

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 6th April, 2005

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

The following Paper was laid on the Table:-

The Report of the Committee on Fast- Tracking of the East African Federation, submitted to the Sixth Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community in Arusha, Tanzania, on 26th November, 2004.

*(By the Assistant Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation
(Mr. J. Nyagah) on behalf of the Minister
for East African and Regional Co-operation)*

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON FAST-
TRACKING OF THE EAST
AFRICAN FEDERATION

The Assistant Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. J. Nyagah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Fast Tracking of the East African Federation, submitted to the Sixth Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community at Arusha, Tanzania, on 26th November, 2004.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.096

RESEALING OF LUANDA-RABUORI ROAD

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Marende there? His Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

*Question No.080*RESUMPTION OF AI SERVICES
IN EMBU

Ms. Mbarire asked the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development:-

(a) whether he is aware that there are no Government Artificial Insemination (AI) services in Embu District and farmers are depending on natural insemination which is compromising the quality of breeds; and,

(b) when the Ministry will resume the said services as was the case before.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development here?

Ms. Mbarire: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have the written answer with me, but the Minister is not here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do we have a Minister who can answer that Question?

The Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Githae): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, the Ministry is aware that there are no AI services in Embu District and some farmers have resorted to natural insemination services thereby compromising the quality of breeds.

(b) My Ministry has plans to resume AI services in Embu District and other areas in the country where such services are presently absent. Further, my Ministry has harmonised training curriculum and stepped up the training of more AI service providers. We have also initiated the procurement of a new liquid nitrogen plant for installation at the Kenya Central Artificial Insemination Services. These two measures are aimed at reducing the cost of AI services by about 40 per cent and, therefore, make them cheaper and available to the people.

Ms. Mbarire: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I realise hon. Members are wondering why I asked this Question. I asked it because the people of Embu District depend a lot on dairy cattle. When I was young, I used to take our cows for AI services and the services were free and available. Farmers are complaining that they have to pay Kshs500 per cow to the Catholic Church for AI services. If you do not have Kshs500, you have to look for the nearest bull, which sometimes is overworked and sickly, and therefore, the quality of breeds is being compromised. Now that the Assistant Minister has said that they are planning to resume those services, when will they resume them to help farmers in Embu District?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will do that as soon as possible.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very exciting issue, but it is a very serious one. I am a livestock farmer and I have gone through this kind of problem. I was interested in initiating artificial insemination services in individual farms, but we were blocked by the Government in the previous years. The Assistant Minister has said that they are in the process of reviving veterinary services. Why did they, first of all, privatise the artificial insemination services? How will we control venereal diseases from the rogue bulls?

Mr. Githae: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that some bulls may have venereal diseases and that is why we are determined to resume artificial insemination services as soon as possible. We are also aware that some of the bulls are being overworked. That is why we want to resume these services as soon as possible. With the two measures that I have outlined, the cost of the artificial insemination services will drop by more than 40 per cent and, therefore, farmers will afford the services which they cannot afford at the moment.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks like the Assistant Minister is not taking this issue very seriously. This issue is affecting all areas in this country. If they are serious, could he tell us how much money the Ministry has set aside in the current budget and the MTF for the next two years for Artificial Insemination (AI)?

*(The Assistant Minister for Livestock
and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa) walked into the Chamber)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dr. Wekesa, just answer the supplementary question.

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with due indulgence of the House, I want to apologise for coming late. But I would kindly request the Chair to request the hon. Member to repeat the question, so that I can answer it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right! Mr. Angwenyi, could you repeat your question?

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter in the country. If this Ministry is serious about plans to resume AI services for our dairy cattle, could the Assistant Minister tell us how much money has been set aside in the current budget as well as in the MTF budget for the next two years?

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for two Assistant Ministers to answer the same Question? We need the guidance of the Chair. It is also surprising that an Assistant Minister comes here late and asks an hon. Member to repeat a question. That is an abuse of the time of the House!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ethuro! There is nothing in the Standing Orders that bars another Minister from answering a Question. However, Standing Order No.1 gives the Chair discretion. I am, therefore, using that discretion to allow Dr. Wekesa to respond to Mr. Angwenyi's question.

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to recognise and thank the Assistant Minister who actually answered the Question on my behalf. However, I want to inform the House that there was a mistake in the answer. But I have since corrected it. The answer says: "Yes, my Ministry is aware that there are no Government Artificial Insemination (AI) services." But part "b" of my answer is wrong. It says: "My Ministry has plans to resume AI services." Indeed, we do not have any plans whatsoever to resume AI services in this respect because---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! You stood there to respond to Mr. Angwenyi's supplementary question. You should not take us back to the Question. Mr. Githae, in excising the collective responsibility, did answer the Question. Now, you were only going to address yourself to what Mr. Angwenyi asked.

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

Order, hon. Members! Could we hear the Assistant Minister first?

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): I want to plead to the House because the answer my colleague gave was wrong.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Let me hear from Ms. Mbarire first!

Ms. Mbarire: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this issue is not being taken seriously. First of all, the Assistant Minister in charge came in late and then said the answer, which I have a copy of, is wrong. This is a sign that they do not think that this is an important issue. This is a very important

issue to my people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. Really this is a very serious matter. An Assistant Minister has answered the Question and then another Assistant Minister says it is wrong.

I think I will just defer this Question for the Assistant Minister to go and sort it out.

Mr. Ngoyoni: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Would I be in order to demand that the Assistant Minister who answered the Question now apologises to the House because he deliberately misled the House? In fact, he was actually treating the matter very casually.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dr. Wekesa, you owe this House an apology.

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

An hon. Member: Mr. Githae needs to apologise!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Could everyone, please, sit down? Mr. Githae actually did very well because he stood in the spirit of collective responsibility and answered the Question. I have a copy of that answer and it is signed by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development. So, Mr. Githae has no problem. The problem is the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development. Therefore, Dr. Wekesa needs to apologise to the House and then I will defer the Question.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! There will be no more points of order on that Question.

Dr. Wekesa, could you, please, proceed?

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do really apologise on behalf of my Ministry for coming late. However, I have the correct answer. I had an opportunity to sit with my officers this morning and we did realise the answer as read by my colleague is wrong. This is because of a typographical mistake. I have corrected it and I want to assure the House that I will be here dead on time next time this Question arises. I would like to do the best for the Ministry to explain the situation as it is in Embu and the whole country today. Therefore, I do apologise to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question is, therefore, deferred to tomorrow afternoon.

(Question deferred)

Next Question by Mr. Wario!

Question No.057

NUMBER OF DOCTORS IN
HOLA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mr. Wario asked the Minister for Health how many doctors of the following listed specialities are available at Hola District Hospital; gynaecologists, general practitioners, surgeons and ENT.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

There are two general practitioners and one dentist serving at the Hola District Hospital at the moment. However, due to the acute shortage of gynaecologists, surgeons and ENT specialists, we are unable to deploy them as required. In terms of services, the hospital can offer almost all basic services that are expected at a district hospital of this status.

Mr. Wario: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is sad to note that most of the Ministers do not even look at the answers given to them from the ground. I am from Hola. If it is true that we have three doctors, could the Assistant Minister name them?

Mr. Konchella: There are three doctors: Dr. Omar Mohammed Omar, Medical Officer of Health (MOH), PIN No.98042622, Dr. E. Tsuma, MOH, PIN No.2001060419 and Dr. Nyaboga E. Oburu, Medical Officer (MO), PIN No.2002043208.

Mr. Wario: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Tsuma was transferred and Dr. Omar came in his place. Could the Assistant Minister give this House the right information? Tana River District has an area of 38,964 square kilometres. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House whether those two doctors are sufficient for that area and population?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that the three doctors are providing basic services to a population of 193,000 people. The three doctors are there. If any of them has left, the Ministry is not aware. If that is the case, then I will make sure that they are back there. They are supposed to be there.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, given that district hospitals are far from majority of Kenyans, could the Assistant Minister consider visitations by doctors to dispensaries and health centres, so that our people could get quality treatment?

(Applause)

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that, that is in order. I would ask hon. Members to discuss with their MOHs to lay down such programmes, where doctors can go to dispensaries around their constituencies or districts.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you have heard, Bura District Hospital does not have any specialist. In fact, that is true for all our district hospitals. All the specialists are concentrated in provincial hospitals and at Kenyatta National Hospital. Could the Ministry consider transferring some of those specialists, especially surgeons, to every district hospital?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is reviewing the distribution of specialists in the whole country at the moment. The exercise is going on. I will report to the hon. Member as soon as it is complete.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Bw. Naibu Spika, nashangaa tutaamini Wizara ya Afya vipi, ikiwa iliahidi watu wa Taita Taveta District Hospital ambulansi mara mbili hapa Bungeni, na hakuna kitu wamefanya?

(Laughter)

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that we have made a lot of promises, but because of shortage of funds, we have not fulfilled them. This financial year, we wanted to buy as many ambulances as possible to meet some of the requirements and promises. However, the budget did not allow us to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are still in the process of looking for money and once funds are available, we can assure hon. Members that we will provide ambulances and other requirements based on priority.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question, Mr. Wario!

Mr. Wario: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at part (b) of the answer, the Assistant Minister looks so desperate. He says:-

"However, due to acute shortage of gynaecologists, surgeons and ENT specialists, we are unable to deploy them as required."

What budgetary intervention measures does the Ministry have to address that problem?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, employment of specialists within Government hospitals is based on the budget that this House votes for us. So, we will consider deploying them based on the needs of every district. We also consider their wishes because most specialists do not want to work for the Government. Gynaecologists make more money outside the Government. So, none of them wants to work for the Government. That is a problem that we are addressing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Kimeto!

Question No.035

DISAPPEARANCE OF
MR. KIPTONUI KOECH

Mr. Kimeto asked the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife:-

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Philip Kiptonui arap Koech disappeared on 4th, October, 1987 and his superiors reported the matter on 7th, October, 1987 as per police letter Ref.CRI/2/Vol.III/34 of 21st, July, 1993; and,

(b) when the family of

the said officer will be paid his terminal benefits.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife (Mr. Mganga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) No, I am not aware that Mr. Philip Kiptonui arap Koech disappeared on 4th, October, 1987. The Kenya Wildlife Service personnel database does not have the records of the said person. The records show three persons named Philip, whose details do not tally with the information provided in the Question.

(b) Unless we get more information concerning the said person, we cannot respond to the question of the terminal benefits.

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has not answered my Question at all. He is giving names of different people. I had given the details available in the office. Could I ask the Assistant Minister to bring the information to this House and give it to the Chair? I did not come with what I was given, but I have the records. Could the Assistant Minister tell us where that person is.

An hon. Member: Question dropped!

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is giving us information concerning different people, whom we do not know! Could I ask the Chair to defer the Question!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Kimeto, I think the onus is on you to supply correct information. The Assistant Minister says that they do not have that man. Therefore, it is up to you. You do not have to supply this information in the House. May I ask that, you see the Assistant Minister, hold discussions and look for the details. Once you get the details, give them to the Assistant Minister, so that he can assist you.

