

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 25th October, 2006

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

Mr. Speaker: Question No.1 by Private Notice, will be deferred to next week at the request of the hon. Member. Is the Minister here?

I am sorry for the inconvenience. The hon. Member called me from his rural constituency and requested that the Question be deferred to next week.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Kibunguchy): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is okay. He is a friend of mine.

DISPENSING OF ARVs AT KHWISERO HEALTH CENTRE

(Mr. Arungah) to ask the Minister for Health:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that HIV positive patients in Khwisero Constituency cannot access ARVs because the drugs are dispensed at the Kakamega District Hospital Headquarters, which is very far away?

(b) Could the Minister make arrangements to have the drugs dispensed at Khwisero Health Centre?

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Let us go to ordinary Questions.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.049

SECONDARY SCHOOL FEES WAIVER FOR PASTORALIST CHILDREN

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Member for Samburu West here?
Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Next Question, the hon. Member for Mbita.

*Question No.266*DECENTRALIZATION OF REGISTRATION
OF SCHOOLS/BOARDS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kajwang is out of the country on a Committee mission. So, the Question is deferred to next week.

(Question deferred)

Next Question, the hon. Member for Butere.

*Question No.314*ELECTRIFICATION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES
IN BUTERE CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Oparanya asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) whether he is aware that Manyala Sub-District Hospital and Shiatsala Market in Butere Division were left out during the implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme sponsored by the French; and,

(b) what steps he is taking to ensure that these important public facilities are supplied with electricity.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Kiunjuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Manyala Sub-District Hospital and Shiatsala Market in Butere Division were left out during the implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme sponsored by the French, because they were not part of the scope of the AFD-funded projects in western Kenya.

(b) The Ministry of Energy has already approved electricity supply to Manyala Sub-District Hospital and Shiatsala Market at an estimated cost of Kshs9.8 million. Construction work is planned to commence in the next one month and be completed in the course of this year.

Mr. Oparanya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Assistant Minister for that answer. But his answer is not very accurate. The Assistant Minister says that construction work will start in one month's time, but let me inform him that the construction work has already started. In fact, it started three months ago. So his answer is not accurate. Notwithstanding that, I asked this Question sometime last year and I was told that Kshs10 million had been provided for this project in the Budget of 2004/2005 Financial Year.

I want to know from him why this project has taken two years to be implemented. This is sub-district hospital which serves a very big area. Its mortuary does not work because there is no electricity. I want the Assistant Minister to assure the House that work will not stop until this project is completed.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said very many times that we have faced procurement challenges and lack of designers. This made it impossible for us to complete our work in good time. However, I now wish to assure the House that all our on-going projects will be completed in good time. Very many of them will be completed by the 15th of next month.

Mr. Manoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we appreciate what the Ministry is doing, most of its contractors come from either Nairobi or other provinces. What is the Assistant Minister doing to encourage contractors from districts to implement electricity projects as is the case in the Ministry of Roads and Public Works? In that way work will be completed faster, rather than have

contractors from Nairobi going to work in Siaya or Butere?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had been using about 50 contractors. But in the last three weeks we have pre-qualified others. We now have a total of 146 contractors, who are doing work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week, we held a meeting with all the contractors, and asked them whether we could allocate them to zones, so that those from western Kenya can do projects in that region. All the contractors said that they did not want the country to be divided into zones. They wanted to work in all parts of the country. Therefore, we are giving them an opportunity to work all over the country. But I want to assure hon. Members that now we have a team of 146 contractors. So, I assure this House that work will now be undertaken much faster.

Archbishop Ondiek: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that more contractors have been appointed. He says that there is a total of 146 contractors in the country. Last year, I asked the Assistant Minister about Aboke Construction work. He promised that the contractor would start the work in August this year. But up to now, I have not seen any contractor at this project. How will he implement this project?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had a problem of contractors not moving to site. But as I have said before, we have warned such contractors. Most of them have been accepting more than one contract, which has been making them unable to be at all sites at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also faced with the same problem in my own constituency. We are addressing this matter. I want to assure this House that we shall tackle this problem. We have warned contractors that we shall terminate all contracts of contractors who are lazy or are unwilling to work. We have given the majority of them up to 15th of next month to complete all the pending projects.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Oparanya.

Mr. Oparanya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shiatsala Market was supposed to be a beneficiary to the French Rural Electrification Programme. Unfortunately, the extension to Manyala Sub-District Hospital has bypassed Shiatsala Market. When will Shiatsala Market benefit from the French Rural Electrification Programme?

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, French funds have already been allocated. The markets that were not provided for can now only be funded by the Government of Kenya. The hon. Member should prioritise them under the District Prioritization list and we shall take care of it.

Question No.496

ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF FUNDS BY
ENOOSUPUKIA DISPLACED GROUP

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Muiruri had requested that this Question be deferred. The Question is deferred to next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No.532

INCREASED INSECURITY IN KAPSOWAR

Mr. Speaker: As I indicated in the morning, the Minister of State for Administration and National Security and his Assistant Minister are out of town. They requested that this Question be deferred to next week.

Is Mr. Sudi here?

An hon. Member: He is out of town.

Mr. Speaker: He is out of town, but without informing the Chair. Therefore, the Question is dropped.

(Laughter)

Well, in fairness, since the Minister of State for Administration and National Security is not there, I think I will defer it.

(Question deferred)

Question No.056

PROVISION OF EXTENSION
SERVICES TO SUGAR-CANE FARMERS

Prof. Olweny asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that sugarcane farmers do not receive adequate extension services; and,

(b) whether he could indicate who is responsible for providing extension services to cane farmers.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Kembi-Gitura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Sugarcane farmers need more extension services and my Ministry is addressing the matter by providing necessary resources.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with sugar companies, out-grower farmers organisations and the Kenya Sugar Research Foundation is responsible for provision of extension services in the country.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is always important to say the truth and not mislead the House and, therefore, the country. These people the Assistant Minister is talking about, as providing extension services are never there. We have never seen them. Sugarcane farmers are not provided with extension services.

How much money from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) is used for extension services in the country? I know that extension workers in the Ministry of Agriculture do not have enough money to run around helping the farmers. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House how much SDF is used for provision of extension services?

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a relatively different question. The question at hand is who offers the services and I have enumerated the several arms of the Ministry of Agriculture that offer extension services. We actually have extension officers in the sugar belt. If the hon. Member requires, I could table the number of extension officers that we have there. We have bought uniforms for all the extension officers all over the country. So, it is not possible to say that they are not on the ground. They are physically present on the ground. If the hon. Member has a problem with a specific area, we will be very happy to deal with them.

Mr. Gachagua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem relating to extension services is not just found in the sugar belt. It is all over the country. The Assistant Minister has said that these officers are there. If these people have been employed, but they have no vehicles to move around to give services, why are they being retained in the service of the Kenya Government? Could the Assistant Minister confirm that, that is the fact everywhere? He says they are employed but we know that

they are not on the ground.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to say that, that is not the correct position. The fact is that the number of extension officers may not be quite adequate but we have extension officers at the sub-location, locational and divisional level. In some of these situations---

Mr. Muriithi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is misleading the House. In my constituency we do not have a single---

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order? First of all you must know that, that is a breach of order.

Mr. Muriithi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have extension officers in my constituency.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has extension officers. They may not be quite adequate. We may not have exactly the number of officers that we would like to have, but we have extension officers on the ground from the sub-locations, locations to divisions. We may not be able to give motor vehicles or motor cycles to all the extension officers. That is why they are localised. They are also on a need basis. It is up to the farmer who wants to get extension services to seek that advice because an extension officer cannot be all over the place at the same time. Even the farmers have to be proactive. They cannot expect that the service will be brought to them every time.

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that the extension workers are in all parts of the country. I would like to inform him that these officers were retrenched and others died, as such there is nobody. If there are any records indicating that there are extension officers, then these are ghost workers. Could the Assistant Minister tell us whether these extension officers really exist and present the names of those who are living? Otherwise, he is talking about ghost workers in this country.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know which ghost workers are being referred to. Early this year, the Ministry employed 300 new extension officers and 77 of them were deployed to the sugarcane growing areas of Western and Nyanza provinces. That is as recent as this year and most of those are graduate extension officers. So, it is not correct to say that these are ghost workers.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane production has been around for quite a while in this country. I would have expected the Government to start some kind of training institution for farmers. Does the Government have any such plans in mind so that we can bring the farmers together in a training centre to expose them to the latest technology?

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have five farmers' training colleges in the sugar belt. We have Maseno, Homa Bay, Bungoma, Busia and Bukura. All these five colleges have been funded in the current financial year with a total of Kshs30,930,808 to boost them and make them more workable. I appreciate the question by Prof. Olweny, but the point I am making is that, at least, we are moving in the right direction. We have five Farmers' Training Colleges in that region and they have been funded. We expect that they will continue giving services to farmers.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very dangerous line that the Assistant Minister is taking. The hon. Member has asked a question which has been confirmed by another hon. Member. I can also confirm as a farmer that these extension officers do not exist. In Chemelil they do not exist. Since these people are supposed to provide services, is the Assistant Minister in order to keep on denying the obvious when we know that these people do not exist? Will he undertake to go and carry out investigations to find out what has happened?

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did indicate and I want to repeat for the benefit of hon. Members that the Ministry did employ 300 extension officers early this year. I have stated that 77 of them were deployed to the sugar belt region. It is not correct to say that I am misleading the House when I am talking about absolute figures and when I can state here that they are there. The hon. Member should tell us exactly where there are lapses so that we can deal with them.

Mr. Mwanicha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that there is controversy as to whether

these extension officers actually exist or not, would I be in order to request the Assistant Minister to table a list of those workers countrywide so that we can know whether they are there or not?

Mr Speaker: That sounds reasonable to me.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am willing to do that. If I am given time, I shall do that. In fact, for the benefit of the hon. Member we recently carried out a rationalisation and a headcount for each of the officers that work as extension officers in the Ministry of Agriculture.

I will be very happy to table that list given a chance.

Mr. Speaker: You can do that on Wednesday.

Next Question by hon. Nkaissery!

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have a written answer.

Question No.566

DISBURSEMENT OF LATF/LASDAP
FUNDS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) whether he is aware that LATF and LASDAP funds are controlled and disbursed at the Ministry headquarters;

(b) what action he is taking to ensure that the local authorities control and disburse the funds directly to community projects;

(c) how much LATF and LASDAP funds have been allocated to Kajiado Town and Olkejuado County Councils for the last four years; and,

(d) which projects have benefited from the funds indicating the cost of each.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr Tarus): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry we were unable to forward to the hon. Member a copy of the written answer.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) and Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan Fund (LASDAP) are controlled and disbursed at the Ministry headquarters.

(b) The Minister for Local Government approves all local authorities annual budgets whereby he ensures that LASDAP projects are factored in the Budget.

(c) The amount disbursed to the two councils for the last four years is as follows: 2002-2003, Kshs24,864,205; 2003-2004, Kshs48,103,374; 2004-2005, Kshs51,431,378; 2005-2006, Kshs64,747,393. The total is Kshs186,145,350. Kajiado Town Council, 2002-2003, Kshs3,054,025; 2003-2004, Kshs4,470,769; 2004-2005, Kshs4,697,295; 2005-2006, Kshs5,603,399. The total amount disbursed to Kajiado Town Council is Kshs17,825,488.

(d) Projects which have benefited from the funds are as follows: Olkejuado County Council projects for 2002-2003 financial year are listed and they are numbering 39 and consumed Kshs18,217,377. In 2003-2004 financial year, there were 46 projects that consumed Kshs33,050,481.

In the 2004/2005 Financial Year, there were 37 projects that consumed Kshs23,516,249. In the 2005/2006 Financial Year, a number of projects which are not indicated consumed Kshs10,929,860. The projects in the Town Council of Kajiado are few and I can list them.

In the 2002/2003 Financial Year, Kshs1,700,000 was used to grade roads; in the 2003/2004 Financial Year, Kshs90,000 was spent on the construction of a nursery school; in the 2004/2005 Financial Year, a bus park and a dumping site were constructed at Kshs820,000 and Kshs1,200,000, respectively. A recreation park was also done at Kshs80,000 in the same year. During the 2005/2006 Financial Year, Kshs790,000 and Kshs1,291,063 were spent in the construction of roads and Kshs411,225 was spent on Majengo Nursery School. Finally, fencing of

the bus park consumed Kshs63,200. All these gave a total of Kshs6,445,488.

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that, that is a substantial amount of money spent on LATF projects. I was not given a copy of the written answer to verify whether what the Assistant Minister has said is true or not.

I think it will be very unfair for me to accept the answer the Assistant Minister has read out without looking at the copy of the written answer.

Mr. Speaker: Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry, if you feel that you are disadvantaged because you have not received a copy of the written answer, I am inclined to defer the Question.

Maj-Gen. Nkaisserry: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate. Please, defer the Question.

Mr. Speaker: To enable the hon. Member ask supplementary questions, I will defer this Question to Tuesday next week!

