mr. Gitonga asked the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:-

(a) if he is aware that Kinale and Kereita forests in Lari Constituency are systematically being destroyed;

(b) if he is further aware that this is a water catchment area and as a result of the destruction, streams and wells are drying up; and

(c) if the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, whether he could start a crash tree planting programme and have the two forest officers removed from the area for inefficiency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources here? The Question is deferred!

(Question deferred)

(Mr. Kamuren walked in)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kamuren, do you have anything to say?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kamuren): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must apologise to the House. It is true I was looking for the answers to this Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Have you got the answers?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kamuren): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not yet got the answers. I have only one answer for this afternoon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, the Question still stands deferred! Then, by special dispensation again, Mr. Achieng-Oneko's Question No.4 by Private Notice, which I had deferred!

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

COMPLETION OF OWIMBI-LUANDA-KOTIENO ROAD PROJECTS

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Public Works and Housing the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the contractors awarded the contract gravelling Owimbi-Luanda-Kotieno Road abruptly abandoned the work after having received 85 per cent payment of the total cost of the contract?

(b) Is he further aware that heaps of murrum along the road intended for construction have proved hazardous to motorists and that due to incomplete work on culverts, the remaining part of the road has been rendered impassable when it rains?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" are in the affirmative, what urgent steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the contractors resume work on this road and that the road is fully maintained to make it motorable throughout the year?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mwamzandi, are you aware that you are very late?

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that I am very late, because I understood that you were still on ordinary Questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! This has been one of the worst mornings when Members of the House, particularly from the Government side, have been absent. We went through all the Questions and there was virtually nobody here to answer a single Question within 10 minutes. Since some Ministers started walking in, I said that by special dispensation, I will revisit the Questions which had been deferred and not the ones which had been dropped. I had already called for this Question and deferred it, but I know this is a Question which was already deferred from another day. So, you definitely owe the House a profuse apology.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, your are right. I was informed that the Question had already been called the first time. I do apologize. I was away looking for the reply.

Having said that, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the contractor who was awarded the contract for gravelling Owimbi-Luanda-Kotieno Road abruptly abandoned the project. But, I am aware that the contractor temporarily stopped working from early July, to late July, 1997, to due to non-availability of material on the site and equipment break-down. He resumed the work in late July. The contractor had been paid Kshs35,858,500 which is equivalent to 85 per cent of the tender sum.

(b) I am aware that some heaps of murrum are on the road; for a stretch of about 300 metres. However, the section is not hazardous to motorists because there is a deviation and the road signs are strategically placed to warn motorists. Spreading of the murrum was stopped because of machine breakdown but the machines have been repaired and spreading is going on today.

(c) The contractor resumed work in late July. The first exercise has been to excavate murrum in a new quarry, which is currently in progress, in preparation for delivery to the site.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: For the first time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to allow me

use, what may be termed as unparliamentary---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will not allow you! That request is turned down. Do not use unparliamentary language! Not you only, but---

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Excuse me! I have a sore throat, but this is a lie. This is because the work stopped in May and these people are claiming to have started some work. I came back yesterday from my home and the road being constructed is just two kilometres from my home, so I do see it everyday. There is no spreading of the murrum. The murrum heaps are still there. If the work is starting today, that is the only correct thing, but the written answer read to the House is just a black lie, not a white one!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Now, Mr. Achieng-Oneko, I order you to withdraw--

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Achieng-Oneko, I take it that you are one of the senior-most Members of this House by virtue of your first entry into the House, a few years before Independence. I am requiring you to withdraw the use of that word, which you have deliberately and repeatedly used, knowing fully well that it is unparliamentary, because you told me that you were requesting to be allowed to use it and I told you that I would not allow the request. Withdraw and apologize, then the Assistant Minister can respond to the Question.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, actually, I was not in my usual mood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I want you to be in your usual mood.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: It was incorrect for the Assistant Minister to give the House a misleading answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. So, you should withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw and apologize.

I am very friendly to these people, but this time they have angered me.

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply I have given is genuine. It is only unfortunate that the hon. Member left his home yesterday. But if he had left his home today, he could have seen the murrum being spread because the work is being done now.