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could I request the Chair to defer this Question until next week?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No! There is no reason to defer the Question because---

Mr. Kimeto: I will give the information to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why do you not want to deal with the Assistant Minister?

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, because he is giving a wrong answer in broad daylight!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Kimeto, I undertake to assist as much as I can but, please, we do not have to defer this Question because, apparently, the information is not correct. So, can you go and do some more homework on this Question and let us know how we can help?

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me thank you in advance.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Sambu!

Question No.070

TRANSFER OF MR. KORIR'S LAND TO
MR. BITOK BY KAPSABET COURT

Mr. Sambu asked the Attorney-General:-

(a) whether he is aware that, Mr. Stephen Kipchoge Korir, owner of land Nandi/Sarora/236, in Mosop Constituency is alive and well;

(b) whether he is further aware that on 24th July, 1996, a Senior Resident Magistrate at Kapsabet Court declared him dead and proceeded to transfer his land Nandi/Sarora/236 to Mr. Kipsaina A. Bitok vide a court decree in CC No.15/88; and,

(c) whether the Attorney-General will cancel the illegal transfer and take punitive measures against the Senior Resident Magistrate and Mr. Kipsaina A. Bitok.

The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The Attorney-General is not aware that Mr. Stephen Kipchoge Korir is alive and well.

(b) The position as per the court records is as follows:-

(i) On 18th, April, 1988, Kipsaina A. Bitok filed a suit against Stephen Korir, alleging that Mr. Korir, although the registered owner of the land parcel No.Nandi/Sarora/236, had refused to divide the said piece of land among four brothers, plus the parties to the case.

(ii) By consent of parties, the matter was referred to the Land Dispute Tribunal's Panel of Elders whose findings were forwarded to the court on 9th, October, 1995. The court adopted the Tribunal's award and entered judgment in favour of Mr. Bitok by granting him 2.7 acres out of ten acres of the said parcel of land.

(iii) On 25th May, 1998, Mr. Korir, through Messrs Kibichiy and Co. Advocates, filed an appeal in Eldoret against the orders of magistrate.

(iv) The appeal has been heard and was allowed on 16th, March, 2005. The decree of the Magistrate's Court and all consequential orders were set aside. The court further ordered that the matter be referred back to the Kapsabet Court and the local Land Registrar for adjudication.

(c) In view of the answer given to part (b) above, part (c) does not arise.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to get into the land issues but I have with me here a photocopy of the transfer of the land document which says: "I, Mr. C.O. Moitui, SMM, on behalf of Stephen Kipchoge Korir (deceased) in consideration of the case number---". This was on 24th July, 1996. Moitui decided that the man was dead in 1996 when he was still declaring that he is alive and well to be able to appeal and win the case on 15th March, 2005. Does the Attorney-General agree that a criminal offence was committed by declaring a person who was alive to

be dead? Secondly, could he take action against Moitui and the person who caused him to believe that this person was dead when he was actually alive? By the way, Moitui was a magistrate in Kapsabet.

Mr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know the authenticity of the documents the hon. Member is referring to. Secondly, according to the court records, it was not because somebody was dead that the court gave the award of 2.6 acres to Mr. Korir. It was because of the elder's findings that he was entitled to 2.6 acres according to the court records. So, obviously, the court records are at variance with that document, whose authenticity I do not know. However, if I get the document, then I can bring it to the attention of the court and maybe further action can follow.

Mr. Sasura: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Attorney-General to avoid hon. Sambu's question which is very pertinent that: "If a magistrate declared a alive person dead, would it not be a criminal offence on the part of the magistrate"?

Mr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would very much depend on the evidence that was adduced before him. So, I cannot say in advance that it would be an offence.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, I do not want to get into the land matters. However, I seek your indulgence that I give the Attorney-General this photocopy so that he goes and certifies that actually Moitui, who was the Senior Resident Magistrate in Kapsabet, did alter a document declaring the person as deceased because it is written here? Secondly, if he finds that actually Moitui signed to that effect, will he take action against Moitui and charge him for declaring a person who is alive as dead?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sambu, could you lay your documents on the Table of the House?

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

Mr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Attorney-General only acts on properly investigated cases. I will undertake to first of all bring this matter to the attention of the Registrar of the High Court and then from there, I shall take further steps as I deem appropriate.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

MURDER OF MRS CAROLINE CHESANG NJUGUNA

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mrs. Caroline C. Chesang Njuguna was murdered while with her husband on 20th February, 2005 at their farm at Kantafu, near Ruai, on Kangundo Road?

(b) Could the Minister inform the House who murdered her and what steps have been taken against the murderer(s)?

(c) When will the body of the deceased be released to the family for burial?

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that Mrs. Caroline Chesang Njuguna was killed by robbers on 20th February, 2005 at 6.30 p.m.. The deceased was with her husband in the house when a gang of five men armed with pistols stormed into the house and demanded to be given money. The robbers were given Kshs10,000 and mobile phones but before escaping, using the husband's motor vehicle registration number KAP 204(A), a Pajero, they shot the deceased twice on the head. The motor

vehicle was later recovered abandoned within Ruai area.

(b) No arrests have been made so far. Investigations are still in progress to bring the culprits to book. Police have made an appeal to anybody with information regarding the murder to assist in apprehension of the offenders by volunteering the information to the police.

(c) The deceased's family members had filed a civil suit in court restraining the husband from burying her. The suit seems to have been sorted out since the deceased will now be buried on Saturday, 9th April, 2005.

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the Assistant Minister for the answer. However, I would like to let the nation know that there have been no investigations carried out on this murder. The police were informed and those responsible for investigating it are not doing their work. Could the Assistant Minister consider replacing the current investigating officers with others so that the work can start?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member has any useful leads as to the persons who would have committed this crime, we would welcome that particular information. Meanwhile, the police are doing their best to unravel this murder and I do not see that the police have failed to do something that has been brought to their attention. If, however, the hon. Member feels that we need to change the team of the investigators, he may request that on good grounds, if there is reason to believe that some police officers are compromised in performance of their duties.

Mr. Muturi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, part "a" of the answer says that: "The deceased was murdered while in her house with her husband by being shot severally in the head upon which she died". Could the Assistant Minister tell us whether at this stage investigations have shown anything that suggests or could remotely suggest that the husband was in any way injured in the course of that robbery, if indeed it was a robbery, and then take the appropriate leads from that point?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those are details of the investigations. It is up to the police taking the necessary action to follow any leads that could lead to the arrest of the culprits.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Assistant Minister must tell us more about this case because it looks strange. Why should robbers come into a house, kill a wife and leave a husband, if indeed it is a robbery? That must be a cold-blooded murder and the husband must be an accomplice in that murder.

(Applause)

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far, there is nothing we have to suggest that the husband was involved. I believe that there was a lot of suspicion and that is why the families went to court fighting over the body of the deceased but somehow along the way, they have been able to reach an agreement and they have agreed that she should be buried on 9th April. I do not want to attribute any ill motive on the husband at this point.

Hon. Members: Where will she be buried?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, she will be buried at her husband's home in Kitengela, Kajiado District.

Mr. Chepkitony: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been highly suspected that the husband was the planner of this murder and the police have failed to do anything. In fact, they issued him with a burial permit the following day after the murder and the police have not done anything. Could the Assistant Minister stop the burial until this investigation is completed?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to appreciate that the deceased was a bank manager. She held a very high office. She was a manager of National Bank of Kenya (NBK) and her husband is a consultant gynaecologist at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). These are not ordinary folks. We cannot stop the burial.

The work of the police is to ensure a post-mortem is carried out so that the cause of death is known but once the families have agreed that they are ready to bury her, then we cannot come

between them.

RESIGNATION OF ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Mr. Owidi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) What caused the abrupt resignation of the Permanent Secretary for Ethics and Governance, Mr. John Githongo?

(b) Could the Minister confirm that the Government was compelled by development partners to create the office of Ethics and Governance?

(c) Could he justify the creation of the office and also inform the House whether the post has been filled?

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

(a) Mr. John Githongo resigned voluntarily on 7th February, 2005 and requested his Excellency the President to be allowed to resume a career outside Government.

(b) The Government was not compelled by development partners to create the office of Ethics and Governance.

(c) The office of Ethics and Governance was created by the Government to advise the President on the fight against corruption and the post of Permanent Secretary in that department has not been filled.

Mr. Owidi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Ministry of Finance, the Minister is the accounting officer and not the Permanent Secretary. Could Mr. Githongo have been forced to resign in order to shield the Minister for Finance during the Anglo Leasing saga?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Member in order to say that the Minister is the Accounting Officer in the Ministry of Finance when, in fact, the Accounting Officer is the Financial Secretary?

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said before, Mr. Githongo resigned voluntarily on 7th February, 2005. He requested the President that he be allowed to resign. In fact, I have his resignation letter which is dated 7th February, 2005. The letter actually requests the President to release him to go and work outside Government. If you want me to read the letter I can do so.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister confirm that the reason why Mr. Githongo resigned is that he stumbled on documents showing a bank account with Kshs750 million belonging to a NARC Minister? Could he also confirm that when Mr. Githongo demanded that action be taken, the President was reluctant thereby forcing him to resign?

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member can substantiate that, perhaps, I would be able to react. Otherwise, Mr. Githongo's letter of resignation does not talk of anything to that effect.

Dr. Godana: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Assistant Minister must understand that we are intelligent enough to read through his responses when he parries a question. He was asked a very specific question by hon. Owidi in view of the fact that the Minister for Finance is the accounting officer. What Mr. Owidi sought to know is whether the Minister for Finance in our Government is the only executive Minister. In view of that, he was asked whether it is true that the reason why Mr. Githongo resigned was to cover the Minister for Finance in the Anglo Leasing scandal.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me read Mr. Githongo's resignation letter.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Shitanda, you do not have to read the letter, just respond to the question.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the letter is addressed to His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Members! If this continues, I will be forced to take action against some hon. Members.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the letter reads as follows:

"Dear Your Excellency,

When you first granted me the privilege of serving the people of Kenya as Permanent Secretary---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: How long is the letter you are reading?

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it contains three short paragraphs only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Shitanda! If you wish, you can lay the letter on the Table.

(Several Hon. Members stood up in their places)

Order, Members! I do not understand why Members are standing and shouting. Will you, please, sit down hon. Sasura?

(Laughter)

We now have to make progress. Mr. Shitanda, you do not have to read that letter. If you want you can lay it on the Table and then proceed to answer Mr. Owidi's question.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will read one paragraph which will answer Mr. Owidi's question. The third paragraph states that---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Shitanda, are you defying the Chair? I said that you should not read the letter, rather you lay it on the Table.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me lay the letter on the Table.