Mr. Mwandawiro: Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Spika. Nimesikia orodha ambayo imesomwa na Waziri Msaidizi. Lakini, hata kama Swali litaairishwa, kama Waziri Msaidizi hajaenda mashinani na kujua hali ilivyo, hakuna ukweli hapo. Je, kuairishwa kwa Swali kutasaidia vipi Bunge hili?

Mr. Speaker: Lazima uwe na subira, Bw. Mwandawiro! Tusubiri hadi Jumanne halafu tutajua. I defer the Question to Tuesday next week!

(Question deferred)

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

Question No.570

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION
INTO GERMAN FOUNDATION

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o asked the Minister for National Heritage:-

- (a) what happened to the investigations into the activities of the German Foundation for World Population DSW (Kenya) by the NGO Board in 2005; and,
(b) what is the fate of the Kenyans who were then working for the organization.

The Minister for National Heritage (Mr. Shakombo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The NGO Board commenced investigations on the concerns or issues raised by the then Country Director of DSW (K), Ms. Lynette Ochola who complained *inter alia* that the DSW (Germany) was interfering with operations of DSW (K) among the under mentioned things.

- (i) Sacking of Kenyans.
(ii) Diverting funds meant for Kenya programme into other services.
(iii) Controlling local operations.

The Board came up with the following:-

(a) That, Ms. Ochola, the then Country Director was having problems with the DSW (Germany) in terms of running DSW (K). She felt her position was threatened as a result of a warning directed to her by DSW (Germany), reasons whereof she misrepresented the information to staff that the DSW (Germany) wanted to close the Kenyan office and that the staff, therefore, should resign to pave way for payment of terminal benefits before eminent closure of the office.

(b) That following the above misinformation by Ms. Ochola, the staff resigned *en mass* because they were told that they would be sacked once the office closed without any payment.

(c) An audit was carried out whose results indicated that there was misappropriation of funds and DSW (K) was operating seven bank accounts without the knowledge of the NGO Board.

(d) The DSW (Germany) and DSW (K) resolved that the then Country Director, Ms.

Ochola be relieved of her directorship.

(e) Mr. Kennedy Bikula was hired as the Country Director in August, 2006 by a restructuring team and is currently helping realise the objectives of DSW (K) in collaboration with AMREF, Family Care International, Gates Foundation, EU, GTZ and DED in terms of funding and project implementation.

(b) Immediately after the restructuring team relieved the Country Director, Ms. Ochola of her duty---

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could I be in order to request the Minister to be precise because he is reading a whole statement that comprises of many things, and yet the Question is very simple and clear?

Mr. Speaker: Well, he is about to finish!

Mr. Sungu: It is very long!

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Sungu!

Mr. Minister, complete your answer!

The Minister for National Heritage (Mr. Shakombo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, only the five staff members out of 11 reapplied and were reinstated. Of course, nothing could have been done for those who did not reapply.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious Question. It is a Question in which Kenyans have been penalised by an international NGO based in Germany for demanding transparency. Is the answer that the Minister has read out from the Germany NGO or the report that was as a result of the investigations that were carried out? Did the Minister read the report of the investigations and draw his answer from it or did he base his answer from the point of view of the NGO?

Mr. Shakombo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The answer I have given the House is from the NGO Co-ordination Board of Kenya which carried out the investigations. Therefore, I am basing my answer on the investigations done by the NGO Co-ordination Board of Kenya.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is very serious because I and my dear friend, Mr. Balala, were Ministers in the Government and we handled that issue. I want to read out part of the answer given to the House by the Minister because it is very important; it says:-

"(3) An audit was carried out whose results indicated that there was misappropriation of funds and DSW(K) was operating seven bank accounts without the knowledge of the NGO's Board.

(4) DSW (Germany and Kenya) resolved that the then Country Director, Ms. Ochola be and was then relieved of the directorship."

Is the Minister sure that the operation of the seven bank accounts was with the knowledge of Ms. Ochola or they were opened by the DSW (Germany) that was trying to ferry funds out of Kenya?

Mr. Munya: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to urge Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o to declare his interest in this matter. Does he have anything to do with that NGO? Does he have relatives who were working there? Was any company associated with his family doing business with that NGO?

Mr. Speaker: Order! What exactly do you know?

Mr. Munya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a company called "Noel Creative Media" was doing business with that NGO. That company is associated with the family of Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o. His own relative, Irene T.D. Nyong'o was working with that NGO.

(Applause)

It is a requirement in this House for one to declare his or her interest before he or she asks questions because we do not want to use the Floor of this House to---

Mr. Speaker: Order! There is nothing to get excited about. In fact, I have never even heard

of DSW!

Mr. Ogur: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We do not marry our relatives. So, if the lady is a wife to Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, they are not related. We do not marry our relatives!

(Laughter)

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I made it very clear that I dealt with this issue when I was a Minister in the Government. My colleague, Mr. Balala, also dealt with it. This issue is about a German company operating in Kenya and oppressing Kenyans. Whether those Kenyans are related to Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, it does not matter. Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o is a Kenyan!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Could I get this straight. There is really nothing to celebrate about any company oppressing Kenyans. The issue is: Has that influenced your thinking in one way or the other?

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of justice. It is a question of whether Kenyans working with an international organization should sit back when they are being exploited and oppressed. Secondly, it is a question of conscience; whether one should work in an NGO and see bank accounts being opened and the money being used by a foreign NGO irrespective of the interest of Kenyans or not. A report was done by the NGO Council and not by Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o. Did he read that report? Has justice been done to those Kenyans vis-a-vis that German company, irrespective of whether Mr. Munya thinks otherwise? What does that report say? What has been done regarding that report?

Mr. Munya: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The rules of this House require one to declare his or her interest in a matter before asking a Question because we do not want to use the Floor of this House to push our agenda. I have said that a company associated with the family of Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o did business with that NGO and this vendetta is being directed to the NGO because those businesses stopped. The people Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o has said were fired resigned from the NGO. It is important that this is made clear.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Apparently, the two of you know much more than we do, for the reasons he has stated and your defence for reasons unknown to us. Do you have any interest in this matter, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o?

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very straightforward.

Hon. Members: No! No!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, this is a very simple issue. If you have interest in the matter, just declare that interest and then ask the question.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have interest in the matter. My question is to the Minister. Has he read the report? Have the recommendations of the report been acted on, or is the answer based purely on the point of view of this German NGO? That is all I am saying.

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read the report. Secondly, being a Minister does not make me less Kenyan than Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o. I will not just sit down to see Kenyans being oppressed by a foreign firm. Mrs. Ochola misappropriated funds. That is why she was relieved of her duties. That is it!

(Applause)

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Minister lay the report on the Table of the House?

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will do so in due course.

Hon. Members: When?

Mr. Shakombo: I said in due course, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! You know, Mr. Shakombo, whatever we think about this issue, there are fundamental issues being raised, particularly about international NGOs, their operations in Kenya, their transparency, their ability to treat Kenyans either well or unwell. That is the whole issue. I think the House would like to see that report.

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will bring the report next week.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. Shakombo: On Wednesday.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a very small question for the Minister. You heard the issues raised with respect to a foreign NGO operating in Kenya. We have laws in Kenya, made by this very House. I am concerned that some NGOs may not be under the control of the Kenyan law because they appear to be operating under their own laws. So, I would like the Minister to tell this House, in precise terms, what methods the Ministry uses to ensure that these NGOs are operating above board, that they are not *nyanyasaring* Kenyans, and that they are audited like any other Kenyan organisation?

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand what Mr. Sungu means by "*nyanyasaring*". Secondly, we have a monitoring and evaluation team which inspects NGOs to establish what goes on behind these organisations in the provinces. Further more, I recently obtained Cabinet approval to amend the existing laws, so that the Government can have more powers to monitor the administration of NGOs in the country.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the organisations that operate in this country are shadowy NGOs. It should be appreciated that when we ask Questions, we have evidence that we can always bring to the attention of the Government. I am the first person who started an indigenous NGO in 1981 in Kenya. We laid down laws and rules. We came up with developmental NGOs and relief NGOs. What position does the Minister have with regard to vetting NGOs that are exploiting Kenyans in respect of the Question brought to this House by Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o? We are being oppressed and muzzled.

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has the machinery with which to investigate, vet and monitor the operations of NGOs in the country. So, I am surprised that an hon. Member of this House can stand here and create the impression that this country does not have a government, and that NGOs just do whatever they want.

Prof. Olweny: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead the House that NGOs, and particularly international ones, can do whatever they wish in this country without the Government having some control over them?

Mr. Shakombo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not say what the hon. Member has alluded to. That is his own imagination. I said that there is law, and authorities who check and control NGOs in this country.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! That brings us to the end of Question Time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN
SUDAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN SPEAKER'S ROW

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to welcome hon. Members from the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, who are seated in the Speaker's Row. They are the hon. Philip Pallet Gadin, MP; the hon. John Oromo Itrong, MP; the hon. Madior Lek'Deng, MP, and the hon. Michael Mot Dieu, MP. The hon. Members are on a study visit to our Parliament, and we wish them a happy

stay here.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, Archbishop Ondiek wanted to issue a Personal Statement. After him, the Assistant Minister for Education will issue a Ministerial Statement.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

DISBURSEMENT OF BURSARY FUNDS

Archbishop Ondiek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to follow-up a Personal Statement I issued in this House last week.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this followed media reports that I have unfairly distributed Ugenya Constituency Bursary Fund money, without being considerate of bright students who perform exceptionally well in national examinations. I wish to put the record straight on the true position on the ground.

A student from Mangu High School by the name Steven Ogutu, indeed, applied for a bursary from the committee, but claims that he was turned down by the committee are false. When I visited the constituency last week, I established that the student's application was, indeed, considered and a cheque of Kshs25,000 issued to Mangu High School by the committee on 30th January, 2006.

(Applause)

A copy of the cheque is attached to this statement, which I will lay on the Table of the House since the money is voted for by this House. Subsequently, the student went back to the committee for more funds. We wrote to the Principal, Mangu High School, on 25th September, 2006, and the letter reads as follows:-

"The above named is a beneficiary of the CDF bursary award. Please, kindly, allow him to continue with his studies. We shall send you a cheque in respect of his fees payment as soon as we shall have received disbursement from the Treasury."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were waiting for disbursement from the national CDF office, which we only got recently.

Mr. Speaker: You have to finish, Archbishop Ondiek!

Archbishop Ondiek: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could you allow me to table the document?

Mr. Speaker: Very well!

(Archbishop Ondiek laid the document on the Table)

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! I made an exception to this one, otherwise, we are going to have all the queries from the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) being transacted from here. I hope that is the end of it.

Dr. Mwiria wanted to make a Ministerial Statement on the lecturers' strike. We have a few minutes and I will give them to you so long as you do not exceed the time.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

UNIVERSITY LECTURERS' STRIKE

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is in response to the request by hon. Marende regarding the lecturers' strike. He wanted us to highlight on four major issues. He wanted to know what we have done to avert the strike, why the Ministry is appearing helpless and what we are doing to help to harmonise and rationalise salaries in keeping with the other civil servants' salaries. Lastly, he wanted to know how the parallel degree money is used and what we are doing to ensure that the crisis does not recur. Those are the main issues. I will quickly address them.

It is not true that there has been no effort to avert the crisis. There have been negotiations and proposals made to the University Academic Staff Union (UASU). Already, those proposals present a significant increase in terms of salary.

For example, while the minimum for a professor currently is Kshs120,000, we are proposing a minimum of Kshs156,000. These figures are basically to show you that there has been some percentages of increases from assistant lecturers all the way to professors.

Secondly, it is not true that the Ministry is appearing helpless. You will recall that the UASU members and the university lecturers themselves have argued for the autonomy of universities. We always say that you cannot have autonomy only when it comes to the recruitment of Vice-Chancellors and their deputies and not when it comes to universities themselves playing a role in terms of generating income that can subsidise what they make. So, there is that independence, which is also extended to giving university councils mandate to determine university salaries.

(Loud consultations)

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is a matter of national importance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! The Assistant Minister for Education is addressing a matter of great national concern, namely, the university lecturers' strike. I thought every hon. Member here would be sitting quietly and listening attentively to what he has to say because it will have a bearing on the very lives, not only of the lecturers and their families, but also of the students and the parents who pay fees. If we cannot listen to this, then what do we listen to?

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we listen to the politics of ODM-K and NARC-K and we consider that to be the real national importance. **An.**

hon. Member: You are being trivial!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not being trivial. I am saying that if this was an issue of national importance compared to other issues, there would have been attention in the House, but there was not.

I explained that we have made efforts to avert the strike by way of the proposals that we have made and by way of wanting to talk with the lecturers and their representatives. We have even accepted nominations of representatives of the Treasury, the Ministry of Education and the Directorate of Personnel Management, which they were demanding as a way forward.