(Several hon. Members stood up in there places)

Mr. Obure: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House that, if hon. Achieng-Oneko had left his home this morning, he would have seen the murrum heaps being spread? The day is only two hours old, and if he had left his home in Rarieda this morning, in fact, he would not be here now. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the Assistant Minister seems to be joking! That is what the hon. Members are saying. Mr. Assistant Minister, the thing is that, you stop joking.

Mr. Mwamzandi: With due respect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not joking. It is in the main reply that we gave instructions that the murrum should be spread. Assurance has been given by my District Works Officer that the work will be started starting on 13th August, which is today. So, I am not joking!

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Ndicho! We are not in a market place! Hon. Anyona has the Floor!

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the whole of the Seventh Parliament's life, this particular Assistant Minister has never given a correct answer in the House. We have had numerous cases where the Civil Service has been deliberately misleading Ministers like him, and they have come here to mislead the House. For one, and in all fairness to the House and the country, could we appeal to the Chair to order this Assistant Minister to make a trip to Rarieda, and bring an answer here next week? He should go with hon. Achieng-Oneko, and then they come back to tell us who was telling us the truth and who was not. It is very serious!

An hon. Member: We will sponsor you!

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we are given specific cases where we have given replies and nothing has been done after giving assurance to this House, then we will take specific action. I would also agree with hon. Anyona that if nothing has been done by today, and if hon. Achieng-Oneko tells me later that nothing has been done, then I will be prepared to have a trip with him to the Provincial Works Officer and his District Works Officer to find out why this work has not been done.

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that the Assistant Minister has misled this House, and the Chair has also recognised that the Assistant Minister is joking, would I be in order to request that this Question be deferred to allow the Assistant Minister to send his team, if he cannot go there himself, to bring a proper answer to this House? He should also confirm to us when he is going to do that.

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the only assurance that I can give here is that if nothing has

been done by today and I am assured that nothing has been done, I will come to the House to apologise and then take drastic actions against the officer who has promised me that the constructor will be there today.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know it is unparliamentary to use the word "lies" and, therefore, I am not going to use it in respect of this Assistant Minister. However, this is not the first time that this Question is coming to this House. This same Question came here last year and this same Assistant Minister came to this House and told us that this road is not being constructed since it was not the priority of the Siaya DDC. Today, he is telling us that the contractor is on the site and yet there has been no contractor on that road for the last two to three years. The Assistant Minister has now admitted that the tractors have broken down and so-and-on. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the reason why they have not terminated the contract of this man who is unable to perform because everyday we are being told that tractors have broken down? What is the use of keeping him there when the people of Rarieda are suffering bearing in mind that is the only major road leading towards Rarieda? This is a very important road economically for both Rarieda and Bondo?

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate for hon. Dr. Oburu to say that no construction work has been going on when the hon. Member for the area knows for certain that work on that road has commenced and the constructor has been paid 85 per cent of the contracted sum.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not know whether the Chair and the House at large is aware that Legal Notice No.54 in the Kenya Gazette has removed the department of roads from the Minister of Public Works and Housing and taken it back to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. We are happy with that because we shall no longer have hon. Mwamzandi telling us unparliamentary things. But I wish to confirm--

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Ndicho! Your point of order is out of order because, even if what you are saying happened - I am not aware of what you are saying - the Assistant Minister, as a Minister of Government, is still competent to answer questions regarding any Ministry. So, it is not for you to tell us that he cannot answer. He can answer a Question like that legally.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this reply from the Ministry has purposely been given in this way to confuse the House and, therefore, I want to ask for your indulgence if the answer can be deferred to another day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Assistant Minister explained the position and I do not think I can defer the Question. I take it that you are going to take his assurance seriously that if later, we get information that work on this road has not started, he is prepared to revisit the place and come back to the House, apologise and take further drastic actions.

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: What about the statements that he has made in his reply?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is why he has given that further undertaking. So, in a sense you will have the opportunity--

Mr. Achieng-Oneko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I doubt whether--

Mr. Nthenge: With hon. Mwamzandi, you do not expect much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why do you not see him later? The HANSARD will be there for you to refer to. The matter can still come back to the House at the earliest opportunity. Next order.