(Mr. Shitanda laid the letter on the Table)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can now answer the question.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Mr. Githongo was resigning, he did not mention anything to the effect that he had been forced out or he had stumbled on anything. In fact, in his letter he reminds the President that they had agreed in the beginning that he was only going to work for two years. The letter further states that Mr. Githongo is very happy that he served the Government of Kenya for those two years and he was willingly requesting the President to let him go and work outside Government.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Assistant Minister is simply trying to avoid answering the question. Could he now deny or confirm - even if he denies, we know that is the truth - that Mr. Githongo was threatened by two particular Ministers that if he does not resign he would lose his life? I wish I knew that this Question was in the Order Paper. I would have laid on the Table papers

with that information.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not have information to that effect. If the hon. Member has such information, let him lay it on the Table.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Members! Order, Mr. Wanjala!

Mr. Owidi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Government has no political will to fight corruption, could the Assistant Minister confirm to this House that there will be no more creation of anti-corruption bodies that only serve to waste public funds?

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is very much committed to fighting corruption.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Sasura!

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dr. Galgalo, I have disposed of that Question. I told this House, just the other day, that when the Chair rules on a matter, no matter how burning it is, hon. Members should obey and sit down. If you wish to raise that matter, you can raise it with the Chair at a later time. It is now Mr. Sasura's time.

ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE
IN MARSABIT TOWN

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Water and Irrigation the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that Marsabit Town and its environs are facing an acute water shortage?

(b) Is she also aware that residents in the said areas including schools are spending most of their time in search of **[Mr. Sasura]** water in shallow wells located in the Marsabit Forest?

(c) What intervention plans does the Minister have to address this crisis?

The Assistant Minister for Water and Irrigation (Maj. Sugow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Marsabit Town is facing an acute shortage of water due to the prolonged drought that has drastically reduced the yield of Bakuli Springs from the normal 450 cubic metres per day to 200 cubic metres per day. The current demand for the town stands at 2,500 cubic metres per day.

(b) I am also aware that the residents and institutions are spending time looking for water from springs and water wells located in the Marsabit Forest as the dams and pans in the low land have dried up. The situation is further aggravated by the increase of population in the town caused by migration of livestock owners from other parts of the district to Marsabit Forest in search of pasture.

(c) My Ministry, through the Northern Water Service Board intends to resolve the perennial water shortage that Marsabit Town and its environs experience over the years by identifying and developing reliable and adequate sources of water to supplement the current source at Bakuli Springs.

The necessary investigations will commence in the next financial year, 2005/2006.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to believe what this Government says, when they can send a letter from Nairobi purporting it to be from London!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about two years ago, we raised this matter with the same Ministry, and they said that they were new in the Government; that, they were only one year old. Last year, they said that they were only two years old. Now, they are saying that they are only three years old. It is very difficult to get answers from these people, especially from the KANU Ministers. Could the Assistant Minister tell us---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Sasura! May I ask you to address the Supplementary Question?

Mr. Sasura: This is not my Supplementary Question; I am asking my first Question! Could the Assistant Minister tell us why the investigations should start in July when they had all these facts in the Ministry? What he read to us are the facts that I had given him. What is he investigating? Is it a murder case?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Sasura! You have asked the Question, let the Assistant Minister answer it!

Maj. Sugow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, there is drought in the country, and most of the northern districts which are part of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are experiencing water shortages. Most of the pans and shallow wells have dried up, and livestock owners have converged in the few boreholes that exist everywhere. That is the case with Marsabit, because the water intake for the town is in Marsabit Forest. That is also where pasture for the animals as well as water can be obtained.

This year, the Government has allocated money for sinking of two boreholes in the district, and one of them is going on at Forole and there is one more that is supposed to be drilled before the end of this financial year. The Government has also allocated---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Maj. Sugow! May I ask that you give your answers briefly, because it is like you are giving a Ministerial Statement.

Maj. Sugow: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will try to be brief. I was trying to be specific because the Member said that he does not see anything going on.

There are two boreholes and three dams that are ongoing even at the moment. Contracts have been given out and the works are ongoing. I believe that once they are complete, then the problem that exists now will be a thing of the past.

Thank you.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one problem that we have in our areas is that most of the water catchment areas have been destroyed. What is the Ministry's stand to protect those water catchment areas?

Maj. Sugow: The hon. Member has asked a very pertinent question, and it is one of the issues that the President raised. It is a common problem in the whole country that catchment areas have been settled upon and are being destroyed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I am asking hon. Members is to co-operate to ensure that, actually, the Government does something about this by asking those people who have settled in water catchment areas to vacate.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry! I actually want to move on to the last but one Question. Yes, what is it, Dr. Godana?

Dr. Godana: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member will appreciate that the Question is about Marsabit Town, and the borehole he cited in Forole is in my constituency; some 240 kilometres away. So, it cannot contribute to solution of the problem of supply of water in Marsabit Town. In any case, I confirm that no work is going on at Forole right now!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would I be in order to ask that this Assistant Minister actually goes back to bring a better answer? For the last two decades, plans have been made to construct a major water reservoir for Marsabit. In his reply, the Assistant Minister has said that they are starting investigations in July.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could he tell us what exactly has been done and what concrete plan is already there and what further investigation they intend to do? I think it will be good if he goes back and prepares another answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Order, Dr. Godana!

Proceed, Maj. Sugow!

Maj. Sugow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those putting pressure on the water resources in Marsabit Town are people who are coming from the other parts of the district.

Hon. Members: No!

Maj. Sugow: Therefore, putting more water sources across the district will help to ease that particular pressure and convergence on the few boreholes that exist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question, Mr. Sasura?

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it does not help us in any way if we ask questions just for the sake of getting some flimsy answers here. I asked about Marsabit Town, as you can see in my Question, but this Assistant Minister is talking about Forole, which is over 200 kilometres away from Marsabit Town and a borehole which is not even there! The area Member of Parliament himself is denying its existence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could you be kind enough to tell the Assistant Minister to bring a better answer, or to tell the Minister herself to come here and tell us the truth?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Maj. Sugow, I think the two hon. Members have a valid point. The Question is about water for Marsabit Town. So, if the boreholes you are referring to are 240 kilometres away, surely, would you address yourself to the Question?

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! You know, hon. Members, you are misusing the points of order. I have just addressed the Assistant Minister, and he has just stood up to answer and before he can answer, you rise on a point of order. Please, let us be orderly!

Proceed, Maj. Sugow!

Maj. Sugow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this financial year, the Ministry has allocated Kshs5 million for the rehabilitation of water supply in Marsabit Town. The work that has already been done is the purchase of new pumps, installation of new meters within the town, purchase of pipes and purchase of doses for treatment works. So, the works are still going on.

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

*(Several Members stood up
in their places)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Would you all sit down? This is Parliament and not a *baraza*! What is it, Mr. Mwenje?

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is literally missing the point, and he is completely out of order!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Mwenje: Yes, he is totally misleading us! The Question talks of the crisis which is there now. I was there yesterday, and the crisis can only now be solved immediately by the supply of water, even if it means using lorries to supply that place with water. I saw a lot of empty jerry cans which

need to be supplied with water. As a matter of urgency, could the Assistant Minister supply those people with water using lorries, for them to, at least, get some water to drink, instead of waiting and talking about boreholes which are over 200 kilometres away? They need the water now and not tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Mwenje! You have made your point! I certainly asked the Assistant Minister to respond, but that is not a point of order.

Proceed, Maj. Sugow!

Maj. Sugow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will go back to find out how we can attend to that emergency situation. But I have one request to make to the hon. Members; we have emergency funds both in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and in the Aridlands Resource Management Programme. So, let us consolidate them all, as these are public funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By the way, I have heard this being repeated by many Ministers, about emergency funds in the CDF. Maj. Sugow, you are an hon. Member of Parliament; how much is set aside for emergency for your constituency? We are talking of Kshs1.3 million; can it do that? Let us be serious about Questions raised by hon. Members.

So, Maj. Sugow, I think you owe it to the Member to go and do some homework. The Question is going to be deferred, but we would like to see a better explanation in writing.

(Applause)

(Question deferred)

Next Question, Mr. Leshore!

EXPORT OF KENYAN WILD ANIMALS
TO THAILAND

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware of the planned export of wild animals from Kenya to Thailand?

(b) Could he state whether the said animals will be donated as a gift or sold to the Government of Thailand?

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife (Mr. Mganga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware.

(b) The planned export of wildlife species from Kenya to the Government of Thailand is a proposal, which is to be considered by the Government. Advice has been sought from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the Ministry is studying this proposal.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I love wild animals and do a lot of conservation in my area. The Assistant Minister and his Government has refused to give consent to the Wildlife Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill because they do not want to give the communities the right to own wild animals. When the President visited Thailand, he promised that the Government will donate wildlife to that country as a gift. Where will the Government get the animals from? Will they not confine those animals to life imprisonment in Tsunami-infected zoos?

Mr. Mganga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know the relationship between this matter and allowing communities to own wildlife.

However, this proposal was made when our President visited Thailand in October last year. The Prime Minister for Thailand requested if the Kenyan Government could donate or sell some wild

animals to them. At the time, our President did not agree that we will donate wildlife to that country. He simply said that we need a team of technical experts to assess the proposal and find out whether it is right to do that or not before we can implement it.

Secondly, the technical committee is assessing the capacity of wildlife management and husbandry, animal holding facilities and veterinary facilities before we allow the export of wild animals to Thailand.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister clarify to this House whether the officer from Thailand who has been negotiating this programme has been involved in a scandal with the Government of that country? He was purported to have exchanged wild animals with zoos in China. The same officer could be planning to sell Kenyan wildlife to Chinese zoos instead of Thailand.

Mr. Mganga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is why I have said that we have a team of technical experts reviewing this matter. Approval will be denied if it is proved that the officer, who is negotiating for donation or sale of Kenyan wildlife to Thailand on behalf of the Government of Thailand, has been involved in mismanagement of wildlife.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Mr. Ndile!

Mr. Keter: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is on Mr. Ndile's neck?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ndile! What is on your neck?

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, hii ni firimbi.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ndile, you are totally out of order! Could the Serjeant-at-Arms take that gadget from Mr. Ndile? We do not hang whistles around our necks in Parliament.

*(Mr. Ndile handed over the whistle
to the Serjeant-at-Arms)*

Mr. Ndile: Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika. Nchi yetu imetawaliwa na maoni ya watu kutoka nje. Nimeona ndovu katika Bara Hindi wakibeba watu pia kuwasaidia kulima mashamba yao. Hapa Kenya hatuwezi kugusa hata ndovu mmoja. Wajaluo na Waluhya wamefaidika na samaki kutoka kwa Ziwa Victoria, na hali sisi tunaopakana na wanyama wa pori hatuwezi kumgusa hata mnyama mmoja. Wizara hii inataka kuuza wanyama wa pori kwa Serikali ya Thailand--

Kuna Mluhya kwa jina Barasa aliyejaribu kukamua ndovu mmoja--

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Uliza swali!