Secondly, the Ministry is not completely helpless. The Ministry has given autonomy to university councils in keeping with the demand of the professors and the lecturers. This is why we advertised positions of Vice-Chancellors and other senior positions. Universities cannot be only autonomous up to a point. Essentially, we have given that autonomy. However, we continue to be interested as a Government. You cannot give universities complete autonomy without the

Government coming in when it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third issue that the hon. Member raised relates to harmonisation of the civil servants' salaries with those of the lecturers. There is evidence that going by the proposals, our professors and lecturers will be doing better than all civil servants except those that are beneficiaries of political appointments, for example, heads of parastatals. If you look at the figures, you will realise that every effort is being made to ensure that our professors and lecturers are not doing worse than our civil servants.

The other issue was on the Parallel Degree Programmes. The resources from these programmes are used to upgrade the facilities in universities. If you go the University of Nairobi, you will find that it is a new-look institution. It looks much better. Also, up to 30 per cent of the resources go to paying the lecturers on the basis of how many hours they have taught.

With regard to ensuring that the crisis does not recur, we will continue to talk to the lecturers. We will give dialogue a chance. There have been efforts, including identification of task-forces, to ensure that we make our universities competitive, not only in East Africa, but also in Africa. That will take time. However, in 2003/2004, there was an increment. This year again, we are proposing an increment. Depending on the situation, we will do our best to ensure that our professors and lecturers find it worthwhile to remain in our institutions as opposed to them wanting to migrate to other countries.

As we do this, we would also like to call for honesty on the part of the university lecturers and professors, in terms of indicating what is being proposed and what other allowances that are offered that they do not talk about. When they propose a 700 per cent salary increment for a professor, it is important to do that on the basis of a certain justification. Also, I would like to indicate that they have a lot of time to do other things that can also be used to supplement their salaries.

We should also ask ourselves whether the 700 per cent salary increment that a professor is asking for or the 500 to 600 per cent increment for other cadres is sustainable. Essentially, we are committed, but the demands must be reasonable. We must be able to sustain those demands. This is the only way that we can solve the crisis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, we are calling on all Kenyans, including the hon. Members, to help us out in this. This is a matter that is affecting, at least, a child in every constituency. It is affecting our parents and those others who are investing so much in university education. We need to resolve this matter, so that our universities can come back to normal.

Mr. Speaker: You have to be brief because we do not have a lot of time.

Mr. Marende: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statement given by the Assistant Minister is not satisfactory. It does not clarify all the issues that I raised this morning. Half-baked solutions or superficial handling of this matter will not do.

First, the Assistant Minister has not indicated to the House as to whether or not there is an end in sight to this crisis. Secondly, he has not satisfactorily answered the issue I raised with respect to harmonisation and rationalisation of the lecturers' salaries, compared to other persons who are employed by the Government, be it in the Civil Service or in parastatals.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Marende! You are re-opening issues!

Mr. Marende: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to the end.

Mr. Speaker: Order! When you are issued with an order, you should obey! It simply means you should sit down. I will give another hon. Member an opportunity to seek clarification. I do not have much time.

Mr. Marende: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could I just finish what I was saying?

Mr. Speaker: No!

Mr. Musyoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the Statement by Dr. Mwiria, whom I personally have very high regard for. Would he be kind enough to lay a clear road-map? He should embrace dialogue. The quality of our university education world-wide will go down and the rating

of our public universities get seriously affected. This used to be the case in 1970s and 1980s. When I was a Minister for Education, we did not have to face up to a crisis of this magnitude.

Will the Assistant Minister embrace dialogue and set up a committee, as urgently as it is practicable, in order to engage the university teaching staff in a structured dialogue?

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter at hand is very important. There are students doing the regular courses and others doing parallel degree courses. I would like to ask the Assistant Minister to clarify what historical relationship has been there between his Ministry and the university lecturers. He was once an official of UASU, but he ran away. I would have expected him to be the reconciling voice of the Ministry instead of giving authoritative instructions to his colleagues.

He should be helping his colleagues to resolve the matter instead of giving them orders. These people are hungry. Even if they are on the wrong, they are hungry and they need to eat. When you are hungry, you cannot be normal.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order! Order, Mr. Bifwoli! We will have the last request for clarification from hon. Raila and then the Assistant Minister will respond. Hon. Raila, please, be very quick!

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that a victim of the UASU strike can stand before this House to defend the indefensible. Could the Assistant Minister clarify on two issues; first, is he satisfied that, for example, the staff of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) or the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC), who are graduates of the same universities and were taught by the very same lecturers are earning salaries comparable to what the lecturers are earning? Secondly, the Government is only providing 40 per cent of the total university revenue and one is talking about autonomy. Could he consider making the university councils autonomous, because autonomy must begin from the council rather than hand-picking people who know nothing about the running of universities as members of the university councils?

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave me a few minutes to say a lot, and when I did not give the details to hon. Marende, he kept on saying that I did not give details. It was understood from the beginning and I said that I will be happy to give them documentation. Even when I was responding to his question, I could see him nodding. I was surprised later on when he said that he was not satisfied with the answers.

Is there an end in sight? Yes, we are doing our best. We have opened our doors to dialogue. We want to talk to these people and we have said that we will allow them representation in various committees so that we can talk. We also have interest in this issue, but we cannot determine when this will be done because a lot will not just depend on the Ministry. It will also depend on the UASU officials.

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Please, could we have order? Order! There must be some order in this House!

Capt. Nakitare: But they have been sacked!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order, Capt. Nakitare! That will not stop them from being sacked if they have already been sacked. So, please, relax and hear what has to be said.

Proceed, Dr. Mwiria!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must emphasize that no lecturer is being fired from his job. We want to negotiate and we hope that no single lecturer will be fired. But they must give us a chance to talk with them.

Mr. Bifwoli: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Please, could we have order? Order! If you continue interrupting the Assistant Minister, you will go out! You already know that I have run out of time.

Proceed, Dr. Mwiria!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I spoke about

harmonization and I said that, with the progressive increments that we are applying, we will soon get to a point where most lecturers will earn more than the average senior very well paid civil servant. I appreciate the point made by hon. Raila that the officials of the KRA and the KACC are paid more than the lecturers. But it is this Parliament which insisted that we pass a law on the salaries that we are paying KACC. It is not only those officials who are earning more than the lecturers, all the hon. Members of this Parliament are paid more than the lecturers. Why did we not find that as an issue? The point is this; it is not going to be proper for us to compare all these. It is important to realize that, as long as we are making an effort, we will get there.

Hon. Musyoka asked whether we could give dialogue a chance. Of course, we are doing that. In addition, we are even doing better than that. I suffered during those UASU days during the reign of former President Moi. Hon. Musyoka was the then Minister for Education, including hon. Kamotho, who was also a Minister. What happened then is that, instead of getting an opportunity to talk, we were fired. I would like to tell hon. Bifwoli that I did not run away. I never run away from problems or anything. I went to look for a job. What would you have done if you were fired from your job? So, I went to South Africa to look for a job, and it is precisely because we were never given a chance to talk like we have done. We have gone beyond that; we have registered the union!

Mr. Speaker: You have to finish now, Dr. Mwiria!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Dr. Mwiria): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I realize that the next thing is the Committee of Supply---

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

Order, all of you! Order! Order! All of you will realize that the next item on our agenda is the Committee of Supply on the Vote of the Ministry of Education! So, what better hope to say what you want than when contributing to that Vote? So, that matter is over.

We will extend the time for today's sitting by five minutes to recover the five minutes we have taken on this issue.

Next order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read being the
Thirteenth and final Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education

*(The Minister for Science and
Technology on 18.10.2006)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted
on 18.10.2006)*

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor? I understand that the Official Opposition Responder

has not responded yet. Are you ready? All right, the Official Opposition Responder can make his response now.

*(Mr. Speaker consulted with
the Clerk-at-the Table)*

Hon. Miriti has eight minutes and after him, the Official Opposition Responder will take the Floor to make the official Opposition response.

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the debate was interrupted, I had just congratulated the former Minister, Prof. Saitoti, the Permanent Secretary, Prof. Karega Mutahi, and the Acting Minister for Education, Dr. Wekesa, for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, the way the Ministry of Education handled the Free Primary Education Programme has never been witnessed in this country before. It brought such an impact that a former American President had to travel all the way from America to come and see what was happening and also to congratulate President Kibaki for introducing the Free Primary Education Programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Free Primary Education Programme came with other side effects. We witnessed so many pupils registering in schools such that the teachers were not enough. Up to now, we have so many primary schools with very few teachers. In my Nithi Constituency, there are schools which have five teachers who are responsible for eight classrooms. I really do not know how the Minister or the Ministry explains a situation where we have eight teachers and eight classes. One of the eight teachers is the headmaster, who is supposed to be attending meetings out of the school and other administrative issues while at the same time, he is expected to be in the classroom teaching. I call upon the Minister to add another teacher so that we have nine teachers for eight classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are experiencing a great shortage of teachers throughout the country. I would expect to see the Minister asking for a special budget so that more teachers can be employed to cater for the classes where there are no teachers. Unless he asks for more money, more teachers cannot be employed. We have heard the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) complaining about lack of funds. Unless more funds are made available to them, we do not expect them to employ more teachers. If more teachers are not employed to alleviate the shortage, then so many students will stay without teachers throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since we have increased the number of primary schools, we should also have more secondary schools supported by the Ministry. There has always been a call from parents for free secondary education. I would suggest that we implement this starting with one class at a time. For example, if we start with Form One, next year, then we will move on to Form Two, the following year as we collect more taxes. Let us show that we have a plan to also introduce free secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with more secondary schools having been constructed - I have more than 70 of them in my constituency - then we need more universities. Let me thank the Ministry of Education for starting a campus of Egerton University in Chuka. I hope that very soon it will be upgraded to a fully-fledged university.

We have exceptional students in schools. Among these are the gifted students from poor families and those with disabilities. Kenya has for a long time ignored the plight of these children. They have never been given an opportunity to display their talent and show their gifts. I would suggest that the Ministry establishes an institution which caters for these children, from primary school up to the university level. For many years now, we have witnessed brain-drain. Many of our gifted children go to the developed countries. We have also seen countries awarding scholarships to the best students in Standard Eight, Form Four and even the First Class university graduates. By

so doing, they are able to drain all our talented brains and take them to their countries. I wonder where the inventions and creations---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Are you reading a speech? You must debate!

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this cannot be a speech!

Mr. Speaker: All right!

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy you thought it was a speech.

I was talking about the gifted students who have never been given an opportunity in this country. I have just called upon the Ministry to establish institutions to cater for these gifted children. This is because we have seen them being taken away by other countries and given opportunities elsewhere. They only come back after all their talents have been drained.

I would also like the Ministry to set up institutions for the disadvantaged children, especially those with physical disabilities. This will give them an opportunity to enter into the mainstream institutions. We have so many cases, especially in rural areas, where the parents are suffering with their disabled children. They do not know where to take them. The few available institutions cannot accommodate all the cases which are in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of hardship areas. I would like to take the Minister on a tour of Igamba Ng'ombe Division in Meru South.

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up!

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support!

Mr. Speaker: Thank you! It is now time for the Official Opposition Responder to make his remarks.

Dr. Rutto: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to the Motion. I am personally happy that the Government continues to invest more in education, particularly in human resource. The budget for the Ministry of Education still remains one of the highest. I want to thank the Government for continuing to recognise the fact that the best investment that we can make as human beings is on the capacities of fellow human beings.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few comments on the Vote on the Ministry of Education. First of all, I would like to decry the philosophy that continues to guide our education system. While reading the policy document; Sessional Paper No.1 of 2005, I still find the philosophy that guides our education system to be wanting, in the sense that we are still very traditional in the way we look at our education system. We have not decided to develop the capacities of our children to the point where they can have capacities for creativity. We, as a nation, are saying that, in a few years to come, want to be industrialized. In other words, we want to develop like Japan, South-East Asia and the rest of the world in terms of creativity. I still find the philosophy that guides our education system very traditional. It emphasizes consumption of knowledge rather than the production and utilization of it. I would urge the education policy-makers who are here to look at our philosophy, because that is what affects our production and practice.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while listening to the Minister present this Vote, he did mention several concerns that guide the funding. He mentioned the issue of relevance. He, therefore, said that he funded the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), to try to enhance curriculum design and development. My observation is that funding of the KIE and other curriculum development organizations within the Ministry, is not sufficient. We need to strengthen curriculum development in this country.