POINTS OF ORDER

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT: MAYHEM IN KOROGOCHO

Mr. Mbeo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand on a point of order with a very deep heart to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Office of the President on the situation in Korogocho, in Mathare constituency. Two lives have been lost and over 26 kiosks have been burnt down. Over 40 dwelling houses have also been burnt down and a lot of people are in hospital now, seeking medical attention. Could the Minister, therefore, explain to this House the cause of the problems in Korogocho and what measures have been taken to solve these problems?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Awori): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to look into this matter and bring a statement to this House as soon as possible.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT: SECURITY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Ojodeh: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to seek a Ministerial Statement from the

Office of the President on what I should call the plight of Parliamentarians, party leaders, their drivers and bodyguards. What I saw yesterday when I was in hon. Mbeo's car was something that I had never seen before. Security men are targeting some of the MPs within this House, their drivers and bodyguards. Also hon. Raila's bodyguard was arrested. Hon. Mbeo's bodyguard was also arrested. Mr. Andrew Ligale's bodyguard was also arrested and disarmed. That happened yesterday. Could we get a Ministerial Statement on this issue because we want to know whether our lives are safe?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SOUGHT:
ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is it on?

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is on the order of the House. You notice that at the beginning many Questions were unanswered because the Front Bench was empty. In view of the fact that **[Mr. Anyona]** now the Leader of the Government Business and his deputy are here and in view of what you said, is it not fair that the Leader of Government Business should make a Ministerial Statement as to why the Government Ministers were not here to answer Questions and to assure this House and the country that this Government is going to be here until it is removed by the people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next order. Hon. Ligale.

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just want to clarify that my bodyguard was released. It was a case of mistaken identity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

MOTION

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH POLYTECHNICS

THAT, given the crucial importance and role of youth polytechnics in the technological transformation of the rural and urban areas in the country through the informal and *jua kali* sectors, and in view of the serious financial, management and organisational problems facing and threatening the collapse of the youth polytechnics in the country, this House resolves as follows:

- (i) that all youth polytechnics in the country be financed through the Exchequer and supervised by the Ministry of Research, Technical Training and Technology in the same manner as all public educational and technical institutions;
- (ii) that the remuneration and other terms and conditions of service of instructors and other employees of youth polytechnics be based on a regular Scheme of Service in accordance with the Public Service Regulations.
- (iii) that the graduates of the youth polytechnics be absorbed into regular employment both in the public and private sectors and/or be assisted with capital (financial and/or material) to join the informal and *jua kali* sectors in self-employment.

(Mr. Anyona on 6.8.97)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 6.8.97)

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it was not for this unfortunate problem of lack of quorum, this Motion could have been passed three weeks ago because it is a very important Motion. I have already said that the importance of this Motion lies in the fact that the 600 youth polytechnics in the country have all collapsed because they have no financial backing and due to lack of staff. The importance of this Motion lies in the fact that this is a matter that deals with youth and we as a country are paying lip service to the youth. Although we are saying that we believe in the youth, this is one project that concerns the youth which is not being supported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have also said that in order for industrialisation to take place in this nation, it is important to acquire the necessary technological skills. This can only be acquired through the medium of youth polytechnics. There is a connection between our relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Motion before the House today. It is a fact that we are a poor country and our economy is dependent on aid. So, we

can be blackmailed by the international community. It should be our serious intention, as soon as possible, to do away with aid dependency. We can only do that if we seek to industrialise our economy as much as we can.

The IMF is blackmailing us because of corruption. It is only a few people in this society who are corrupt, and yet, when the hammer falls, it falls on the majority of Kenyans who are decent and poor. It is because of the mismanagement of the economy that we suffer this kind of consequence from the IMF. Again, those who mismanage the country are only a minority and the majority are suffering for their sin. Is it not high time that this Government dealt firmly with the corrupt people who have also mismanaged the economy? We would like to make a plea that the Government swallows its pride because there is no way we can get around the fact that there is corruption in the country. Can this Government immediately initiate dialogue with the IMF, the World Bank and donor agencies so that we are not blackmailed in this manner?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would like to inform the House that on 30th November, 1995, a Question came before this House on this very matter. The Assistant Minister for Research, Technical Training and Technology, hon. Kagwima, gave us the following answer. I am very surprised that there is no Minister from this Ministry even to listen to the debate. But this is the answer we got. He said:-

"The Ministry has already formulated a Cabinet Paper, which has been forwarded for discussion, and out of which we expect a Bill to be brought to Parliament for debate so that the terms and conditions of service for all the members of staff in the polytechnics, both teaching and non-teaching, will be harmonised."