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, Wizara inafanya nini kuwatafuta wale watu ambao wanafunza wanyama wa pori kuishi na watu ili wafunze ndovu jinsi ya kuishi nasi, tuwakamue na kula nyama yao? Nimeagiza ndovu wauawe katika eneo langu la uwakilishi Bunge kwa sababu wamevamia mashamba na kuharibu mimea yetu.

Mr. Mganga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that will involve a serious shift from the policy of wildlife management and conservation in this country. The House will be informed accordingly when we come to that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question by Mr. Leshore!

(Several hon. Members stood up)

in their places)

Order, hon. Members! We are already six minutes past Question Time!

Capt. Nakitare: We are stakeholders in this matter!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! We are all stakeholders.

Yes, Mr. Leshore!

Mr. Leshore: Could the Assistant Minister deny or confirm that when Mr. Tuju was the Acting Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, he accepted to sell wild animals to Thailand for Kshs700 million?

Mr. Mganga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that information is wrong. First of all, we will not sell our wild animals but give them out as a gift in exchange of wildlife management because they are an invariable national heritage. There are international conventions which restrict the sale of wildlife together with their products. So, that information is not correct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well! That is the end of Question Time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, there is a very important communication which affects all of us here and I request you to listen carefully.

Hon. Members, you will recall that for over four years, the AAR Health Services has been providing medical insurance cover for Members of Parliament and their immediate families. With effect from 4th April, 2005, however, and after conducting a thorough consultation with hon. Members and subjecting the Members Medical Scheme to a competitive tendering, the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) awarded the tender for Members' medical insurance to AON Minet Insurance Brokers Ltd; with the Insurance Company of East Africa as the underwriter. The PSC has, therefore, requested and wishes to meet all hon. Members, as a matter of urgency, tomorrow on Thursday 7th April, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. in the Old Chamber in order to brief them on how the new medical scheme will work. Therefore, it is important that we all meet at the Old Chamber to complete forms and other necessary things. I know that it is already late and I do apologise that this information was not given to you before the expiry of the existing health insurance scheme. Please, avail yourselves at the Old Chamber tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. so that you may be briefed properly and enter into the new scheme.

There is an important notice of Motion the Minister for Finance would like to move. Although we passed that Order, I will use my discretion to give him this chance to move it.

PAPERS LAID

The following papers were laid on the Table:-

The Supplementary Estimates (Recurrent Expenditure) - 2004/2005

The Supplementary Estimates (Development Estimates) - 2004/2005

*(By the Assistant Minister for
Finance (Mr. Obwocha) on behalf
of the Minister for Finance)*

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT) 2004/2005

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs9,376,111,810 be granted from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2005 in respect of Supplementary Estimates of the Financial Year 2004/2005 (Recurrent) having regard to the proposed reduction of Kshs5,375,699,710 appearing therein.

THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs2,775,848,171 be granted from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2005 in respect of Supplementary Estimates of the Financial Year 2004/2005 (Development) having regard to the proposed reduction of Kshs8,828,857,399 appearing therein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Obwocha! There is a very important part you have left out.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Obwocha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President has given consent to these Motions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well! There are two Ministerial Statements, one from the Office of the President and the other from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We will then come to requests for Ministerial Statements.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ATTACK ON MR. NDILE'S RESIDENCE

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had two Ministerial Statements. One was requested by Mr. Ndile and another by Mr. Shaaban.

On 31st March, 2005, Mr. Ndile requested for a Ministerial Statement and he claimed that there was an attempted robbery at his residence which was thwarted by neighbours. Some of these neighbours were injured, as he claimed, and one of them was seriously injured and has not left hospital. According to preliminary investigations which have been carried out, the attack was not political, but normal thuggery.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 11th March, 2005 at 8.30 p.m. a group of 15 men armed with pangas, rungs and other crude weapons went to Mlolongo village at Syokimau and attacked people who were seated outside the house of one Mr. Patrick Mathenge Muriuki who is a neighbour to Mr. Ndile. Thugs hit Mr. Mathenge on the left shoulder using a blunt object. Mr. Peter Kamau sustained a fracture on his right hand while Mr. Simon Maina Mwangi was cut on the head and back. They raised an alarm and that is when the watchman of Mr. Ndile released four dogs which chased away the thugs from Mr. Mathenge's compound. The victims were taken to Mater Hospital by the neighbours where two of them were admitted. Mr. Simon Maina was the last to leave hospital on 1st April, 2005. Mr. Ndile made the report to Athi River Police Station on 12th March, 2005 through the OCPD, Machakos and later the same day, he reported to Embakasi Police Station through Athi River Police File No. CR152-114-2005. That file was opened and investigations are in progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no arrests have been made. The case is still under investigation and efforts to trace the gangsters and bring them to book are still on going. Police are requesting anybody

with information to volunteer such information and that will be treated with complete confidence. Security has been beefed up in the area. Intensified beats and night patrols are being carried out. We are not aware of Mr. Katuku's warning or threats on the so-called "Watu wa Milimani"

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your indulgence, maybe I could read the other Ministerial Statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. M. Kariuki, let us get one clarification from Mr. Ndile so that we dispose of that Ministerial Statement first.

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, huu ulikuwa wakati wa pili wa hawa majambazi kujaribu kuvamia makao yangu. Mara ya kwanza, hakuna jambazi yeyote alitiwa mbaroni---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Bw. Ndile, ulituelezea hayo yote ulipokuwa ukiuliza Arifa hii. Uliza swali kutokana na Arifa ya Waziri Msaidizi.

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, ningependa anifafanulie jambo hili zaidi kwa sababu ni vizuri tujue amejuaje kuwa uvamizi huu haukuwa wa kisiasa kwa sababu hao majambazi hawakuiba chochote kutoka kwa huyo jirani ambaye anafanya kazi katika benki. Yeye ni mtu wa cheo cha juu.

Bw. Naibu Spika, umeniona nimevalia firimbi kwa shingo. Kule kwetu kila mlinzi ana firimbi. Pia nawasihii nyote mvae firimbi. Mkiwaona wezi, mnapiga firimbi kwa sababu ukora umezidi hapa na ukosefu wa usalama nchini umezidi. Hata hapo mbeleni Wakamba wamelalamika sana---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Bw. Ndile, tafadhali, huu si wakati wa kuota hotuba! Uliza Waziri Msaidizi afafanue jambo fulani ambalo hukulielewa vizuri.

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, ningetaka atueleze amejuaje uvamizi huu haukuwa wa kisiasa kwa sababu kitendo hiki kilifanyika siku mbili tu baada ya mimi kuonywa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Haya, Waziri Msaidizi tueleze!

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Now, what is it?

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, did you hear Mr. Ndile say that we wear whistles because of thieves. Is there insecurity in this House?

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, nimesema firimbi inaweza kutumiwa kufanya mambo mengi. Yule mheshimwa alifukuzwa asubuhi, kwa mfano, mlisikia vile alitutusi hapa kwa kusema Wakamba ni wajinga!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ndile! Please, sit down.

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, nilikuwa nataka kupiga firimbi ili tumtahiri kama Wakamba!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Now, let us be serious.

Mr. M. Kariuki!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the long and short of this Ministerial Statement is that there was no attempted robbery in Mr. Ndile's house. It is the neighbour who was under attack, and being a good neighbour, his watchman came to the aid of his neighbour by releasing dogs. There was no attempted robbery at Mr. Ndile's house. That is very clear.

Secondly, when he raised this matter, he tried to drag in Mr. Katuku's name, that Mr. Katuku had threatened him. The information we have is that we are not aware of such threats. We are not even aware of the involvement of Mr. Katuku on the raid on Mr. Ndile's neighbour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Ministerial Statement!

Mr. Ndile: Bw. Naibu Spika, kuna jambo moja---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I have a problem at that corner.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Twaha, will you sit down!

Mr. M. Kariuki, if you could take us through the next Ministerial Statement.

ATTACK ON CITIZENS OF MANDERA DISTRICT
BY FOREIGN MILITIA

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 31st March, 2005, Mr. Shaaban sought a Ministerial Statement. He claimed that for the last two years, Mandera District has experienced infiltration of foreign militia where many lives and property have been destroyed. As a result of this infiltration by these foreign militia, more than 40,000 Kenyans have been displaced and are leaving under fear and uncertainty. The latest attack by these militia, he said, was on 30th March, 2005, where two Kenyans were killed and four others were critically injured. These include both children and women. Kenyan security forces have killed four of the militia who were in full military regalia. He further claimed that there is an impending attack on his constituents by these foreign militia. He wanted an explanation on why Kenya's territorial integrity has been compromised while foreign militia have been able to attack Kenyans and kill them at will and why mainly Kenyans have lost their lives and property. He wants to know what is being done to ensure that these foreign militia no longer attack and, also what is being done to ensure that Kenyans are at peace.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Gare and Murule communities have lived together for long and there has been friction between them over water and pasture. Various accusations were levelled against each community leading to Murule community being denied water and pasture in Kwinshall, Kutayo, Shimbir, Fatuma and Wagadud. The Murule community lives in Kenya whereas the Gare community lives in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia border areas. Tension was brought in by the Gare from Ethiopia and Somalia who established a base at Bulhache in Somalia, about two kilometres from the Kenya border town of Elwak. The relationship between the two communities sometimes gets sour due to the presence of Gare militia from Ethiopia based at Bulhache. The militia has been invading the country from Somalia on hit- and-run basis resulting in loss of Kenyan lives. The militia is well trained and co-ordinated and normally strikes at dawn. The Murule community also established its own militia and this has resulted in loss of lives and displacement of 28,000 people from both communities. The Government has taken the following actions:-

- (1) More security officers have been deployed along the Kenya-Somalia border.
- (2) Kenya security officers have shot dead over 10 militia men.
- (3) Consultations are going on between Government officials in Mandera and clan leaders from Bulhache.
- (4) The Government is arbitrating the dispute between the Murules and the Gares.
- (5) North Eastern leaders including religious leaders and hon. Members are assisting in the conflict resolution.
- (6) The Government is determined to pursue the invaders using all means at its disposal to protect the rights of Kenyans.
- (7) Several people have been arrested and prosecuted in Mandera Court for aiding, financing and inciting the attacks. They have also been charged with attempted murder, illegal possession of firearms and promoting war like activities among others.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there any clarification? Mr. Shaaban is not there but I will allow Mr.

Mwenje to seek clarification. I will also ask the Assistant Minister to take notes because I am going to give chances to a few hon. Members.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Government is doing a lot and I want to thank the Ministry. It is doing a lot on the ground and the Departmental Committee on Administration, National Security and Local Authorities was there yesterday and we saw it. However, what the Assistant Minister has said is that it is true that the militia are based outside our national borders. However, the army and our own security forces do not have authority - even if they come and hit the Kenyan people, they run away to either Ethiopia or Somalia. Could the Assistant Minister, or the Government for that matter, consider giving authority to our security forces and the army, which is at the border, to pursue those criminals who are attacking our people even if they run to Bulhache or outside our national borders and bring the culprits to be punished?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ethuro, do you want to ask something?