The Minister also mentioned that the other concern is access. I would like to appreciate the NARC Government's bid to expand the access to education for our children. Free primary education has, indeed, expanded the access to education by our children. The problem is that such

an expansion has not been matched with the specific and special attention to the demands of quality. I need to mention to the Minister that he needs to put more effort on quality. I will mention some of the areas that he needs to emphasize, particularly on funding. There is the question of equity and distribution of resources. The question of retention. We have seen a lot of drop-outs in the system and lack of internal and external efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this document, the Ministry of Education has stated that the Government is committed to the following:-

The development of quality education and integration of structures that have been established within the system from pre-primary to the university. I want to note the following:-

We are still experiencing several challenges. While presenting his Vote, the Minister presented a lukewarm attention to some of the issues that I am going to mention. One of them is HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to be one of the greatest challenges to the provision of education in this country. It continues to kill our teachers and parents, thereby leaving a large number of orphans in this country. It has continued to weaken tradition and community support systems. It has created a generation of children living alone, because the traditional support systems have been strained and are likely to collapse. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has left our society poor and vulnerable. I expected the Minister to do more than what he presented before the House, with a view to addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS, specifically. Even as hon. Members, my colleagues will agree with me that HIV/AIDS continues to cause a lot of strain on the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) that we passed in this House to support bursaries. I urge the Minister to develop a stronger policy to deal with the HIV/AIDS menace.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in relation to that, there are teacher-related issues at all levels. When the free primary education initiative was introduced, the student population shot up. All hon. Members who have contributed to this Motion have agreed that there is a shortage of teachers. There is one policy of the Ministry of Education that should be revised immediately! Teachers are recruited as we lose them on the ground. The Ministry has been waiting to compile statistics and recruit teachers at the end of every year, or the beginning of next year. I would like to say that the Ministry should empower District Education Boards (DEBs) to employ teachers as we lose them on the ground. There is no justification to wait for one year to employ teachers. The DEBs should be mandated to carry out that replacement as we lose teachers on the ground.

Although we continue to construct physical facilities and supporting that initiative even through CDF, our classrooms are still overcrowded. There is inadequate in-servicing of teachers and that, in effect, affects the quality of education. I would like to urge the Minister that, as he distributes the money, he should look into the in-servicing of teachers, particularly when he is distributing the administrative funds that he allocates to various departments in his Ministry.

I also note that the Minister, and the Ministry in general, continues to pay lip service to Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE). Although they have said in the policy Paper that they will integrate ECDE by the year 2010, I think it should be integrated very urgently. That is because basic education at that level determines what happens at a higher level. There is lack of coordination of ECDE services on the ground. I would generally say that ECDE is a neglected area. While looking at the funding that the Minister proposed, there is very little in that direction.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, facilities continue to present a challenge. It is noted that technical, industrial and vocational enterprise training continue to be expensive. That is an area that has been neglected. I urge the Minister to pay more attention to that, given that, as a nation, we

want to industrialise in the earliest time possible. Technical, industrial and vocational enterprise training in this country is not doing very well. They have over-stretched resources, over-crowded classrooms, expensive facilities and so on. There is also low capitation for the universities. Universities have been complaining that they are not funded properly. There is low funding of research in our universities. That, in effect, affects the quality of education that is given in those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other challenge that I wish to mention concerns policy and practice. As usual, there is always a big gap between declaration of policy and what we do on the ground. For instance, I have mentioned that the policy document declares very well - and in very nice terms - that the Government will pay special attention to ECDE. Another area where the policy document specifically states the intentions and the spirit of the Government is in adult and continued education. The policy on that matter is very clear. But what happens on the ground is completely the opposite. I would like to urge the Minister to try and marry what he states in the policy document and what he does on the ground.

There are disparities in training standards. The Ministry of Education is very weak in establishing standards of performance, particularly in the middle level section. That is an issue of policy and practice, that is not matched with what we state in policy. There is also lack of data, especially on the special needs of children. The policy document states very clearly what the Government has done but, in practice, very little has been done on the ground. The policy states that there is need to mainstream ECDE, but the practice on the ground is different. I would like to urge the Minister to fund activities that continue to match policy and practice.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, guidelines on entry and re-entry into the structure of education is specifically mentioned in the policy document, but there is very little, again, that happens on the ground. The other issue concerns accreditation; that is, ensuring that standards are maintained in our institutions of higher learning. That is still suffering.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the transfer of credits from one institution to another, for instance from a technical institution to a university, has not been possible. This is because we have decided to remain traditional in the way we do things, in particular, in carrying out processes of accreditation. The Ministry should make it possible and easier for our students to transfer credits from one institution to another.

We have been thinking about integrating the East African countries to form the East Africa Federation. When you look at the accreditation processes that we have, you will find that Kenya is still adamant and does not want to join other countries in integrating education systems. I would have expected the Minister to put some money in that direction, particularly, to try and integrate our education system with the East African structure so that it is possible for our students to move across the border and learn without any difficulties. That also applies to the African Union. Some of the courses we lack here can be taken in Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa among other countries. I would like the Minister to put some money into this issue that continues to create a barrier to our children. There is also another problem that still persists regarding internal efficiencies in our Ministry. There is a problem with the matching of names with examination results. We need to create structures which create efficiency in the way we run educational matters on the ground.

I am happy that the Ministry has done something with regard to training educational managers. As I conclude, I would like to make a few comments regarding the overall outlook of the budget. First, we witnessed a political budget of the Ministry of Education. It is political because the Minister has conveniently funded those areas which will give the NARC Government a lot of political mileage. I will give an example of that. The Government pledged to support the Free Primary Education Programme and I am happy that it has put a lot of resources in the programme. That will earn it greater political mileage. The Government also promised teachers salary increments. If you look at the budget, you will see that teachers have been allocated a good amount of money. All of us appreciate that. However, that does not nullify my observation that the

Government wanted to make political mileage among teachers. There is nothing wrong with that. However, it remains a fact that the budget was political.

I would like to make a comment on the funding of Provincial Director of Education (PDE). I would like to make a radical suggestion; that, we do not require that office. The earlier it is scrapped off, the better. I would like the PDE's office to be scrapped off because it does not serve any purpose. It, in fact, consumes money which would have been used to develop other sectors of education. The PDE's office creates an administrative bottleneck and an unnecessary bureaucracy in the administration of education in this country. The earlier we get rid of it, the better. There is no justification for the money that has been allocated to the PDE's office. What has been advanced as the justification for the retention of the PDE's office is coordination. The head office can do that effectively without having an office of the PDE to run that portfolio. If we got rid of the PDE's office, we would save a lot in terms of administration. We would then use that money for in-service training of teachers and provide facilities for our education system. To stick to the funding of the PDE's office is to remain unnecessarily traditional. That office is a nuisance and we need to get rid of it and pump the money into other educational projects.

This year, the Ministry of Education has not given us bursary funds. The Ministry might have its own reasons for that. However, I do not know if the law will allow, that when we get to the Ministry of Finance Vote, the House agrees to take Kshs800 million from the Ministry of Finance and put it back to the Ministry of Education for the purpose of bursaries. Bursary money is not enough on the ground. The CDF money is already being strained. I think for the Ministry of Education not to factor in bursaries was very unfortunate.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for what he has done in terms of the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme. Most schools are enjoying the benefits of that funding. I would like to say thank you, for doing that. We should strengthen KIE and the Commission for Higher Education so that it can continue to check the standards, particularly of private universities that are mushrooming. The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) should also be strengthened financially to support students who are taking parallel degrees. I hope that when the Minister starts allocating this money, he will pay some special attention to some issues that I have mentioned in my contribution.

I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to support this Motion. I will start with the issue of the university staff strike and urge the Minister to know that this is not a matter that should be dealt with by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. It is wrong to leave it to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. It is absolutely important that the Minister engages the staff union to discuss and agree on how to resolve the issue of the strike. It is hurting our children and the credibility of the institutions and the country. It is not enough for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development to play ping pong over the strike. I want to say that the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development should have nothing to do with it and the Minister for Education, whose Vote we are passing today, should concentrate his energies and time in resolving the problem. I would like to urge the Minister to know that this is one of the baptism of fire he is getting since he became the Minister for Education. The sooner he successfully solves it, the better for him, the country, Government and his party.

I also want to touch on the issue of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). We have reached a stage where I believe that these loans should be available to all students in all our universities; public and private. These are loans that will be repaid. Many of us went through universities, we took loans and we have paid them off. Responsible citizens will always pay their loans. I think it is important that the Minister asks for additional funds from the Treasury to boost the kitty of HELB so that every student in the university, whether public, private, parallel or regular

intake, has access to the loans so that they can go through school. I say this because of the stress Members go through on how to handle issues of loans and funds for university students. The kitty we are given for bursary is not big enough to disburse to parallel students, because the courses are quite expensive. But it is important that we assist this Ministry to broaden the operations of HELB so that students can get loans.

It is laudable that our Government introduced free primary education when we came into office. But I think it is now time that we thought of extending that free primary education programme to pre-primary classes. This is because that is where the foundation starts. Pre-primary classes all over the country are still run by county councils. You will find that in areas where the county councils have sufficient financial capacity, they are able to run those units. But where the county councils are poor and weak, those units have virtually been closed down. Some are run by churches, again with limited capacity. I think it is important that we broaden the free primary education net to cover pre-primary classes.

Hand in hand with that is the importance of training the teachers who handle the pre-primary kids. Most of the pre-primary teachers are either un-trained volunteers or as I have seen in some local authorities, persons who collect cess and other revenue at markets being deployed to go and teach. This is a very delicate and formative stage of the development of children, where we need extremely skilled and qualified teachers to give the children a proper foundation for education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the funds that the Ministry sends to primary schools for primary education are not being properly audited. I have noticed in some areas that whenever Members provide some CDF facilities to schools, the teachers then take the equivalent from the vote they get for free primary education, and there is a project going on anyway. So, anybody who goes there sees an over-lap of CDF and free primary education money. I think we need a proper auditing process so that any cent sent to primary schools has to be put to good use. You go round and you see some schools looking so good and others an eyesore, yet they get almost equal sums of money. The audit units of these funds must be strengthened because there is no point taking taxpayers money and giving it out as a means of free primary education and then the money is misappropriated. I think this is something that the Ministry should look into.

Equally, the office of the Assistant Education Officer (AEO), which is arguably the most critical office in the management of education in any unit, must be strengthened. What happens out there is that the office of the AEO is subordinated to the office of the DEO which over-loads them and does not even support them in doing their work, yet they are the ones who have the interface with the day-to-day operation of schools. It is desirable that every AEO in the country should be equipped with a motorbike to visit schools within their jurisdictions and supervise what goes on there. It is also important that their offices are strengthened by giving them staff. Even auditors should be stationed at AEOs offices so that they can operate within those jurisdictions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Shadow Minister for Education. I have always wondered what the Provincial Director of Education (PDE) office does in this country. In fact, I wonder what all provincial offices do. All operations are at the districts. What do Provincial Commissioners (PCs), PDEs, Provincial Medical Officers (PMOs), Provincial Engineer, Roads (PERs) and all the other provincial officers do, when everything by equal and equally competent professionals is being done at the districts? I think in the process of reforms, the Ministry should abolish some of these offices.

I can give you the example of my Ministry. We have been able to open seven new missions within the budgetary allocation without asking for a single extra cent from the Treasury. This is because of prudent management of funds, cost-cutting and making sure that the wanton waste that has been going on is put to an end. I am sure the Ministry of Education can do this. You do not have to wait for the Central Government to abolish the PDE's office. Reform yourselves and lead the way so that other Ministries can follow. When you go down there to the DEO's office, you sort

out some matters. At the lower level, you have the AEOs. Then, when you go to the PDE, it is like a clearing house just to pass information to Nairobi. The districts can report to Nairobi directly. I think if the Minister can do that, it would be one of the landmark reforms he will have instituted in his tenure as the Minister for Education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard from many Members that the management of the parallel degree programme and the quality that goes with it is also not up to date. I think we need some harmony within the universities to see that people who never passed to go to university five years ago, because they now have a cheque book in their hands, are allowed to join university without monitoring the quality. I think we need some quality assurance to make sure that even those who are going to parallel courses are fitting into the curriculum of the university and they are also coming out as properly trained and qualified persons to join the productive sector of our society.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to conclude by urging the Minister to look at the issue of under-staffing in schools. There is no point giving free primary education to children who have no teachers. I have schools in my constituency where you have 1,000 children with four teachers. Sometimes children just go to school as a ritual, play and go back home. At the end of the day, they have to go and compete with children from private, well staffed schools. If you go to a place like Bungoma, all schools in Bungoma Town are over-staffed by over 100 per cent, because nobody wants to go to the rural schools. If the Ministry can rationalise and pluck out some of these teachers from urban centres and post them to rural schools, it would be helpful.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. ole Ntimama: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity. I think from the outset, I will support this Vote. But I have got one or two things to highlight.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think when you talk of free, compulsory education which has been glorified in this country since it started about three years ago, as far as the pastoralist communities are concerned, it is a myth.