That reply was given on November 30th, 1995. More than two years later, nothing has happened. We would like to be told whether this matter ever went to the Cabinet, whether the Cabinet works in this country or whether it is only the "kitchen Cabinet" that works when the bulk of the business of this nation goes unattended? We would like to be told when this Bill will be brought to this House, and this is one Bill that should come before this House before this House ends its life. It is very important that before we go to the elections, our youth polytechnics should be in place. I would like to warn this Government that if the youth polytechnics are in the state in which they are now by election time, then this is a time bomb.

I beg to move. Hon. Dr. Lwali-Oyondi will second the Motion.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you, very much Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to second this Motion which I consider a basic requirement for the industrial development of this country.

The difference between the developed and developing countries is a matter of technology. It is not that the Europeans and now, the newly industrialised countries in the East are better than us in any way other than in industrial development. I understand the aim of the Government is to have this country industrialised by the year 2020. This cannot happen if there is---

QUORUM

Dr. Oburu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, I confirm there is no quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! We have a quorum now. You may proceed, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was talking about the possibility of industrialising this country by the year 2020. We have to be armed with the tools and that is, well trained personnel. Therefore, the technical schools or polytechnics become very important in this sphere because they are practical in their work, and in industry we need nothing other than practical operators. Therefore, that is why we are now calling upon the Government to be not only good at giving good projections, but it should also be practical in carrying out those projections. The only way we can do it is by having polytechnics that are well equipped and staffed with well paid instructors.

My information is that we have over 600 polytechnics in the country which employ about 4,200 teachers. These instructors do not normally have a regular pay. To show how miserably they are paid, Grade I Instructors are paid about Kshs2,275. How do you expect a good instructor to live on such a salary? This salary hardly comes in as it is not paid by the Exchequer. It depends on grands. Therefore, the whole exercise is just a "from hand to mouth" sort of operation. It is high time that proper funds were passed by this Parliament so that these instructors have proper salaries, instead of being dependent on hand-outs from the World Bank and other donor agencies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we ought to have proper fund for the other Government officers. For example, an officer in Grade II gets Kshs1,920. That is not even fit for a salary of an ayah and yet we expect these people to work. From January to April, the staff have not been paid. How do we expect them to work, I do not know? They have no

house allowances, promotions and so on. These are just dregs of humanity, as far as I am concerned. For example, Narok Polytechnic had 26 instructors and only four are remaining because others have run away. This should ring a bell to the Government so that something is done about this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still speaking on polytechnics, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology. This institute is in problems. It has been descended upon by grabbers. First of all, there were three companies which grabbed this land and I asked a Question on this some times ago. These companies were Little Middle Limited, Frank Crame Enterprises Limited, Rumly(?) Agencies Limited which have grabbed over 2,000 acres from the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology. The remaining acres of land, just last week, I was informed that a local politician in Nakuru town and other KANU operatives have now divided the rest of the land into five-acre plots and they are in the process of grabbing it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this institute was started by people. When Mzee Jomo Kenyatta was still alive, he held Harambee and everybody all over Kenya contributed. Later on, the Vice-President by then, Mr. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, held another Harambee and people from all walks of life and all over Kenya contributed. They bought this farm and put up the institute which has been serving this country very well. The President is still the patron of this institute. At the moment, grabbers have come and they are grabbing behind his back. I am drawing the attention of the Government that they should save this public institution so that our children can be trained in technological sciences so that we can prepare for the year 2020.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call upon the Minister for Research, Technical Training and Technology to save this institution from grabbers. If we grab whatever is there for research work, like KARI where grabbers grabbed everything, what shall we have for research work? Are we really genuine in saying that by the year 2020 we shall be an industrialised country?