(Mr. Wanjala stood up in his place)

Mr. Ethuro: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was going to ask for a Ministerial Statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! Do I have to remind you again that we are in Parliament? Just stand and you will catch my eye! Mr. Ethuro do you have any clarification to seek?

Mr. Ethuro: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay; Mr. Sasura!

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have witnessed several times in various parts of this country people caught armed, whether stealing or killing, in military and police uniform who are not policemen. Could the Assistant Minister clarify, because he has repeated the phrase "foreign militia in uniform" several times, how sure they are that the people who are killing others in Mandera are not Kenyans who are using these uniforms purporting to be foreign militia? Secondly, from Moyale Kenya all the way to Mandera, our borders are open to hostility. What measures is the Government putting in place to patrol the borders effectively so that these militia do not cross the country at will?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will give a chance to Messrs. Wanjala and Kamama and that will be it.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently in Mandera you heard two hon. Members entering into a truce over the killings there. According to his investigations, he has not implicated at least one or both of these two hon. Members who have been inciting people to kill each other. That is why they are able to enter into a truce---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you telling him or are you seeking clarification?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am seeking clarification as to why he has not arrested the hon. Members from those areas because they are even entering into a truce. They are presiding over a negotiation that says: "If you kill one person, you will be paid such and such number of camels." Still on that issue, even at the Coast, a Minister is involved and he was not arrested when the police arrested people in the forest. He is still a Minister in this Government! What is happening?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! That is enough! Mr. Kamama!

Mr. Kamama: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to inform my friend, Mr. Wanjala, that I was with Mr. Mwenje yesterday in Mandera and the two hon. Members together with religious leaders are actually working very hard to ensure that there is peace.

My clarification from the Assistant Minister is on the issue of internally displaced people. We have been told that over 40,000 people are internally displaced. What is the Assistant Minister doing to ensure that these people are given food, shelter, water and medicine? Does he have a mechanism? Again, these people are supposed to be resettled after sometime. What mechanisms or logistics does

he have in place to ensure that these people are well taken care of?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the question of whether our armed forces should pursue the culprits across the border, we have acted with tremendous restraint but we are aware that on the Somalia side of our border, there is really no Government on the ground. However, we have said that this time round, we will pursue the culprits until we get hold of them, the border notwithstanding.

On the second question as to whether these persons are not Kenyans, in one of the attacks, some of the people who were gunned down by the police, were found with Kenyan Identification Cards (IDs) and Kenyan voting cards and we were able to identify that particular group as being Kenyans and even show the clans from which they belonged. However, in situations we have faced in the recent past of militia in military fatigues, we have no reason to doubt that they are coming from across the border. This is because in all the cases that they have been gunned down, no identification papers showing that they are Kenyans have been found on their persons. Our eyes are open to ensure that whether it is a foreigner or a local person who threatens life, the police will take appropriate action.

On the issue of the truce, it is our policy to promote truce and I wish to welcome the gesture that we saw from hon. Members from this area. We have asked them if they can go across their respective constituencies together preaching peace because *wananchi* read a lot. When leaders have differences, *wananchi* are split but when they come together then there is unity. They are on course and I urge them to carry on with the good will that they have already displayed in terms of showing that peace is necessary.

On the question of compensation, that is already a traditional method of settlement and it is a civil remedy and it is paying dividends. During our meeting with all hon. Members from the North Eastern Province, it was endorsed and we think it is a proper remedy. However, that is not to say that the fact that you pay compensation, you will not be punished for criminal wrong. Civil remedy is different from criminal activity.

On the Minister and the Kwale issue, that is a different matter and I mentioned last week that whatever he has said in respect of the Kwale skirmishes, those were his personal views; they are not Government views.

In terms of internally displaced people, I have said that there are 28,000 and the Government has been delivering relief and medical supplies. We are trying to ensure that there is peace so that people can go back to their respective homes other than staying in camps or with relatives. We hope that when there is relative calm, everybody will find the need to go back and settle where they belong.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT OF VISUALLY HANDICAPPED KENYANS

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology

(Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give a Ministerial Statement that was requested by hon. Wamwere on what the Ministry is doing with regard to training and eventually employment of visually handicapped Kenyans. You will recall that this week, we have been discussing the Sessional Paper on Education and Training. This Sessional Paper highlights what we are planning to do for visually handicapped students with regard to policy of education. Some of the measures we hope to take relate to awareness creation, development of a programme that would include all students, strengthening of institutions such as KISE and others which cater for these students in terms of providing in-service training and actual provision of special education. More importantly, in terms

of whether or not we could provide functional skills that could make them self reliant.

With regard to employment, you will realise that the recruitment process is being decentralised. In the past three years, we have been witnessing this. This has been moved to the school level for secondary schools and in the district for primary schools. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) provides guidelines for recruitment. It also invites qualified candidates to apply and explains very clearly the criteria, including the fact that those who are visually impaired should not be discriminated against. Usually, we send officials from TSC to oversee the process. I must say that where there have been cases of application from visually impaired students, they have been employed. There have been problems but essentially, this is the policy.

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, the Ministry trained 26 blind Kenyans as teachers. I would have thought that given the Government's interest to promote affirmative action that can benefit the disabled persons, the Ministry would have given priority to the employment of these 26 people. However, it did the complete opposite and excluded them from employment. Could the Minister explain why there should be such divergence in what they claim is the policy and what the actual practice is?

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that nobody was excluded from employment deliberately. As I said, it is not up to the Ministry to decide for districts and schools whether or not to employ the visually handicapped. But, we encourage schools and districts to recruit them. From my own experience, visually impaired primary school teachers who were interviewed in specific districts were given the first priority. There are some who get discouraged and do not go for interviews. They do not also apply all together. There is no way they would be taken in. I also know that all blind graduates of Kenyatta University end up finding places in schools and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). I would like to advise hon. Wamwere that we would like to encourage trained blind teachers to apply for jobs when we next advertise. We believe in affirmative action. We, therefore, would like them to liaise with us to ensure that those who have applied are not discriminated against. Discrimination is not from the Ministry headquarters or TSC, it is from the districts. I will follow up the issue and make sure it does not happen.

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek clarification. You are talking of a very small group of teachers, 26 who have been trained by the Ministry. Why should the Assistant Minister tell us that they should apply for employment when we know there are many vacancies in the teaching profession?

Could the Minister go ahead and employ the 26 even if it is on humanitarian ground?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there any other hon. Member who wishes to seek clarification on that issue?

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of visually impaired trained teachers is very small. Sending them to the districts to compete with other people may not allow them to get those chances. Why can the Government not set up a policy where physically challenged people compete with each other rather than compete with people who are normal?

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, physically challenged people are normal. They are not abnormal. I would like to say that your sentiments are good. Sometimes, boards of governors for schools prefer not to have a blind student for a teacher. I fully appreciate the comments Mr. Bifwoli has made. He is proposing a quota system and hon. Kosgey is saying we employ them right away. Let me say that the policy has been decentralisation. But, I will take the feelings of hon. Members and see if we use them we could change what is happening. I have listened to that and want to see if we can change our proposal. I would also like to say that we must change our attitude in terms of how we respond to the needs of these kind of people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Discussion on that matter is over.

POINTS OF ORDER

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN FAMINE STRICKEN AREAS

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek two Ministerial Statements. The first one is about food distribution in famine stricken areas. This is particularly in Turkana District. In the past three months,---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Somebody from the Office of the President should take brief on that matter. Mr. M. Kariuki, take note of it.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I just need to add one more sentence to what I was saying and the Minister will know the kind of information I need.

In the last three months, victims of the raging famine in the North Rift and, I believe, in Mwingi and Baringo Districts too, have not been receiving food rations. I would like the Minister for Special Programmes to look at the dates of the last distribution, quantities of food and the composition and the nutritive value.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. M. Kariuki, will you respond to that?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to convey this to the Minister.

ELECTION DEADLINES FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second issue is addressed to the Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing. I would like to seek a Ministerial Statement to inquire under what circumstances he ordered elections for all the co-operative societies. The Minister should have taken into account that co-operative societies have held regular elections as per the regulations, supervised by the Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not know whether the hon. Member was in this House last week. The Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing gave a very detailed statement on the elections which he has called. Mr. Ethuro, I advise that before we admit that request, you look at the Minister's report and ask questions arising from it. If you want to seek any further statement, the Chair, will oblige.

Mr. Ethuro: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the guidance. The Minister has made guidelines which may be inconsistent with the rules of natural justice. For example, a member who is seeking an office should be literate. That excludes 74 per cent of Turkanas. They are also saying these numbers should not belong to a political party. Is that not inconsistent with our Constitution? This is a multi-party democracy!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ethuro, I wish you were here last week to seek clarification from the Minister. Be it as it may, address the Minister a specific question arising from the statement that he gave. Certainly, I do not think a Ministerial statement would be necessary.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Wanjala! I have no information whatsoever that you were going to request a Ministerial Statement. Only those Members who had informed the Chair beforehand will get the chance to do so.

ARREST OF AIC PASTORS IN WEST POKOT

Mr. Poghio: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of internal security concerning the panic that has swept through the African Inland Church in the Pokot region following the arbitrary arrests of several pastors, church officials and members of that particular church in West Pokot, beginning from today.

In his reply, the Minister should address himself to all the following: What has prompted these mass arrests of the church members and pastors? How many people have so far been arrested and what is their fate? What charges have been preferred against them? How does the Minister plan to address the ensuing tension that is spreading through the entire district as a result of these politically-instigated arrests?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will issue a Statement on Wednesday morning, next week.

NON-PARTICIPATION OF KENYA
IN MOURNING THE DEATH OF
POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. Kipchumba: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Foreign Affairs as to why the Government has not participated in the mourning of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, given that he was the Head of the Vatican State. Kenya has a very significant Catholic population, including the President himself. I would like the Minister to note that the Pope will be buried on Friday. Even in the Muslim world, they have honoured the Pope by hoisting their flags at half-mast. The Minister should also note that the Pope has visited this country three times during his reign.

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Foreign Affairs is leading the Kenyan delegation to the funeral and the Minister for Local Government, hon. Kombo, is among that delegation. So, the Government is very ably represented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in terms of clarifying why our flag is not flying at half-mast, I will convey that information and hopefully, because of the urgency of the matter, a statement can be issued tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Instead of waiting for a Ministerial Statement, since the Leader of Government Business here, could he note that the feeling of Kenyans, as expressed by Members, is that we honour the Pope by flying our flag at half-mast from tomorrow until he is buried?

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But you know that decision cannot be made by this House. Therefore, the sentiments of Members, as expressed, have been heard by the Leader of Government Business and the Assistant Minister, and we should wait for a statement tomorrow.

Mr. Muturi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I quite appreciate the ruling that you have given. But I just wish that as a House, since we also fly the national flag, we could, in keeping with our recent independence, order immediate flying of the flag in Parliament half-mast!

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Muturi, as a lawyer, you know that is not in order. Any policy touching on the national flag of Kenya is nationwide. Therefore, we await for the Government decision on the matter. The *status quo* remains.