I say this because the pastoralist communities in this country have been deliberately left behind. If you take, for example, the shortage of teachers, I am sure in every pastoralist district, it is alarming, unacceptable and unfair. If you take, for example, Narok District, we are short of 1,600 teachers. What do you expect if you are short of 1,600 teachers in one district? As a matter of fact, we know that in most urban centres in this country and in the traditional agricultural areas, there is over-staffing. I think this amounts to total abandonment of some of these communities. To say discrimination is a very soft word. It is totally abandoning other communities in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country can be dubbed as a country full of inequalities in almost every social acceptable norm. These inequalities in terms of education go a long way to be easily transformed into inequities as far as the communities are concerned. Again, let me repeat that this shortage of teachers is so alarming in some of these areas. How do you expect a child in some of these pastoralist districts to compete with a child who has teachers and whose school has electricity? In fact, they use computers? How do you expect that child to compete with a child all the way in the *bundu* where there is no electricity and road so that there can be proper inspection? You cannot compare the two! I am talking of these inequalities because it is not fair for any Government not to really consider all the citizens in the country and serve them equally, especially, when it comes to education. If for any reason you deny or short-cut things like education, then definitely, you are destroying the lives of children in that community. It does not matter whether they are far away in the borders. It is the responsibility of the Government to go there. It is the responsibility of the Government to make sure that every child gets a fair service in education and other matters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will say another thing. Right now, the Ministry of Education has raised the entry points to our colleges, teacher training colleges and medical training

schools to Grade C. Let me say very clearly that during the last regime, it was really understood that some of these pastoralist communities because of lack of books, inspection and teachers, if you raised the entry points, these children would never get into our own colleges. It is a fact today! I will give you an example: In Narok District, we have a teacher training college. When we had a cut-off point of D plus, I think it is the former President Moi who allowed some of the pastoralist trainees to be accepted with a D plus. We had our own children in Narok Teachers Training College (NTTC). This college was put up by the Ministry of Education. Today, only one student has been admitted this year from Narok District, especially, not from other communities or from the towns but from the real rural areas. There is only one child! What is the use of that college being there if it does not serve that community? When the D plus was accepted, quite a number of our children were admitted to that college. Now they are totally barred from that college. They are not wanted even in a college that is in their own home ground. I think it is a sin upon another sin.

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. ole Ntimama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember very well that, seven years ago, there is a teacher training college in Turkana District and there was a situation like what is in Narok today. Students from Turkana were not admitted into that college because people were supposed to raise entry points. I remember very well and most of the people who were in Parliament at that time remember that hon. Members from Turkana, led by the late Mr. Ejore, went to the college and said: "If our children are not accepted here, close this college!" They were there and temporarily that college was closed.

An hon. Member: Go to Narok!

Mr. ole Ntimama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, that is when former President Moi lowered the entry points to D plus. Now I am telling the Minister for Education to, please, consider the children from some of these pastoralist areas. I am not saying that we are going to do like the hon. Members from Turkana although we are seriously frustrated. It should be taken seriously! We will not walk with *rungus* there and close the college. However, I think it must be understood that we do not feel good. We are frustrated if our children are not accepted in that college.

(Applause)

It is so because they have no opportunity. They are not stupid! We know that but they have no opportunity. The infrastructure is bad, the books are not supplied properly and the inspection is not properly carried out. Why do we accept a situation like that? I am putting this to the Ministry of Education - I put it to the Minister one day when I went with a delegation to see him - they should consider some of these things. I was invited the other day to go and officiate on the graduation of NTTC. However, I refused to go because what was I going to see there? All people from all over Kenya and none from my own children and the Maasai community around there! I would be a traitor in a way. I think that is enough for now.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me say, again, that I support the hon. Members who urged the Ministry to start dialogue with the university lecturers. I think it is not fair just to go out and say: "The Government will sack you if you do not do this and that!", and employing other people as agents of the Government who will threaten everybody else. These people have a democratic right to strike and ask for their own rights. It is not a sin! They are not criminals. The Government should start talking to them. We must avoid some of these Government officials and Ministers who preach to us from the pulpit of bullying and arrogance; people who do not listen to others. Preaching to us from the pulpit of bullying or arrogance is not fair. I urge the Government to go out immediately and avoid a crisis becoming larger. Let them avoid the escalating crisis because it could escalate. Those are not ordinary boys. They are professors and lecturers from the universities and they could cause this country a lot of trouble.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Awori): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to start by thanking the Minister for presenting good arguments in order for us to approve money required for the improvement of education. I want also to congratulate the Ministry for the successful introduction of free primary education. I have about six to seven challenges which will take a very short time for me to bring up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first thing is that when we introduced free primary education, we should have thought very seriously of Early Childhood Development (ECD) so that it is looked into because that is the real beginning. I want to recommend to the Ministry that a comprehensive curriculum be established for nursery schools as we call them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to pick up, for instance, the folklore and cultures of our people; that is the 42 communities that are in Kenya so that they are part and parcel of the education that we give our children in ECD. Whenever I hear of nursery rhymes, I find that they originate from central or northern England, Scotland and all those places and yet we have very rich folklore. It is important that now the Ministry of Education takes this up seriously so that it is recorded and be part of the curriculum in order to teach Kenyan children the cultures of all our people. This will stop the cultural shock that some of the children get when they meet children from other communities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is necessary that the nursery education moves from the Ministry of Local Government and goes directly to the Ministry of Education so that we can build it up and ensure that the teachers teaching in nursery schools are paid by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). You will find that many nursery school teachers go without any salaries at all and yet we forget that that is where education begins. We would like to see the Ministry of Education helping to build the proper classrooms for nursery pupils. Whenever you visit a primary school, you find the worst kind of classrooms are those of the nursery wing. When children come from good homes and go to grass thatched classrooms, there is a blockage in their minds so that they feel that education is a punishment to them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second challenge is on special units for the physically or mentally challenged or visually impaired students. I know currently that there is an amount of Kshs153,000 that the Ministry gives to special units at various primary schools. In the first instance, this has got to be guaranteed. I have a school in my constituency which I visited last weekend, which is a special unit and they are still waiting for money to be sent to them. This should not be the case. We passed a Bill here giving full rights to people with special disabilities and yet currently while we are giving books to children in schools, we do not think in terms of giving wheelchairs to the physically handicapped. We are not thinking in terms of producing hearing aids for those who cannot hear properly. We are not producing braille books for the visually impaired.

If we have to equalise the situation then we must look at the people with disabilities and give them sufficient equipment to help them. In the same way, because of the difficulties they go through in learning, when they reach the stage where they have gone to university, the cut-off points must be slightly lower than the others in order to equalise the situation. In other words, there must be full integration with our education so that in all schools, we have to make sure that the environment is friendly to the disabled. There must be rumps for wheelchairs and parallel paths for the visually impaired and we must have laboratories for those who cannot hear properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding secondary schools, the success of primary schools has been such that unless we start building extra classrooms, we will find ourselves in very serious difficulties. So, I think it is necessary that the Government helps in the construction of classes for secondary schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to mention about the question of the girl child. I want to go all the way to North Eastern Province. I was appalled when I discovered that

since Independence, there are only up to today 25 girls who have gone to university from the whole of North Eastern Province. We must now bring affirmative action in order to bring up the girl child in North Eastern Province. I am informing the Minister right now that there is a proposal for building a school or a centre of excellence in North Eastern Province being funded by people from the civil society and others. I am requesting that the Ministry of Education, actually in the Supplementary Estimates, be given sufficient money to help this dream be realised.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other challenge is bureaucracy. There is a lot of equipment that good people are sending from abroad and yet the Ministry of Education does not help in getting exemption from duty on them. Similarly, when schools are buying vehicles that help them, particularly buses, there should be a system where the Ministry of Education gets exemption from duty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, we need a Director of Education for the prisons. We want full classes introduced in prison from primary and secondary school, tertiary to the university. This is because prisons should be a place for rehabilitation. We do not want to interrupt education of young people. If you go to prisons today, I think 70 per cent of the inmates are boys and girls below the age of 25. They should continue with education so that when they finish their sentences, they can then join mainstream employment to improve the economy of this country.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Kosgey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. We have repeatedly heard in this House that education is a right to a child. The Ministry of Education has said that it has a vision to make education accessible, equitable and affordable. It has also promised to offer quality education. The question is this: To what extent is education in Kenya accessible, affordable and equitable? It is of what quality? If you analyse each of those adjectives, we fall far short of the required standards. That is a challenge to those running the Ministry. Why is it that, in spite of the free primary education, we still have 1.5 million children out of school? Is it because they do not want to go to school or they are too poor to afford school uniforms? Those questions should be answered, so that everybody can go to school.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with respect to the quality of education, even though you provide free primary education, we do not have enough teachers. In that situation, there can never be quality education. You should start by providing enough teachers! Provide schools with properly trained and well educated teachers. That way, you can offer quality education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a situation in this country where parents are now employing teachers in primary schools. If that is not known by the Minister, let me tell him that teachers at primary school levels are employed by parents. The Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) employ teachers. They levy some fees from the pupils so that they can pay those teachers. It is becoming counter-productive to free primary education. It is a fact! Please, we want enough teachers to make a meaning of free primary education. We understand that there is demand for 60,000 teachers. This is a crisis! We cannot continue saying that we are providing free primary education, when we are not providing teachers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with respect to secondary school education, it is ever worse. As you would recall, we have a category of schools called national schools. There are about 20 schools in that category. They used to be European schools. They include Mangu High School, Alliance High School and others. Those are the only schools that are fully staffed, equipped and provide standard quality education.

We also have provincial schools. I do not think those schools number more than 500. They used to be Government African schools. They are fairly staffed. The majority of secondary schools in Kenya, which number over 3,000, are district schools. The majority of our children are learning in those schools. They are poorly equipped, poorly staffed and, sometimes, they can go for a year or

more without a teacher for a particular subject, be it Maths or English. At the end of the year, they sit for the same exams with students from national schools. When the Ministry announces results and says: "Starehe Boys Centre is number one", of course, it has to be number one! It admits the best students from primary schools and it is well equipped and staffed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you consider the rights of the children--- In fact, children in district schools should sue the Government for not providing quality education and discriminating against them. It is true that the Government is discriminating against children who go to district schools. We demand that all children in Kenya should be treated equally? All of them deserve to have teachers. In fact, we should make sure that district schools have teachers because the students there need more help.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still on that issue, the quality of education in our universities is going down. Some of us are very worried because we went through our local universities. They are devaluing our education by providing low quality education. If you have 400 to 600 students in a class, what sort of lecturing can you provide? We should build more lecture halls, employ more lecturers and pay them well.

While I am still on that point, let me comment about the current lecturer's strike. I was once a Minister for Education, Science and Technology. One thing that I learnt is that dialogue is paramount. As the Minister for Education, you cannot pass the buck to the Minister for Labour and say: "This is a matter for the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development and Industrial Court. Please, talk to the lecturers and you will reach an amicable solution that will be good for all of us. We understand that the figures can be negotiated. Please, negotiate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because of lack of time, let me finish by saying that universities are there to train manpower. We have a situation where doctors are far too few. I think we produce about 250 doctors per year. With 250 doctors per year for this country, we will never have enough! The medical schools in both University of Nairobi and Moi University should be expanded to produce, at least, about 600 doctors per year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was surprised to read in a newspaper the other day that a local university, with nine faculties and three schools, produced only six Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduates in a year. It should be closed if it cannot produce enough manpower for this country! If you are a Vice-Chancellor or council member of such a university, and you sit there bragging that you produced six PhDs, you should be ashamed of yourself!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me turn to the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). It has been said time and again that HELB should be allocated enough money to meet the needs of each and every student who requires a loan. When I was at the Ministry, I think they were talking of a figure of Kshs2 billion to set up a revolving fund. The figure should now be approximately Kshs3 billion. The Government has the means to provide Kshs3 billion to HELB.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have never approved parallel degree programmes. If a vacancy can be found for a student with a mean grade of A-minus--- It is total discrimination. A student who gets a mean grade of "A" is given a place in the university. But another one with a mean grade of A- is told to join the parallel degree programme. That student should sue the Government for being made to pay for what is rightfully his or hers. In fact, lack of space at the public universities is why the private universities are there! If there is space at the public universities, it should be for all. The parallel degree programmes that are being run by public universities are wrong. It is discriminatory and against the students rights. It should be abolished! If not, they should charge the same fees for every student.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate this Ministry for successfully implementing the Free Primary School Education. The former KANU Government said that it was impossible to provide free primary education to Kenyan children, but we are now seeing that it is possible. I want to assure you that quality comes second. When you have several

children and they are all hungry, you do not need to cook food. All you have to do is to make porridge so that, at least, everybody has something to eat in order to stay alive. I can assure this House as a teacher that provision of free primary education in this country has succeeded. That is, in fact, many children are passing exams and going to Form One with very high scores.

There are a few challenges which we cannot attribute to this Ministry. The Ministry must be given money to employ teachers. This is a challenge to the Government and not the Ministry. The Ministry of Education has been denied bursary and the problem is the Government. I know that this Ministry is managed by the most experienced and educated people in this country and yet we are frustrating them by under-funding the Ministry. The Ministry of Education is doing a good job and it requires the support of the Government. It is true that we need teachers. However, who should provide money to pay the teachers? It is the Minister for Finance. This is the most difficult Ministry I have ever come across. If we were to discipline any Ministry, then we ought to have disciplined the budget of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we really want to improve our education standards, as the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs has said, then we need to extend free education to nursery schools. It is like nursing a tree whose roots are rotten. How do you treat a tree when the disease is in the roots? How do you expect that tree to survive? So, let us provide free nursery education. That means that we allocate money to cater for nursery school pupils the same way we allocate money to cater for primary school pupils. We need to employ nursery school teachers and pay them better than these other people. We should pay higher salaries to people who enable very young children to acquire the skills of reading and writing than those who deal with children who are already better prepared. It is, indeed, time that this Ministry comes up with a good budget and hand it to the Government in order to receive funding. We all want our children to get educated.