With those few points, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the Government of Kenya's policy to stem flow of the population into the major urban centres so that services which are already scarce in those centres can be eased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also know that there was some time when there was a proposal to establish rural trade and production centres. These rural trade and production centres were meant to create employment in the rural areas. These rural centres could not be sustained if there was no trained cadre to man Jua Kali sector in these rural trade and production centres.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not going to talk much about those areas because I know that those programmes sometimes were abandoned, partially because of corruption. These were very important programmes and I am still hoping that the Government will take it seriously and revive the construction of these centres which were started in Bungoma and Kinango, Kwale district. But they were never extended to any other area of the country because the people who were involved in these first programmes were involved in corruption and, therefore, whoever was donating could not continue donating for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that training of this cadre is also in support of creating rural employment for bulk of Kenyans. The majority of Kenyans, as we are all aware, live in the rural areas. Constantly, from the time of Independence, there has been a constant flow of population from the rural to urban areas which has created very serious situations of congestion of people into the major urban centres like Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa and Kisumu. As a result, these major urban centres are unable to cope with supply of essential social services like water, sewerage, health, education and so on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important that we create employment in the rural areas to stem this dangerous flow of people to the urban areas. These people never get employed and they become a security risk in our urban centres. It is, therefore, an anathema that the Government has not considered it fit to provide salaries as well as conducive terms and conditions of service, for people who are being trained to create employment in the rural areas. This topic has been the subject of discussion for a very long time within Government circles. First of all, these people were placed under the Ministry of Culture and Social Services which did not have the capacity to absorb them in the normal Government employment. It was proposed, at that time, that these people would be pushed to the Ministry of Education. I do not even see the reason why the Ministry of Research, Technical Training and Technology is trying to push forward the payment of the instructors of the youth polytechnics in this country. The training of these people must be carried out by a specialised Ministry, which is training for technology in the rural areas. The Minister for Research, Technical Training and Technology has told us in this House that the Government

is taking steps to formulate better terms and conditions of service for these people under the Teachers Service Commission. But the Teachers Service Commission is already overburdened. I do not see how the Ministry of Education is going to take on an additional burden of absorbing a very large number of employees who are already under the Ministry of Research, Technical Training and Technology.

The Ministry should not abdicate its responsibility of training instructors who are meant to do the job they are meant for. If these people abdicate this responsibility to the Ministry of Education, then they might soon abdicate many others and become irrelevant. So, the Ministry of Research, Technical Training and Technology must prepare the terms and conditions of service and also budget for the payment of these people. It is very pathetic that some of these people have worked for more than 10 years on a constant salary without any increment or other benefits like house allowance. This is inhuman because we know that every year, the cost of living in this country goes up because inflation goes up. It is very unfair to keep people, who are supposed to train a very important cadre of persons, with very low morale and as a result, some of these polytechnics are failing. The responsibility of the Ministry is to create physical facilities for the youth polytechnics. But I think it is the Government's responsibility to provide teachers, instructors and also make sure that they are paid good salaries so that they can carry out the important duty of training.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to mention here that some of the youth polytechnics are very important institutions in the rural areas and the district development committees (DDCs) should be taking them more seriously. Some of these institutions train highly qualified people in the field of construction. It is important that some of these people who are unable to get immediate employment should form a core unit within those polytechnics of construction companies which should be given contracts by the DDCs, so that they can sustain those polytechnics. They can also acquire necessary experience before they go out to do their own businesses, so that these people can at least make some money for themselves and the polytechnics for expansion and sustenance. This should not be seen as a theory. This is something which has to happen practically in all the polytechnics. I know of one such polytechnic in Turkana which is doing very well and it is supported by the district development committee. I think other district development committees can take the cue from such polytechnics and make them viable institutions which can finance themselves in many ways. It should not only be in the field of construction but also in the field of tailoring. Those who graduate can get some employment there so that they acquire experience in those polytechnics before they go out to do their own businesses. It is only after somebody has got experience that one can get a loan from the Government and be self-employed in the field. You cannot expect someone who graduates today to be given tools and be expected to know how to go about in business. Therefore, it is very important that these polytechnics are not used only for training and giving out of loans. They must also be used in training people to acquire the necessary skills and experience in business, so that these people can go out fully equipped. As a result of that, the polytechnics would also be making money from some of the graduates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that in the polytechnics there is a very, very low morale because the communities are being over-burdened. They are being asked to pay the instructors and provide physical facilities. For the rural people whose level of income is very low, this is an impossible demand. It is high time that we took these polytechnics seriously and used them as sources of creating employment in the rural areas, so that we can stem the influx of population into major urban centres. By so doing, the services which are necessary in those particular centres will be adequate and the municipalities will cope with a smaller population. Otherwise, we are going to have a lot of insecurity because of unemployment. There will also be insecurity arising from the number of vagrants in our towns.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Osogo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support this Motion. I still remember very vividly how the polytechnics started.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first time this was handled at a policy level was when the first Development Plan was prepared by the Ministry of Planning and National Development when the late Tom Mboya was Minister and they were called "Village Polytechnics." That was how they started. The policy was to establish grassroots training institutions to train school drop-outs. The polytechnics were meant for primary school drop-outs. There was a revolution and they became youth polytechnics in recent years. These polytechnics have been forgotten and one can notice the neglect from this side of the House. Even the civil servants from that Ministry are not in this House to hear what the Members of Parliament have to say about these important institutions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is regrettable because these institutions are an escape valve, so to speak, for many unemployed school drop-outs in this country. They train youths who have left school in technical subjects and who, if assisted, could form co-operative societies in their areas of training. For example, graduates from these institutions could be employed as contractors to build tuition blocks in primary and secondary schools. However, these institutions have been abandoned and are not being assisted.