PLIGHT OF HAWKERS

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today at lunch hour, I found the Officer Commanding Station (OCS) at Parliament struggling with some women hawkers who were attempting to block the gates of Parliament. He asked me to intervene and I talked to them to agree to go and I would raise their matter instead of them blocking the gate. I am aware that hawkers have been having problems; they have been trying to hold meetings---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, what is it that you want?

Mr. Mwenje: I am coming to it!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! You asked me to allow you to seek a Ministerial Statement. Now, can you do it?

Mr. Mwenje: That is where I am heading to!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But you should go to the point so that the Minister who will reply could be attentive and take notes.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am seeking a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of internal security concerning the plight of hawkers. I am directing this matter to the Office of the President because I am aware that the Minister had been requested by higher authorities to convene a meeting to discuss the issue of hawkers.

Could the Minister tell us when this will happen? What action are they contemplating? Where will these people be taken? They are really suffering now. They are hungry. They are now looking for us, Members of Parliament, and those from Nairobi in particular, and their fate needs to be looked into.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. M. Kariuki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not a matter within our portfolio. The issue of hawkers is an issue for the Nairobi City Council and that is under the Ministry of Local Government. However, I will convey the message appropriately to the Minister concerned.

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have specifically directed this matter to the Office of the President because I am aware that the Minister had been instructed from higher authorities to handle that matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But, Mr. Mwenje, as far as this House is concerned, the Chair concurs with the Minister that this is a matter for the Ministry of Local Government. Therefore, I direct that the Minister for Local Government comes with a statement on that matter.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF SESSIONAL PAPER NO.1
ON POLICY FRAMEWORK ON EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND RESEARCH

(The Minister for Education, Science
and Technology on 5.4.2005)

*(Resumption of Debate
interrupted on 5.4.2005)*

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Karaba: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. When I was interrupted yesterday, I was at the point of saying that education is very important. That is why the previous Government and even the present, have spent a lot of money on education related commissions. We had the Beecher Report, Ominde Report, Gachathi Report, Mackay Report, Kamunge Report, Koech Report and even Naomi Report; all spending a lot of money to further the education service. That, therefore, explains why we have this Sessional Paper to discuss a very important Ministry which is headed by somebody that we trust so much. We thank the Minister for doing that. That is why 40 per cent of our GDP goes to education. I support the Sessional Paper on education, but I have a few points to raise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the free primary education. In the year 2003/2004, about 1.2 children were able to pursue education. We can attribute that to the free primary education which was provided by the Government. That has also over-stretched the facilities in our schools. Classrooms, desks and even books are not enough. That leads to poor quality education. I hope that after this Sessional Paper, the Ministry will take care of that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let us discuss the quality of education vis-a-vis the quantity. We need to consider the advancement of students from Standard VIII to Form I. That has not been possible. Students who finish Standard VIII and continue to Form I find it very difficult because there is no free education in secondary schools. Some even drop out of schools. The retention rate in secondary schools is very low. The bursaries which the Government has been providing are not a guarantee that somebody, who has been enjoying free primary education, continues to enjoy free secondary education. That is because there are various limitations.

The checklist of a Form I student entering any secondary school is long and prohibitive. A student who is admitted from a public primary school to join a national school might not even honour that admission because to enter such a school, he or she is supposed to pay not more than Kshs70,000 before admission. The checklist is quite long and the books are so expensive. We even have to buy hockey sticks with some specifications. So, it is only the rich who can afford education from Standard VIII to Form I.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that those who are in private academies are finding it easier to join secondary schools and enjoy the facilities that have been provided by taxpayers. They enjoy those facilities because they have money to pay for them. That is discriminating against public schools, de-motivating the teachers who are paid by the Government and even students who have been supported by the free primary education. That is, therefore, leading us into retrogressive progress in the sense that students in public schools are not accessing quality education. That is even worse than the corruption we are talking about today. A student who completes Standard VIII from an academy goes to Alliance High School, Mang'u High School or any other national school, study those professional subjects, do better in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams, proceed to the university and do professional courses. That is emanating from a very good academic background. We have disparities in facilities leading to disparities in education. Unless you have a very good primary academic background, you cannot acquire the skills necessary to contribute to nation building. I request the Minister to make sure that

those admitted to some of those institutions, be it universities, are both from public schools and private academies. That can happen when all the schools have facilities. But that is not the case in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some schools are disadvantaged, just because of their locations. Schools that are located in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and those with no facilities because of insecurity cannot offer good education. They cannot be compared with those that are in urban and high potential areas. That leads to inequality of opportunities in schools. Many students drop out of school in northern Kenya. That leads to inequalities not only in the opportunities available, but also in the economy. Students who come from well-to-do schools end up becoming--- Even employers would favour them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having read the Sessional Paper, science subjects have been given a lot of weight in the KCSE syllabi. Students who do not pass science subjects will not get certificates. Students who do not have facilities like laboratories will have difficulties in progressing with their education. I would like to ask the Ministry, as it lays this Sessional Paper on the Table, to include science as a compulsory subject, so that we can reduce the number of science subjects from two to one, and give more emphasis on liberal arts to students who cannot be taught science without the necessary facilities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the teaching at the universities is also wanting. Most of the students are taught using public address systems. Some lecturers cannot even cope with the large number of students. They do not even prepare adequately for the lectures. We request the Ministry to direct more funds to universities to conduct research and employ more lecturers. That way, the ratio of lecturer to student will be narrowed to 1:100, instead of having one lecturer teaching a whole lecture theatre. The lecturer might not even know the problems the students have.

We have other problems in our universities even though we have expanded university education. Those universities act like care-taker facilities. Services like boarding and catering are very poor. Many students go hungry day and night. Some of them have even been rendered beggars at a very early age. No wonder we talk about the Koinange twilight girls; some of whom come from universities. That is because of the harassment and frustrations that they are facing because of unplanned policies by the Government. We have a university calendar where students finish their Form IV exams in December and the results are out in February. They will not be admitted to the universities until the following year. They are out for two years. That can make somebody move from Kenya to Uganda. Students who have failed in our educational system can go to Uganda, join "A" Levels, pass and join Makerere University way ahead of those who got Grade "A" in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am, therefore, asking the Minister to reset the university calendar or have a double intake, so that we can reduce the time the students take before they join universities. This needs to be looked into because many of our students are leaving Kenya to go and study in our neighbouring countries and even abroad. Kenya is also losing a lot of money in terms of school fees. We are told that about Kshs1 billion is paid outside the country. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should liberalise education, so that our national schools can provide "A"Level lessons, so that instead of students going to study in Uganda and Tanzania, they can do their "A"Level lessons here. I hope the Ministry will also look into that area.

Education in Kenya is very expensive and most parents cannot afford to pay school fees. It is only the rich people who can afford to educate their children in high schools up to the university level. One of the items which are very expensive are books. Right now, very many books are being used in our secondary schools.

You will find that in a subject like Kiswahili, students are supposed to buy so many books and maybe only one book will be used by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) to examine the students. Some of these books are very difficult for the teachers and the students to understand.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should provide one or two set books

instead of giving a very long list of books. These books are used for only one or two years and on the third year, they become obsolete and others are introduced for publication. We should minimise the number of books that are used in our high schools, so that the parents do not incur all these costs, and I am sure parents will find it easier to educate their children in Kenya. That will promote our nationalism.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will realise that in the 1980s the 8-4-4 Education System was introduced alongside the Nyayo Milk Programme. Before then, we had the 7-4-2-3 Education System. This shows that our authorities tend to experiment on education. In other countries like South Korea and Malaysia, education is taken very seriously and the system is never changed. All they do is to introduce some reforms to improve their education standards. In Kenya, anybody who takes over power introduces changes in our education system and introduces new subjects. For example, in the 1980s, we introduced some technical subjects, agriculture and home science at the expense of the parents. The parents were made to put up very expensive workshops, which are no longer there. We trained very many teachers to teach technical subjects, who are now redundant because they cannot teach the subjects they were supposed to teach then, and they are still earning. We should have proper planning to improve our education in this country.

When the 8-4-4 was introduced, the quota system was also introduced. This means that students were condemned to be in a particular province, district or division throughout. When we were in school, we were able to travel as far as Shimo La Tewa, Kamusinga, Homa Bay and Maseno. We interacted with students from all over the country and we developed nationalism. This is not there now. These are the problems that we have inherited from the poor education system which has been there before. I hope that with the reforms that the Sessional Paper intends to introduce, our education system will be streamlined. Let us address the issue of tribalism. For example, a child who is born and brought up in Central Province, goes through primary and secondary school in the same province and proceeds to Kenyatta University or Nairobi University, will not have seen a lake or a river. He or she will not know that there are Pokots in Kenya. It will be very difficult for these people to interact and understand one another. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is a very important Ministry because it solves most of these problems. I, therefore, would like to ask the Minister to come up with a revised education policy where students in Kenya can interact, integrate and understand one another and promote nationalism.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE). These are the people who develop the syllabus. They also tell us which books we should buy for the various subjects. The syllabus gives prominence to issues from certain areas. You will find that a lot of emphasis is put on issues from the areas where the people who develop the syllabus come from. You will find that the syllabus does not cover northern Kenya, most of the Rift Valley and the Coast Provinces because the people who develop the curriculum come from areas which are near Nairobi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our curriculum should cover even areas which are not known, so that when the KNEC sets examinations, we have questions touching on North Eastern, Western and Coast Provinces. There is a lot of bias in our examinations. I have been an examiner and a teacher, and I know that most of the questions seem to favour some regions due to poor curriculum development. This is not good for our country.