A country that cannot educate its citizen has no business being in power. This Government is actually trying. We are only appealing that the tertiary education, which includes village polytechnics be placed under the Ministry of Education for proper supervision. We talk about children being self-employed. However, when a child completes Standard Eight or Form Four and is not lucky enough to score high marks, he or she goes to the village polytechnic to train.

Now, village polytechnics are under the Ministry of Sports, Gender, Culture and Social Services. They have no idea about training people, how schools should be equipped and no capacity to inspect the tutors. In fact, the tutors are not paid and they fall within the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. Really, the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development is supposed to arbitrate on matters affecting these people and not facilitate education. It is supposed to arbitrate disputes between workers and employers. How do you charge such a Ministry with the responsibility to train people? It is, therefore, my humble submission that such training institutions be put under the supervision of experts. Only that way will they be properly monitored and education fostered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to teachers' salaries, when I was working for KNUT, we negotiated the teachers' package with the KANU Government and we signed the deal. The KANU Government, however, refused to honour the bargain. We waylaid them during the 2002 General Elections. The teachers showed the KANU Government the way out of State House. That is a clear warning to the NARC Government. You know, when your neighbour's head is being shaven dry and you are next on queue, it is advised that you put water on your head. I am, therefore, advising my brothers who are in Government today--- I am on the Government side too, but you are the privileged one. So, go and negotiate with teachers and pay them well. The Government promised to pay teachers higher salaries when the economy of this country improves. I have heard the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Planning and National Development say that the economy of this country has improved by six per cent. Why not pay teachers their right now? You are even unable to hold discussions with the teachers!

I am now challenging the Minister for Education and his staff, that is, the Permanent Secretary and all the employees to sit down with the teachers and negotiate the way forward. If it is the Government that has refused to give you money, just tell teachers so and they will wait for the Government come the 2007 General Elections. I am sure that they will teach us good manners so that the next Government does not repeat lying to us. It is high, in this country, we stopped lying in order to ascend to power. It is immoral to promise somebody something in exchange of something else and not live up to the promise. We promised teachers that we would give them more money if they supported our bid to get to power. Now, four years down the line you have not given teachers their money. Shall we ask teachers to support us during the 2007 General Elections?

The lecturers are also asking for a payrise. I know that they may not have followed the law. That is okay, but remember that they are hungry. They are paid like housemaids. The Ministry cannot run away from the responsibility of running universities. The Ministry is the administrator and it influences the appointment of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors. The Ministry is also the mother body. When children are quarrelling at home, it is the father who calls the children together and acts as an arbitrator. What efforts did the Ministry make to reconcile the employer and the lecturers? You cannot just simply walk away from your responsibilities and then hand over the dispute to Judge Chemmutut. He will only look at the facts and declare the strike illegal. He could be right, but the parent Ministry shall have failed in its role. I challenge the Ministry to hold discussions with the striking lecturers today.

The Assistant Minister for Education, who was once an official of the University Academic Staff Union (UASU), was on the Floor of this House saying that lecturers are not going to be sacked. I have been watching on television dismissal letters that have been sent to the lecturers. Surely, how could the Assistant Minister tell us that lecturers will not be sacked and yet the truth is that they have been sacked and the Government cannot deny the truth. It is better to say that you sacked them because they did not follow the law. It is actually reasonable to tell somebody the truth because we shall know what to do next. This is really a painful affair because parents take loans to educate their children. Just like the former speaker said, parents are paying dearly for the parallel degree programmes and yet their children are without lecturers. If the Government wants to introduce more parallel degree programmes then from the fees the students pay, it should employ private lecturers so that those students who have paid fees do not miss lessons because lecturers have been denied a payrise. What does the university do with the money that they collect from students in the parallel degree programme?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am challenging the students who are in public universities on parallel degree programme to take the Government or their respective universities to court for failing to provide them with lecturers after taking fees from them. Do you not think it is illegal? If this Government really wants to operate in accordance with law, do you not think what they are doing is wrong? Let us be merciful, especially when dealing with a person who is in the status of a university lecturer and is earning like the Ministers' maids. Surely, your maids earn Kshs15,000 and so do university lecturers. Does a university lecturer really deserve to be paid like a housemaid? Academically, you are not at the same level with these lecturers. I do not think I am at the same level with most of those university lecturers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could be a teacher, yes, but certainly not a professor. Most of us are not even professors and cannot, therefore, teach in the university, but our housemaids earn more than the lecturers. When they complain that they want a little more salary, we sack them.

We need to pray so that God enables us to understand the plight of others in this world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few comments, I would like to support this Ministry because it is doing a good job.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

in their places)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order! Order, hon. Members! It is now time for the Minister to Reply.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. With your permission, I would like to donate five minutes to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ms. Karua.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Are there other hon. Members you will want to give your time to?

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it possible to donate time at the end?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): No; you can only donate time at the beginning.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Then, I wish to donate two minutes to Mr. Bahari.

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Ms. Karua): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I begin by thanking my colleague for donating a few minutes of his time to me. I want to stand here and support this Vote. I also wish to praise the Ministry of Education for the way it has conducted education matters in this country. Most of all, I want to praise the introduction of free primary education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am shocked to hear some hon. Members of this House lament that this programme is not working. When you have a starving person, you do not wait to give them a plate that is full. You give them the morsel that you get to sustain their life. We cannot arrest the growth of our children while waiting to build facilities. We have to start the way we are and go on strengthening what we start. We, therefore, appreciate the efforts of the Ministry. We should continue hand in hand strengthening the free primary education programme.

I want to very quickly say that I was educated in rural areas. Those days we did not have a lot of facilities. Our classes were not permanent structures. They were made of mud. We used to write with our fingers on the soil. But now see where we are. It is, therefore, not right to expect that the Government would wait until it has all the required facilities to roll out the free primary education programme. Let us accept that it is a success and support it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about bursaries for secondary schools. These help our children to remain in schools. I also want to appreciate the work of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), which is extending loan facilities to university students. I look forward to the day when it will be able to give total bursaries such as the ones we were given when we were at the university, so that children of the rich and poor are able to access university without overburdening their parents.

I heard one hon. Member say that the Government should pay outstanding school fees to enable school heads release students' certificates. This an unreasonable expectation. If certificates are released irrespective of who owes the schools money, we will be promoting a culture of irresponsibility. In that way, nobody will ever feel obliged to clear schools fees.

In Gichugu Constituency, we are using CDF money to clear outstanding fees arrears for students who have attained mean grade C+ (Plus) and above enable them to utilise their certificates. It is possible, therefore, for each constituency to contribute, to some extent, to the clearance of outstanding fees to make possible release of certificates. We also require each student to try to pay something unless they are orphans. In other words, we only help those who make some efforts towards paying their outstanding school fees.

I also want to mention the issue of governance in schools. We must improve governance, so that head teachers and school boards are cost effective in the way they utilise school money. They must also be transparent, so that all the help that is given to schools, including fees paid by

parents, is used for the benefit of the schools. This also applies to the free primary education programme, to which the Government is giving funds for purchase of books and equipment. We must strengthen governance in our primary schools so that our children benefit as much as possible.

With regard to the on-going strike by lecturers, I would like to appeal to them to exercise reasonableness. We appreciate that they do important work. We are also asking them to appreciate that this is their country. We have only one envelope managed by the Treasury. We have to look at it against our needs. I want to urge them not to take parliament as an example. May be, we are a bad example in terms of remuneration. Let us reason together and ensure that we do not paralyse learning in our institutions. The same will go for the primary school teachers. We know that the previous Government bargained with them but was unable to pay them. It is our Government that has started implementing the primary teachers' pay. While the Government will do its best to ensure that we complete what was bargained for, we, again, must appeal for reasonableness, so that we are able to hear each other. We should agree to a pay package that the country is able to bear. We are the same citizens who want services from the Government, good roads and water. We are the same people who want electricity and who have many other needs. Let us treat our Government's Budget the same way we treat our home budget. We try to spread them so that they cover all the needs that we have.

With those many remarks, I beg to support, and once again thank my colleague.

Mr. Bahari: Thank, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the Minister for donating to me some minutes from his time.

I want to congratulate this Ministry for the good job it is doing. I can assure this House that performance in our schools has improved. As Members of Parliament, we have invested heavily in education using the CDF. Hence, we are going in the right direction.

I want to comment on the performance of schools in arid and semi-arid areas. Year in, year out, when national examination results are released, arid and semi-arid trail the rest of the country. This has been happening on a continuous basis. This is one area where we, as a country, must invest in. Our investment in education is not giving us results in arid and semi-arid areas. I know the Ministry has put in place certain measures. But I want to ask the Minister not to give up. The Ministry should follow up what is happening in these areas until we get good results from them.

In supervision of schools, we have seen incompetent officers being allowed to supervise schools. I know that the Ministry is, perhaps, in the process of correcting this situation. Arid and semi-arid areas are vast and supervision of schools in them is difficult. We would like the Ministry to intensify its activities in these areas.

I also want to thank His Excellency the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs for asking the Ministry to budget for support of education in arid and semi-arid areas. He particularly asked to establish centres of excellence. This is what we need to do without wasting time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on the university lecturers strike. I want the Ministry to negotiate with them. I know that negotiations are not easy; they are difficult. It is not uncommon for unions to ask for 600 per cent pay hike. It is the role of the Ministry and the management of the universities to ensure that they make lecturers understand. This should not be assumed. Sometimes negotiations are a very difficult matter, and one needs patience to ensure that they succeed. I wonder why this matter was taken to the industrial court at midnight.

Finally, the issue of indebtedness by schools; sometimes you will only discover it when school heads are transferred. The Ministry should issue a policy, so that principals do not overspend, and pass over the debt problem to those who take over from them.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to reply to this debate.

First, I would like to start by appreciating the compliments and support that hon. Members have continued to give to the Ministry during this debate. My Ministry continues to implement

policies provided in the Sessional Paper of last year. Hon. Members will recall that we had a national conference on education and training in 2003, during which we resolved to address issues on access, equity, equality and relevance of our education.

My Ministry continues to allocate funds for programmes that address the above critical issues. In this regard, the marginalised communities and groups in ASAL areas, especially, children with special needs, children in urban slums and other pockets of poverty, will continue to receive special attention.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have made a number of comments relating to policy issues and management of education matters. Allow me to make a few remarks to clarify Government policy on some of the specific comments made in this House during this debate. I will start with the issue of Early Childhood and Development (ECD) Programme. According to Sessional Paper No.1 of 2005, the implementation of the ECD programme is supported.

The programme is supposed to be rolled out by the year 2010. This involves the mainstreaming of the ECD Programme into formal education. This will require that the ECD becomes part of basic education. In preparation for this programme, my Ministry has developed teacher education curriculum for early childhood development at both certificate and diploma levels to be examined by the Kenya National Examinations Council. The programme is going on. We are training teachers to prepare for these changes when they come.

I agree with hon. Members that the management of Free Primary Education (FPE) finances by school management committees is an enormous task. However, to ensure that prudent management of these funds is realised, my Ministry has developed clear and comprehensive financial procurement and management guidelines and manuals for use in schools. In addition, monitoring and audit of school finances has been enhanced. Indeed, all primary schools are audited annually.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the School Feeding Programme (SFP) is concerned, the programme is implemented in ASAL areas, pockets of poverty and urban slums. It is a joint partnership between the World Food Programme (WFP)---

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I thought that my very good friend, the Minister, was replying to hon. Members' comments. Instead, he is reading a prepared speech. Is that in order?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Proceed, Mr. Minister!

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Members' concern that the SFP Programme should be in place throughout the year. This is, indeed, in line with the current policy but due to some technical delays arising from transportation logistics right from the source to the schools, food may not arrive in schools on time as expected. However, I wish to assure hon. Members that my Ministry has put in place mechanisms to ensure timely and regular supply of food.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I recognise the concern of hon. Members of this august House that our primary schools should be well catered for in terms of water and sanitation. To address this aspect, my Ministry, in the year 2004, gave special grants to all primary schools, amounting to Kshs50,000 for water and sanitation. In addition, under the ongoing infrastructure rehabilitation programme, special emphasis is being put on development and improvement of water in some stations in schools.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order, Mr. Minister! You are just reading for clarity. Sometimes, it is important to read for making things clear on statistics and so on, but not to read all the time.

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of registration of schools is concerned, registration of such institutions involves various players, including District Education Boards (DEBs) and the Ministry

of Education headquarters. I agree that delays in registration of schools may have occurred in the past at either DEB level or at the Ministry Headquarters.