Hon. Lwali-Oyondi said that a certain youth polytechnic in Narok District had over 10 instructors but now it has only three instructors. That is not the only institution which is affected in that manner. In my own constituency we have two youth polytechnics, but they have no instructors now. The instructors have run away to greener pastures for lack of payment.

These polytechnics also provide employment to graduates from technical training institutions such as Mawego, Kabete, Sigalagala and Kaiboi. All these institutions recruit secondary school leavers to train as technicians. When they graduate from these technical training institutions, the only form of employment available for them is teaching in the youth polytechnics, where they can use the knowledge they have acquired to train other technicians of a lower cadre. Not all of them are employed by the Ministry of Education after they graduate. I am sure that most of them would have been employed in the youth polytechnics if we took these institutions seriously.

As I said, in the beginning the youth polytechnics were taken seriously. The idea to have them had been copied from India and that is why they were originally called "village polytechnics." In India they are called village polytechnics. From the way India has industrialised, one can assume that village polytechnics, as they are called in that country, have assisted in the quick industrialisation in that country.

It is important now for us to look into the possibility of bringing employees of these youth polytechnics into Government employment. As the Motion states terms and conditions of service for instructors and other employees in these institutions should be so formulated as to guarantee employment.

The only request that I would like to make to whoever will respond to this Motion on behalf of the Government is to add the word "registered" after the word "all" in the first sentence of paragraph (i) of the Motion. This will make the Motion refer to "all registered youth polytechnics" instead of referring to "all youth polytechnics" as it does now. I am saying this because there is quite a number of such polytechnics which are yet to be registered by the Director of Technical Training. If we leave the Motion open as it is it will mean that all youth polytechnics will have a right to be considered for Government assistance, if this Motion is adopted by the House.

My second request is that the department concerned with youth polytechnics should be streamlined. In my constituency there is a youth polytechnic which was started by my predecessor, and which has remained unregistered for many years. When I came to this House those who run it came to me for assistance to get it registered. When I went to the Ministry concerned to seek for the registration of this youth polytechnic I found that there was no application of any kind in the Ministry for the registration of the institution by the Ministry. The reason I was given was that it was assumed - and I had assumed the same - the youth polytechnic had been started as a private institution.

I got it registered. However, its management did not renew the registration, apparently they have to renew the registration annually. So, since 1995 to date, that institution has been operating illegally.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the case and yet the Ministry concerned does not care. Here is an institution which was registered provisionally and had to renew its registration yearly, it did not do that but nobody is bothering to find out why the institution has not renewed its registration. There is a kind of negligence on the part of our Government in connection with these institutions. I do not think that many of them are in the situation, but there could be some of them that are operating illegally for failure to renew their registration.

Therefore, I do urge our Government to support this Motion as it is, so that these institutions can, at least, regain their strength. When we started them they were very vibrant, but now they are in the process of "dying" quietly.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

QUORUM

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Mokku): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is no quorum in the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Maundu): Yes, I note that there is no quorum in the House. Please, ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Maundu): Order! Order, hon. Members! Since the Division Bell has rung for about eight minutes and it appears that we are unable to raise a quorum, it is necessary that we adjourn the House. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.45 a.m.