The other thing is on how they recommend books to be used in schools. Some of these books are supposed to be published and edited by foreigners. Our indigenous publishers are not given the right to publish books. We have a lot of taste for Shakespeare. There is an English book which is being taught in schools from England. We have books which are written by Africans like Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, but they have not been recommended for teaching. This is frustrating our African writers and promoting the foreign writers. It seems as if we have aid with strings attached. We should

agree that there is a problem in the way we develop our curriculum, publish and recommend books to be used by students as course work books. We are wasting a lot of revenue. Let us allow our students to use one or two books the way we used to do during the old days. The Durell and Carey Francis books are still there. So, why do we not use one book from Form One to Form Four? When that happens this will be a very good country to live in.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, lastly, we cannot claim to have an independent education system if we are not independent from foreign intervention. We need to be seen like we are a Kenyan society. We also need to address our own issues affecting the country and develop our own policies. We need to come up with a nationhood and philosophy which every other Kenyan will enjoy. Let us emulate what is happening at the cultural and drama festivals. Let us also recognise those teachers and lecturers who develop these talents in students. We should recognise our scholars whenever there are awards being given out. It is sad that when the late Prof. Mungai died, it was not highly publicized. But during the burial of a politician, even the Presidential speech is read. So, I am appealing to the Ministry and the hon. Members to recognise our Kenyan scholars. Let us recognise our researchers and give our universities the patent and all the money, so that they can do research. By so doing, we will be proud of the system of education we are going to evolve. Without reforming our education system, there is no way we will talk about industrialization in this country. This is what the Tigers in South East Asia did. We were there recently and we were told that Kenyans are very good at trying to copy, but they are very poor in implementation. So, if we can implement the good things that we learn out there, why can we not also be seen like Pearl of Africa. That is what we are all yearning to do. We have come from a very sound education system background and that is what we should now give to our students and pupils today now and in future.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Kosgey: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Policy Framework Paper on Education. From the outset, I must say that the authors of this Policy Framework Paper did a good job. However, although they identified the challenges facing the education sector, they did not quite go into details of how to sort them out. Nevertheless, we all know that education is a right of every child. It is also the right of the parent to educate the child and the Government has a duty to educate the Kenyan child.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government committed itself to provision of education for all by the year 2015 and universal free primary education by the year 2005. We are in 2005 and I dare say that we have not achieved universal free primary education. The Government is to be commended for providing free primary education which is now being implemented. It has actually helped to increase accessibility to primary education by children. However, we should actually analyze very clearly what the accessibility of education by Kenyan children is currently in Kenya. Whereas the figure has gone to 7.2 million Kenyan children, there is this figure of 1.5 million children who are still out of school. I would have expected the Policy Paper to come out very clearly and explain why we still have 1.5 million children out of school in spite of the free primary education. I do not have statistics to prove this, but I know that the 1.5 million come from extremely poor families. Therefore, the Minister, while moving this Motion should have clearly stated exactly what he is doing to make sure that these 1.5 million children also have access to education which is their right.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government says that we want an education system which is accessible, equitable, of good quality, relevant and also affordable. At the moment, of course, we have free primary education. But the story ends at Standard Eight level. Beyond that, we get a different picture. We should actually build schools in slum areas, provide enough teachers, waive the

need for uniforms and the little monies that are charged, so that we can get these 1.5 million children to go to school. Also, in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) areas of North Eastern Province, Eastern Province and some parts of Coast Province, we still have very many children who are not going to school for cultural and various other reasons. However, the Policy Paper did not touch on that. What will the Ministry exactly do to make sure that all children in all corners of the Republic, including the ASAL areas, actually go to school? The school feeding programme helps to some extent. But we need to make sure that there is sufficient food to feed school children continuously in these ASAL areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have non-formal schools. We should actually abolish them because they are discriminatory. We should mainstream and convert them to fully-fledged secondary schools. These non-formal schools even teach a different syllabus from what other primary schools teach. These 300,000 Kenyans who are in these non-formal schools partly learn what other pupils in other schools learn. The Policy Paper, therefore, should have actually addressed this issue. We would like to see a situation where actually all children are treated equally. We read recently that even children from non-formal schools who sat for KCPE exams, passed very well, but they were not even considered for admission to any secondary schools. I am glad the Minister's attention was drawn to this and he did promise that he was going to make sure that they get admitted to public secondary schools. However, I do not know whether that actually happened.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Paper also does not mention anything about private schools. It only talks of private sector participation. But we do not know whether it meant private schools. The role of private schools in Kenya is here to stay. We should encourage the expansion of private academies, because we know very well that the Government cannot provide teachers to every primary school. At the moment, I think we have close to 19,000 primary schools and they are expanding. I would have expected to see a chapter addressing the issue of private schools. They should be expanded and actually regulated to make sure that they charge fairly affordable fees, so that those parents who can afford can take their children to them. Similarly, the same private academies should be encouraged to have private secondary schools, so that they do not compete with pupils from public primary schools for admission to public secondary schools. All private academies should actually have private secondary schools. I envisage a situation where we would even have as many public schools as there are private schools, so long as they are regulated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, whereas we have these 7.2 million children currently learning in primary schools, the drop-out rate is about 40 per cent. The Sessional Paper does not say what we are going to do to ensure that the completion rate in primary schools is close to 100 per cent. I can see the Minister for Education, Science and Technology shaking his head. I know the facts as much as he knows. I know that the completion rate is pathetic, particularly--

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to challenge the former Minister for Education, Science and Technology to give us his source of information on the 40 per cent drop-out rate.

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have the information. They do not need any substantiation from me. In fact, even this Sessional Paper mentions that there is a very high drop-out rate. The retention rate is not as high as it should be.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, access to secondary school education is another area where there is a lot of wastage. The 50 per cent transition from primary to secondary schools is not enough. Although the Minister, in his contribution, said that they are aiming at achieving 70 per cent transition rate, the Sessional Paper does not say so. It says that there will be an attempt to make sure that we increase the access to a higher figure. Whatever that higher figure is, we do not know!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, UNESCO defines basic education as early childhood

education, primary education and secondary education up to Form IV. That is what is defined as basic education. Yesterday, I heard the Minister defining basic education to be up to Form II in secondary school. That is not the case! Basic education is up to Form IV.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has said that every Kenyan child is entitled to basic education. Therefore, what we have done now is to provide free education up to Standard VIII. There is still something left. We still need to provide free secondary education. We know it is expensive, but we have to go that extra mile to provide Kenyan children with free basic education. We do not know what happens to 50 per cent of students who finish Standard VIII. Chances are that, since the quality is not as high as it used to be before, they could easily revert to illiteracy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, we had 657,747 students who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations. Out of those, only 313,133 joined secondary schools. The wasting of 344,614 students is very high. We need to do something to curb that. We need to build more secondary schools. At the moment, the District Education Boards (DEBs) are saying that we cannot build new secondary schools. We have a situation where the Ministry issued a directive that no new secondary schools should be built. They want us to expand the existing secondary schools. It is okay to improve existing schools---

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. To the best of my knowledge, during my time, I have never issued a directive to communities not to build additional secondary schools. All through, I have been advocating to communities to build more secondary schools.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Minister, that is very good information, but it is not a point of order!

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand corrected.

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a point of order in the sense that the hon. Member is misleading the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): That should have come out from you. You should have said that. Is that what you said?

Mr. Owino: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the Minister for Education, Science and Technology is the one who is misleading the House. The DEB in my constituency has told us to expand old schools, and not to build new ones. So, the Minister is misleading us!

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, all of you! I think it is clear that the information is going in different directions and, probably, it is not the same. The Minister can make the position very clear today, so that we do not have to find out who is misleading the House. Mr. Minister, do you want to do that now?

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a clarification---

Mr. Bifwoli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the Minister responds, unless he is not aware, there is a circular from his Ministry prohibiting DEBs from approving the establishment of new schools.

An hon. Member: That is true!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): That is more of a point of information. Mr. Minister, you can proceed.

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, this is an extremely important area. It is important that people understand what we say here. Everyday, I approve new secondary schools. This year, I have approved almost 100 secondary schools for registration.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, now! You are taking up Mr. Kosgey's time!

(Mr. Angwenyi stood up in his place)

Order, Mr. Angwenyi! Mr. Ethuro, you have a point of information? For who?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the House!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): No! We have an hon. Member on the Floor!

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to agree with the Minister. He approved Moi High School this year.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Kosgey, please, proceed!

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we thank the Minister for that correction. The truth of the matter is that, the Ministry issued a circular saying that no more new schools should be built. It preferred additional classes in the existing secondary schools.

(Applause)

But, nevertheless, the Minister has clarified. He has persisted on that and I do not want to argue with him. Even in our DEB, we approved the building of additional three secondary schools against the wishes of officers in office at that time.

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member should substantiate what he is saying by tabling a letter from my Ministry which forbids the establishment of new secondary schools. I am not aware of that directive!

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think you have heard the sentiments of the House. Let us proceed!

(Prof. Saitoti stood up in his place)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, both of you!

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Kosgey, are you accepting the point of information?

Mr. Angwenyi: Is the Minister aware that they have declined to issue licences to Yakome Secondary School, Masaku Secondary School, Misania Secondary School, Nyakeyo Secondary

School; six secondary schools in Kitutu Chache?

Mr. Kosgey: *Tosha!* Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to the Minister because he has not stopped the registration of schools---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Mr. Kosgey! Incidentally, Mr. Minister, there seems to be no clarity on the issue of whether new schools can be registered. Are there conditionalities?

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think I am the only one, as the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, who can clarify this position. I have stated that there are no restrictions on the establishment of new secondary schools, provided they meet certain health requirements. I have also said that, virtually, everyday, I approve registration of new secondary schools. I cannot have stopped the registration of new secondary schools. That is the position of the Government. I do not think the hon. Member, who is talking about education on behalf of the Opposition, can speak on behalf of the Government.

(Mr. Kosgey moved to the Dispatch Box)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Kosgey, are you entitled to address the House from the Dispatch Box?

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, I am entitled.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Yes, but why should you do that now?

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak from here so that I can face him properly. I am not the one issuing circulars from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I thank the Minister for that clarification. I think it has now put the matter to rest.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we need additional secondary schools in order to cater for this 50 per cent of students who at the moment are not able to access secondary education.

Also, the cost of education in secondary schools is too high. The Minister knows that there are some schools charging school fees as high as Kshs70,000 per child, per year. No parent can afford such high school fees. This contributes to drop-out of students in secondary schools. It also denies them access to education and there is no equity since those who can afford are very few. Take for example, a major national school like Alliance High school which does not show its fee schedule to students upon admission. They show them their fees schedule when the students arrive. Their fees schedule clearly shows that the child is required to pay up to Kshs60,000 which is too high. We need this to be reduced so that the heads of these institutions do not overcharge parents.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Sessional Paper does not mention anything about the quota system. I am a supporter of the quota system. We rejected a Motion in this House which called for the abolition of the quota system. While selecting Form One students this year, the Ministry actually reduced the quota system. Those district or provincial schools which were supposed to admit 85 per cent of students from their respective districts or provinces, were asked to admit 50 per cent. That is a reduction. We do not want the quota system to be interfered with. In fact, after this House rejected the Motion, the Ministry went ahead and defied the sentiments of this House and actually implemented some kind of a reduced quota system.

We said in this House that we want an increase in the 14 or so national schools. We do not mind if the Government increases the number of national schools. In fact, they can double them. They can even have as many as 50 or 100 national schools where we can have a quota from every district. They can then mix the students so that we can have a united Kenya nation. However, the provincial and district schools, which parents have built with their money, have a right to have their own children

admitted in them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Sessional Paper says that there are 2.8 million Kenyan children of the ages between 14 and 17 years who should be in secondary schools but they are not. The Sessional Paper should actually have come out clearly and stated what they are going to do to make sure that these 2.8 million children who are currently not going to secondary schools are catered for.

At the same time, we have a drop-out rate in secondary schools. It is a small drop-out rate of about 15 per cent and I think it is something---

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want any information. The Assistant Minister is entitled to reply when I have finished. In fact, he has unlimited time to do so. He should talk at that time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me deal with admission to universities. Admission to universities is also pathetic. The minimum entry grade to our public universities is still listed as C+ but we know there are no children with such a grade joining the universities. This year we are told that because of the high pass mark at the KCSE, 10,000 students will be admitted out of 79,952 students who got C+ and above. Close to 70,000 students have nowhere to go. The few university places available in private universities, which are 6,000, are not enough. However, what is even more ridiculous is that those who attained B plain grade will not be admitted to our universities. There are districts in this country whose students attained only B plain grade and for them not to join the universities is ridiculous.