I would like to assure hon. Members that the various bottlenecks that caused the delays in the registration of schools at the headquarters have largely been addressed. However, I wish to appeal to hon. Members that since they are members of the DEBs, they should also get involved, so that the process at the district level is hastened, so that we can address it at the Ministry Headquarters.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of delays relating to appointment of school Board of Governors (BoG) members has been a problem in the past. I can assure hon. Members that registration has now been formalised, and that there are no more delays at all. However, again, the

process starts at the DEB level. We must get the names of the right people. Again, I want to stress that hon. Members of this august House can assist us in appointing the right persons to BoGs. I want to underscore the fact that there are no more delays in registering schools or appointment of BoG members.

As far as the list of the certificates is concerned, it is important to realise that most of our schools have been indebted to various suppliers of equipment and foodstuffs. As I speak, Kshs12 billion is owed by schools all over the country. So, it is critical that those members of the society who can actually pay school fees must do so. Releasing certificates *en mass* would endanger the schools. It will create room for auctioneers to sell school assets. Of course, if that happens, learning will come to a stop. Again, such a development will affect hon. Members of this House, school children as well as parents.

Despite the scarce financial resources available to the Ministry, we have increased our support to secondary schools in form of bursaries for the needy and supply of laboratory equipment as well as provision of grants when schools are hit by drought. We have supplied grants to schools in ASAL areas and other pockets of poverty. We also give grants to support ICT, which is very important. However, despite all these interventions, many schools are still owed huge sums of money in fees arrears.

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

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. M'Mukindia) took the Chair]*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to request hon. Members to ensure that those members of society who can pay their debts do so. We are, at the same time, requesting DEBs to identify the very poor members of society, who are unable to pay. The exercise can be done by head-teachers, working together with the Provincial Administration, to easily identify the really needy cases, so that, we, as Government, can only address such cases. We are moving in that direction. The Government will look into the issue of the needy members of the society more leniently.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the issue of non-performing boards in schools and the subsequent request that I should take appropriate action on them. Indeed, I have taken action in revoking several such appointments. This is in line with the Education Act, which empowers me to revoke such errant boards. An issue has been raised about board members who are not qualified. We have regulations that guide appointments to (BoGs). Again, hon. Members can go a long way in making sure that those who are elected to these boards are educated and they comply with the regulations that we have clearly set out.

There is also the issue of the shortage of Quality Assurance and Standard officers. It is true

that there is a shortage of these officers in the field, which has been occasioned by natural attrition and the previous scheme of service which was not attractive to the low cadres, mainly, say Job Groups "L" and "M". To address this issue, my Ministry in collaboration with the Directorate of Personnel Management has come up with a revised scheme of service to ensure that we attract practising teachers to become Quality Assurance and Standard officers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, commendable efforts have been made by the Public Service Commission to motivate those who are already in the service. For instance, between May and July this year, 39 and 15 Quality Assurance and Standard officers were promoted to Job Groups "M" and "N" respectively. Besides this, the Public Service Commission has taken a bio-data of all Quality Assurance and Standard officers with a view of promoting and upgrading those who merit promotion.

While I appreciate the concerns of my fellow hon. Members on the authority of quality assurance and standard officers over teachers, I wish to inform them that the approach to supervision in this area has changed from policing to advisory and collegial approach. In addition, school-based quality assurance is being emphasised and the capacity of teachers is being built towards this new approach.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, an issue about teachers staying too long in one station has been raised. We are addressing this issue. It has been brought to us before and we have observed that schools that are constantly performing badly have the same teachers over a long period. We realise that in order to uplift the education standards of those schools, we need to do something about the teachers. As we go into the new year, we are going to address this issue accordingly.

With regard to the issue of teachers recruitment, my Ministry acknowledges that there is a shortage of teachers in our schools following the introduction of the free primary school education programme. This has brought about many challenges and we are addressing them. I acknowledge the concerns raised with regard to the recruitment of teachers in Nandi North District. This district was authorised to recruit 47 teachers, but 57 applicants who graduated in 2001 tied with 60-marks each.

The District Selection Panel used the quality of professional certificates instead of academic certificates as provided in the recruitment guidelines. The list was then forwarded to the Teachers Service Commission. However, the Commission established that nine candidates were unfairly selected, contrary to the teachers recruitment guidelines. The anomaly was brought to the attention of the District Education Board, and in liaison with the Commission, measures are being taken to address the matter.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of the designated hardship areas also comes up from time to time. We are also addressing it. It is not an issue that my Ministry can solve alone. We are liaising with the Public Service and the Office of the President to address the issue of the Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASAL) and also the hardship areas.

The issue of starting new schools has also been raised. In order to post teachers to a new school, it is required that the school should have, at least, 100 students. My Ministry appoints a competent headmaster to start a new school. With regard to the de-localisation of teachers, my Ministry acknowledges the concerns of the hon. Members over the need to de-localise teachers with the view of improving their service delivery. We are addressing the issue and we want to make sure that teachers are in areas where they can effectively perform.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to special needs, my Ministry's policy is to have integration of those with special needs. We are addressing the issue. This is not an issue that we can cross over. We continue to have special needs institutions and units that deal with those who cannot be fully integrated.

As far as university loans are concerned, our policy is to extend this to all students in tertiary institutions and universities. Our team is working on a new legal framework to ensure that

the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) supports all students. We are also trying to see how we can increase the portfolio of HELB, so that we can also cover the students on parallel degree programmes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of teachers shortage is concerned, this is an issue that we are constantly addressing. The shortage of teachers is not just in the ASAL areas. This is an issue that affects schools throughout the country. My Ministry is very concerned about this issue. We are constantly talking with my colleague in the Ministry of Finance to make sure that not only are we going to replace the teachers who have died, but also have an opportunity, as the economy improves, to increase the number of teachers in the country. I would like to appeal to my colleagues to be patient with us. We are addressing the issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, with regard to the universities' professors and lecturers strike, we would like to have dialogue. The UASU leadership rushed too much into the strike. I am prepared, with my officers, to look at the issue and make sure learning is not interrupted.

With those few remarks, I beg to respond.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read)

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. M'Mukindia) left the Chair]*

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. M'Mukindia) took the Chair]*

GUILLOTINE

APPLICATION OF GUILLOTINE -
LAST ALLOTTED DAY

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Hon. Members, we are now in the Guillotine procedure. That is in accordance with Standing Order No.142(7).

Proceed, Dr. Wekesa!

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs48,046,316,595 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 07 - Ministry of Finance

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs24,988,222,411 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 07 - Ministry of Finance

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, noting that we are now in the Guillotine procedure, I just wish to support that Vote. I would like to request the Minister, because this is where all finances of the Republic are authorized from, to ensure that there is affirmative action, particularly in favour of those areas that are still largely under-developed, for example, the arid areas and even some areas of Nyanza.

In fact, inequality should be erased from the entire Budget to ensure that there is regional balance. Transparency and accountability should be practised, not only by word of mouth, but in practice.

I also wish to ask the Minister to ensure that corruption in all its forms is eliminated from the financial sector in this country, because this is what will make us go forward. Finally, I would like to ask that good governance and more people-friendly policies be the order of the day.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 17 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs391,291,125 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 17 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very small Vote, but I would like to ask the Minister, as we pass this Vote, to ensure that justice is not applied selectively with political considerations rather than looking at the issues as they are. I have in mind events of the recent past whereby there seem to be a tendency towards prosecuting those who are not politically-connected to the current Government but leaving out those who have also committed crimes against this country and their prosecution has not been forthcoming.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,247,632,150 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, while I appreciate the amount of money that has been allocated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I feel it is not enough to augment the operation system of our embassies overseas. We have noted the rising trend in rent and lease of property overseas. It is my proposition that the Government looks for ways of acquiring permanent premises for our embassies overseas.

On the capacity building, I feel we should base it on good governance and qualifications of our embassy staff overseas. This is because through them, our good image abroad is enhanced. As we try to promote trade through our embassies, in future, I feel we should allocate more funds to this Ministry.

I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs4,469,227,635 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Kibunguchy): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, since my people mainly depend on maize, I would like to urge the Minister to make sure that, in future, they open the National Cereals and Produce Board stores early enough. Up to now, they have not been opened and the middlemen have gobbled up all our maize. That just perpetuates poverty. The Minister should know when farmers plant and harvest, so that he can ensure that the stores are opened early enough.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): I wish to remind hon. Members that, at this stage of the Committee of Supply, we need to raise brief points because we only have 45 minutes to finish this business.

Yes, Prof. Olweny!

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, while supporting this Vote, I wish to put it to the Minister that it is my concern that Miwani Sugar Factory has not been revived since the NARC Government took over power.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is my appeal to him to make sure that some money is set aside to revive it.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,848,858,470 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have noticed with a big concern the environmental degradation in the country.

While we are allocating this money to the Ministry, it should pay attention to reafforestation of all water catchment areas in the country.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, yesterday, a heavy storm destroyed a lot of property, including one school in my area. We know that this is as a result of lack of tree cover on the Nandi Escarpment. I would like the Ministry to be allocated more money, because the environment is very important.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 02 - The State House

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs537,352,995 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 02 - The State House

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 03 - Directorate of Personnel Management

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,219,781,150 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 03 - Directorate of Personnel Management

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we give money to the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM) not to retrench workers, but to streamline the operations of Government departments. Therefore, we have to be concerned about the premature retirement of young soldiers from the armed forces. They used to be assimilated in civilian areas through the DPM. That trend should continue, so that we could retain the efficiency and trustworthiness of our

servicemen.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 05 - Office of the Vice-President
and Ministry of Home Affairs

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,818,516,129 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 05 - Office of the Vice-President
and Ministry of Home Affairs

(Question proposed)

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am hoping that the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs will continue with the reforms in the prisons. I hope it will use that money to further that course. Particularly, my district, Keiyo, has a prison which is in pathetic condition. The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs knows it very well. I hope he will include it in the reforms to make it better.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. We are finding it very difficult to hear you from this end because of loud consultations from the other side. Could you ask them to keep it down?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): I totally agree with you. I can see Mr. Kamama---

He cannot even hear the Temporary Deputy Chairman. Mr. Kamama, you are totally out of order! You are not supposed to consult that way. If you want to consult, move to the next seat. You are not supposed to speak over the benches. Please, let us keep it down so that we can finish this work very quickly.

Vote 06 - Ministry of Planning
and National Development

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs887,045,300 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 06 - Ministry of Planning
and National Development

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 08 - Department of Defence

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs11,934,500,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-
Vote 08 - Department of Defence

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Capt. Nakitare, be very brief.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I hope that money will be used to acquire new weaponry and help Kenya Navy to acquire the warship that has been controversial.

With those remarks, I support.

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. We are performing a very important role of Parliament, which is giving authority to Government to utilise public resources. I do beg you to give us time so that we can say a few words---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Mr. Sungu, you are totally out of order. You know what the Committee of Supply means. We have exactly one hour to finish this business, and we have a long way to go.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we can always extend. We cannot only be a rubber stamp!

Mr. Raila: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. This is the Budget for the Republic of Kenya and you have just pushed aside a very important point of order.

We need to tell the Minister for Defence that we do not want to see the Anglo Leasing scandal again. Could you give us only a few minutes---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Mr. Raila, do not open up the debate again. I am sorry but this is not the time for debate. You know exactly what Guillotine means. You are not a new Member in this House. So, you are out of order!

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Order, Mr. Raila!

Mr. Raila: Guillotine is not rubber-stamping! Guillotine allows hon. Members to make---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Order, Mr. Raila! You are totally out of order! It is the decision of this House that carries the day. It is not the decision of the Chair. If the House so decides, so be it.

Mr. Minister, please, continue!

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 09 - Ministry of Regional Development Authorities

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs474,514,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 09 - Ministry of Regional Development Authorities

(Question proposed)

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I urge that in future - this is a very

vital Ministry - the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities should get a larger funding than this.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 14 - Ministry of Transport

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,719,450,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 14 - Ministry of Transport

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 15 - Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs560,226,300 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 15 - Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to put up an objection in the manner in which this guillotine is being conducted today. This is my third term in this House. Hon. Members are always given a chance to make remarks about Votes which have not been debated properly, before they are passed. The way you are proceeding seems as if you are just making us rubber stamps. The Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development has been a big let-down to this country, for instance, by the way it is handling the university lecturers' strike and other strikes. We want the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development to rise to the expectations of this country and deal with issues in a much more effective and humane manner.

I support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 18 - Ministry of Gender, Sports,
Culture and Social Services

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,050,712,130 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007 in respect of:-

Vote 18 - Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture

and Social Services

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, now that FIFA has banned KFF, I wish to ask the Minister concerned with sports to ensure that he uses this opportunity to make sure that he makes a clean sweep of KFF so that we can go back to football issues. I would also like to say that the majority must have their way. However, the minority should be allowed to have their say. That is the essence of democracy.

I support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 19 - Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,125,000,735 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 19 - Ministry of Livestock
and Fisheries Development.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 20 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs3,711,254,825 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 20 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

(Question proposed)

Eng. Nyamunga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, given that the weather pattern in this country has changed to the extent that we cannot rely on rain-fed agriculture, I would like to urge the Minister to make sure that we have a plan of starting new irrigation schemes so that we can have reliable methods of growing food crops.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 22 - Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs432,155,150 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 22 - Ministry of Co-operative
Development and Marketing

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 23 - Cabinet Office

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs453,539,100 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 23 - Cabinet Office

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, while I support this Vote, I urge the Cabinet to unanimously work together for the welfare of this country by bringing Motions and Bills to the House so that we can deliberate on them and pass them.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 24 - Ministry of East African Community

(Question proposed)

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs328,911,475 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 24 - East African Community

(Question proposed)

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to support the Vote and make two points. One, I trust that the three Heads of State of the East African Community can speed up the formation of the federation of this area. Two, that they shall also fast-track the entrance of Rwanda and Burundi into the Community.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 25 - State Law Office

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs403,663,050 be issued from the Consolidated

Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 25 - State Law Office

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I support the Vote. However, we would like to see an end to the game of musical chairs which is going on between the Office of the Attorney-General and that of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC).

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, secondly, we would like the Government to come up with a clear separation of powers between the Office of the Attorney-General and that of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 26 - Judicial Department

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshsh859,093,490 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007 in respect of:-

Vote 26 - Judicial Department

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have one point only which is: As we approve this budget, we do hope that judges that have attained the mandatory age of 74 will have retired so that they do not get this money because there are many young people who have qualified to be judges, and yet there are some who are above 74 years and they are still serving up to now.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I support, but the Judiciary has continued to be an impediment to attracting investment in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as we pass this Vote, we would like the Judiciary to know that we want to see speedy hearing and disposal of cases before the courts.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Just to put the record straight, we do not have any judge in this country serving who is above the age of 74.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 27 - Public Service Commission

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs120,867,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007 in respect of:-

Vote 27 - Public Service Commission

(Question proposed)

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to know exactly how the Government is going to implement the Presidential recommendation that we employ 30 per cent of women. I would like to know how that will be handled.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 28 - Kenya National Audit Office

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs534,817,465 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th, June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 28 - Kenya National Audit Office

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Before I propose the Question, I would like to point out to Mr. Muturi that he is out of order. You are with the Chief Whip there! You do not speak when you are standing up, unless you are addressing the Chair or have been given permission by the Chair.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 29 - National Assembly

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,201,333,150 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th, June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 29 - National Assembly

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the other day, I raised the issue that the Parliamentary Service Commissioners had awarded themselves very heavy and lucrative payments without complying with the provisions of the Constitution. So, as we pass this Vote here, we would like the matter to be clarified. There are a lot of grey areas hanging over that matter.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Before Maj. Madoka speaks, I have been informed that, that matter is before Mr. Speaker. He will make a ruling soon and inform the House accordingly.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have not received funds to run our constituency offices. We have been told that those funds were not budgeted for. We would like to know whether that is correct or not.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 32 - Ministry of Information and Communications

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs340,150,300 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th, June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 32 - Ministry of Information and Communications

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we would like to get some clarification from the Ministry about the tender award to a third mobile phone service operator. We understand that there are some underhand deals going on. So, we would like the Minister concerned to shed some light on this matter.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 33 - Electoral Commission of Kenya

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,786,062,150 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 33 - Electoral Commission of Kenya

(Question proposed)

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we know that so many commissioners of the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) have retired so far. It is our hope that our President will not handpick commissioners to join ECK. There is a rumour that a former Provincial Commissioner is gearing to join ECK without following the right procedures simply because he is a friend of the President.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in 1997, we came up with the Inter-Parties Parliamentary Group (IPPG) regarding the appointment of members of the ECK, in order to ensure that there is independence in this Commission, the provisions in the Constitution of Kenya notwithstanding.

We would like to know how the President is going to appoint the new commissioners. We would like to be involved because this is the referee who is going to stand between us when the 2007 General Elections come.

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Ms. Karua): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would just like to ask hon. Members to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Constitution on all those matters.

(Question put and agreed)

Mr. Sungu: On a point of Order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Perhaps, the

Leader of Government Business could move a Motion to extend time so that we do not run into problems.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): Order, Mr. Sungu! Our Standing Orders allow us to go up to 7.00 p.m. or beyond on a day of Committee of Supply. So, we are within the rules of this House.

Vote 34 - Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs631,000,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of: -

Vote 34 - Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to comment on the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC). It is important for the Commission to be seen to be above board and not to be used as a political tool in the hands of a few, and as a whip to punish those who are opposed to the Government. We want the KACC to serve the whole of this country fairly.

I beg to support.

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Ms. Karua): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I agree with that statement, except that I must say that only those with vested interests fail to see the obvious.

I beg to support.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not want to disagree with the Minister. However, the point is that the Director of KACC has been adversely mentioned. Therefore, as the head of KACC, we demand that he lives above board. We demand that the President appoints a tribunal to investigate the Director of the KACC.

I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 35 - Ministry of State for Special Programmes

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,347,989,930 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 35 - Ministry of State for Special Programmes

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Kibunguchy): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I support this Vote, I would like to inform the Minister that we are giving him this money.

However, whenever there is need for him to buy relief food, he should buy it from our local farmers so as to boost them economically.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 36 - Ministry of Lands

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs925,553,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 36 - Ministry of Lands

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Machage): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister that there is need to post to all districts, Land Registrars. Kuria District has not had any for many years.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is the famous Ndung'u Report. First of all, to publish it, it took a very long time. Since then, it has never been tabled for debate before this House so that some people who are adversely mentioned there can have the opportunity to defend themselves. So, I want to demand from this Government that the Ndung'u Report be tabled before this House so that Members can debate it before it becomes policy.

An hon. Member: Nonsense!

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, did you hear the hon. Member say that is nonsense? Members do not talk nonsense here! Can he apologise?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. M'Mukindia): I did not hear it, hon. Raila, but Members have a right to express their opinions in this House freely. That is the essence of democracy as we know. I totally agree with you, hon. Raila.

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Ms. Karua): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Ndungu Report is a public document available on payment at the Government [The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs] Printer. It has been discussed widely and there are people named both inside and outside this Parliament. Therefore, debate on it must be as wide as possible. We are also coming up with policy on how to deal with the issues therein, and at an appropriate time, it will be exposed to the House.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the squatter problem is chronic in this country. It has remained so since Independence. I appeal to the Government to buy more land to settle the squatters.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 40 - Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs341,018,250 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the Sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007 in respect of:-

Vote 40 - Ministry of Immigration
and Registration of Persons.

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my concern here is that the Ministry is not doing enough to guard against unnecessary registration of aliens in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to see a system where Kenyans are known and non-Kenyans are known. This is the only Ministry that can determine who is a genuine Kenyan.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there were some doubtful characters who came into our country; the so-called *mamlukis*. A commission of inquiry was set up to look into the matter. I would like to know the fate of the Kiruki Commission Report and what the Government intends to do with it.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 41 - Ministry of State for National Heritage

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs433,000,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 41 - Ministry of State for National Heritage

(Question proposed)

The Assistant Minister for Transport (Mr. Githae): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I just wanted to say that we need to take some action in this country. In other places, people go to visit graves of departed personalities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, in this country, we have what I will call a national site next to Parliament, where the first President of Kenya is laid. However, we prevent people going to the Mausoleum. We need to change our tactics and this country could start earning money.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 42 - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,078,701,675 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 42 - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, now that we have approved the Kshs1 billion for the Youth Enterprise Fund, I would like to appeal to the Minister to ensure that it is used fairly and equitably all over the country, and not to politically-correct areas only.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 43 - Ministry of Science and Technology

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs1,338,500,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 43 - Ministry of Science and Technology

(Question proposed)

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this year, it is encouraging that the Government has set aside some money for research activities by our scientists. I wish it was more than what was indicated. This will encourage modern technology research, particularly about biotechnology and genetic modification.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 44 - Ministry of Housing

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs567,655,300 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 44 - Ministry of Housing

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the right to shelter is a fundamental human right. I would like to advise the Government to lay more emphasis on housing. It is a shame that we are providing Kshs630 million for the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) and only Kshs567 million for housing. The priorities are upside down. Next time we should consider that.

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am concerned as the Member of Parliament for Kisumu that there was a slum upgrading project for Nyalenda, and the same applies to Kibera. This project seems to have stalled and I hope that the Minister will take care of this.

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 45 - The National Security Intelligence Service

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,999,000,000 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2007 in respect of-

Vote 45 - The National Security Intelligence Service

(Question proposed)

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this money should be used to construct a forensic laboratory which would enhance the tracking of intelligence reports and backing of intelligence department for the security of this country.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, of course, we have no problem with equipping our intelligence service to be able to be more effective in their work. We tend to slide back where there is a lot of tapping of phone conversations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you find some officers coming to tell you that we heard you talking to so-and-so. These are things we thought we had buried in the past. We would like to see our intelligence deal with more serious problems, rather than finding out who you were dating yesterday!

(Laughter)

(Question put and agreed to)

Vote 46 - Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs956,675,100 be issued from the Consolidate Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th, June, 2007, in respect of:-

Vote 46 - Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Committee of Supply do report to the House its consideration of the Resolution and its approval of the same without amendment.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed)

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

REPORTS

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Mr. M'Mukindia, you may just make it the sum voted and the Vote without the formal words.

Mr. M'Mukindia: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Vote 07 - Ministry of Finance: Kshs24,988,222,411
Vote 17 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs: Kshs391,291,125
Vote 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Kshs3,247,632,150
Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture: Kshs4,469,227,635
Vote 21 - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources: Kshs1,848,858,470
Vote 02 - State House: Kshs537,352,995
Vote 03 - Directorate of Personnel Management: Kshs1,219,781,150
Vote 05 - Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs: 3,818,516,129
Vote 06 - Ministry of Planning and National Development: Kshs887,045,300
Vote 08 - Department of Defence: Kshs11,934,500,000
Vote 09 - Ministry of Regional Development Authorities: Kshs474,514,000
Vote 14 - Ministry of Transport: Kshs1,719,450,000
Vote 15 - Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development: Kshs560,226,300
Vote 18 - Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services: Kshs1,050,712,130
Vote 19 - Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development: Kshs2,125,000,735
Vote 20 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation: Kshs3,711,254,825
Vote 22 - Ministry of Co-operative Development and Marketing: Kshs432,155,150
Vote 23 - Cabinet Office: Kshs453,539,100
Vote 24 - Ministry of East African Community: Kshs328,911,475
Vote 25 - State Law Office: Kshs403,663,050
Vote 26 - Judicial Department: Kshs859,093,490
Vote 27 - Public Service Commission: Kshs120,867,000
Vote 28 - Kenya National Audit Office: Kshs534,817,465
Vote 29 - National Assembly: Kshs2,201,333,150
Vote 32 - Ministry of Information and Communications: Kshs340,150,300
Vote 33 - Electoral Commission: Kshs1,786,062,150
Vote 34 - Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission: Kshs631,000,000
Vote 35 - Ministry of State for Special Programmes: Kshs2,347,989,930
Vote 36 - Ministry of Lands: Kshs925,553,000
Vote 40 - Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons: Kshs341,018,250
Vote 41 - Ministry of State for National Heritage: Kshs433,000,000
Vote 42 - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs: Kshs2,078,701,675
Vote 43 - Ministry of Science and Technology: Kshs1,338,500,000
Vote 44 - Ministry of Housing: Kshs567,655,300
Vote 45 - The National Security Intelligence Service: Kshs2,999,000,000
Vote 46 - The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife: Kshs956,675,100

The Minister for Science and Technology (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the said Resolutions.

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Kimunya) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we pass this monumental sum of money to the Government, I would like to appeal to all of us that we should put our House in order.

We have passed a whooping 37 Votes without proper debate, that is, critically looking at the various Heads and Items. I think that this is unfair to Kenyans. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also feel that the role of Members of Parliament is being downgraded. We have been criticised that we work for few hours, but get a lot of pay. It is time we worked even up to midnight

all week to ensure that we debate these Votes.

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Kimunya): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank all hon. Members for the valuable contribution that they have put on the Floor of this House in the course of the debate over the last couple of months. I would like to assure them that all those contributions have been taken seriously and they shall be considered in the budgeting process next year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Spaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because it is our responsibility as a House to approve the money for expenditure, without hesitation, we want the Government to ensure that this money is put to proper use.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, Ministers should not just be used as rubber stamps so that we have cases where we are told that money has been embezzled. The so-called accounting officers should be accountable to the Ministers who in turn should be accountable to the public through this House.

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to correct the impression that was given here that forensic laboratories fall under the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS). Indeed, they fall under the Criminal Investigations Department. I also want to confirm that NSIS is a professional organisation and it does not involve in witch-hunting.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow Thursday, 26th October, 2006, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 7.00 p.m.