We also know that the same universities run parallel degree programmes called Module II whereby the same students they have refused to admit into regular programmes are admitted into these programmes. If they have vacancies in the first place, why do they not admit these students for the regular degree programmes? Why bar them from pursuing regular degree programmes and then enrol them in these parallel programmes? What is the point of this parallel programme? It is just for making money. If there are vacancies in the first place, why do they not admit them?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to quality, because I see my time is running out and I hope I will be given the extra minutes I lost--- The quality of education has been compromised. We want a level playing ground. We want all primary schools to be fully staffed. We want a policy on the pupil-teacher ratio. At the moment, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools is up to 60 students per teacher which is too high. We want 40 students per teacher.

All primary schools should be fully staffed. Even secondary schools should be equally fully staffed. We are told every year that a school like Starehe sets a very high pass mark while a school in the middle of nowhere in Turkana is low. Of course, it has to be low! First, they do not have teachers, facilities and so on.

We are not comparing like with like and it is high time the Ministry ensured that all children get equal and quality education through the provision of enough teachers. They do not have English teachers. I have a school in my constituency which has only one English teacher. How do you expect that school to perform when it does not have teachers? It is not that we do not have teachers. We have trained graduates in this country but the Ministry does not want to employ them. We want the Ministry to have a policy where subjects like English are taught properly the way they are doing to Mathematics so that we can produce graduates who understand and speak proper English language.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even the university fees of Kshs42,000 is too much. Parents cannot afford. We want all university students to be given loans by the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). As I said before, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) needs Kshs2 billion, but every year it is given only Kshs1 billion. We hope that the Minister will allocate Kshs2

billion to HELB in the next financial year.

With regard to relevance, I know that our students actually go to school for a purpose and not only for the sake of getting educated. It is good to go to school to learn so that in the end they can secure places in the job market and, therefore, reduce poverty. However, with regard to university education in our country at the moment, there are certain courses that are not being given the necessary attention. For example, in Dentistry, which is only offered in the University of Nairobi, only 13 students graduate every year. That is a drop in the ocean. It is about time our universities, although they are supposed to be autonomous, trained people for the market.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the moment, the dentists found all over the country are from India. When you seek to know what is happening in our universities, you are told that it is very expensive to train a dentist. So, what is expensive? Is it the dentist's Chair? What is it really that is making us not produce enough dentists? Honestly, if we shall continue producing only 13 or 15 dentists a year, when will we ever satisfy the manpower needs of this country? We need to train more doctors and more dentists. The University of Nairobi produces about 200 doctors while Moi University produces about 65 doctors. That is really not enough and so we need to train more doctors.

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

The Assistant Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development (Dr. Wekesa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this Motion.

I wish to commend the Minister for Education, Science and Technology for having, with the support of his technocrats in the Ministry, come up with this Sessional Paper No.1 of 2005. I would like to recognise the fact that the President, in his wisdom, chose hon. Prof. Saitoti as the Minister for Education, Science and Technology. He has been a teacher for a long time and he took up his Ministerial job with gusto. He is one of those Ministers who have taken their jobs seriously unlike some of us who dabble in politics. I want to join my colleagues in commending the Minister for leading his Ministry towards the attainment of more progress in our education system.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many areas in this Sessional Paper that introduce new things. One of the things that Kenyans have overlooked is the manifesto of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) which recognises the importance of education. The President, even before ascending to power, used to talk about the provision of free primary school education which we now have. This is revolutionary and it has created a chance for even the poorest girl in the country to access education.

My district, Trans Nzoia, used to have European settlers and for many years it never had the opportunity to develop schools because of the nature of the communities living in that district. The communities were mainly European farmers, who for so many years wanted to keep education out of the African community simply because they needed Africans to work in their farms. So, as much as we had schools developing in areas where there were no European settlers, in Trans Nzoia District, schools have only managed to develop in the last 20 or 30 years. I think this should be taken on board while programmes for school development are being worked out in the Ministry. Trans Nzoia District is not the only case. I think there are marginalised districts in this country where the Ministry should strive to take education to higher levels. I am talking about the ASAL areas. There are Kenyans living in these areas and, from time to time, they move from place to place with their children in search of greener pastures and water.

The ASAL areas must be given special consideration by the Ministry so that when parents move in search of pasture or water, there must be provision for mobile schools. That way, the children in these areas can access education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are very much aware that even the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) has recognised the need to have mobile polling stations in the ASAL areas. This is in tandem with what I am saying. Because of poverty in some of our districts; and Trans

Nzoia District is one of them, schools have not been developed as is the case in areas where Kenyans have always had access to education. In this Sessional Paper, the Government must consider funding schools in the ASAL areas. In my constituency, there are only five secondary schools. Those are not enough. What is more, these are schools that we have developed through *Harambee* in the last ten to 20 years and yet when you go to other areas you will find many Government schools.

I would like to request the Minister that when he will be replying, he talks about this issue of schools in marginalised areas. These areas must be given a special consideration; for example, through budgeting, so that schools are developed with the Government assistance. That way, the level of education in these areas will be raised to be at par with some of the privileged areas.

With all due respect, I would like the Minister to address the issue of insecurity when he will be replying. Insecurity impacts negatively on education in our country and leads to so many students dropping out of school.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, would I be right to say that those people engaging in insecurity today are school dropouts? Would I be right to say that in some of the districts where there is a lot of cattle rustling, the children coming from these areas have no access to education. Even if those people were to access education like every Kenyan, maybe, instead of having cattle rustlers, we would be having doctors? I think this is an area we have to look into very seriously.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I want to agree with the last speaker that the number of dropouts is as high as he thought but, in the transition from primary school to secondary school, there are dropouts, and I think there is going to be an even bigger number of them because of the free primary education. But we must look at these people that are dropping out at that level; what will the country do with them? What do we do to a Standard Eight dropout who has not accessed the secondary school and the polytechnic? What do we do with this Kenyan, because very soon, he is going to acquire an illegal arm and he is going to look for money from you and me? So, I think that this is an issue we must consider very seriously.

Also, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I am on this point of insecurity, I would like to state that I live on the border of West Pokot and Trans Nzoia, and I think there is need to look at a district such as West Pokot very, very critically. When you drive through these areas, and I have had occasion to visit the district from time to time, the schools are far off from each other, and many children are unable to go to school for many reasons. First, the infrastructure is not there; the roads are not there and, secondly, water is not available to the communities. This causes extra pressure on the parents. As much as they would like to go and educate their children, the schools are not there! So, that is why I am saying that we will be doing a lot of good to Kenyans and districts which have been marginalized in the past, to make sure that education is made available to them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about teachers. We do realize as a Government that one of the constraints in training and even employing teachers is finance. This is an issue that concerns all of us in this Parliament. We cannot expect the Government to build many schools and train adequate teachers when we very well know that this Government does not have enough funding. But with the little money that we have, let us use it carefully and recognize talents where they are. I am thinking of teachers and schools that have done very well, such as Friends School Kamusinga, Alliance, which keep doing very well and many others. I think we should commend the headmasters and teachers in these schools and also have an incentive for them. I do not know what to suggest, but maybe, hon. Sambu may have a good suggestion. But for teachers such as the headmasters of Friends School Kamusinga, Alliance and many others who are doing very well, the Ministry should have an incentive for them. We have incentives as Members of Parliament; for example, we have a tax-free car. Why should we not recognize teachers who have done very well by saying: "The Government recognizes that you have performed very well and this year, they are

offering you a tax-free car". This is an incentive and it will make other teachers work harder.

I would also like to address the issue of transfers. While we would like teachers, particularly those teaching in primary schools, to be transferred for one reason or the other, we should also take care of their families. It is not fair to transfer a teacher away from his home because he or she ends up visiting his or her family only once a month and we would be putting such teachers under a lot of stress. As a Member of Parliament, I have had a lot of complaints from teachers who are teaching away from their home districts and they told me that they wanted to be taken near their districts. I think it is only prudent and fair for us to make sure that these teachers are teaching in an environment that makes them live happily as Kenyans. I also think that the idea of having man and wife, both of whom are teachers, teaching far from each other is going to encourage the escalation of HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS has hit teachers very severely, and I think that a research should be carried out to find out why many teachers have been hit by HIV/AIDS. There must be an underlying reason for this, and we should look at this issue. Teachers should live with their families and they should be able to access their families after work so that they can enjoy doing their job and, therefore, make them more productive.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about research, which has been addressed in this Sessional Paper very adequately. As leaders, this is an area where all of us should be looking for ways and means of enhancing research and also making sure that the interlinkage between research and results is translated directly to the consumers. I know that when the Minister was moving this Motion, he did actually allude to this, and he is very much aware of this. But I am trying to think of the days when I was in school and in the university, and research was a major component of all the institutions of higher learning and universities. As I go round the universities today, research is a backroom subject and many teachers are very frustrated. We must encourage our universities to go out looking for donors who can fund research. I do not think we can look upon the Government alone to fund research in our universities. If you look at the developing countries, donors who can donate towards research are there in the industries. There should also be some incentives from the Government to the industries or the industrialists who are funding our universities. There should be some recognition of people who are willing to come and fund our universities, so that our lecturers can actually access research. This is because we cannot depend on the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute alone to carry out all the various research activities that are available to us as an emerging nation. As much as the Government wants to assist in the development of research by creating this Fund, we must encourage the private sector to fund research programmes.

It is the Government's policy that new universities be established. We are very open and we would like as many universities as possible to be established. At the same time, we must be careful so that we do not have a glut of universities which are not supervised and offer substandard education. We must be very careful so that situations which have arisen in other countries do not arise in our universities. We can only do this by putting in place a mechanism or a legal framework which is proposed in this Sessional Paper to make sure that universities offer quality education.

I realise that even today, many Kenyans still go abroad for university education because there is a shortage of universities in this country. If we look at the number of students who qualify to join public universities - a colleague has just given us the minimum entry points to our public universities - we have many Kenyans who miss university education not because they did not attain the minimum grades but because we have a shortage of universities. This has led to many Kenyans going abroad for university education.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to commend our neighbouring country, Uganda, for allowing many children from my constituency to pursue secondary school education there. Uganda has opened its doors for Kenyan students. The people of Western Province and North Rift have always had access to secondary schools in Uganda. It is good that this area is developed as we move forward with the East African Community. I think Uganda has more secondary schools than

we have in this country. Even at primary school level, it started offering free primary school education programme much earlier than us.

I want to touch on sports. We are developing our schools and children. We tell them that education is in the textbooks. However, we have not addressed sufficiently the need for our schools to develop sports. In other countries, sports is a major event. We have performed dismally in football because we take a 17 or 14-year-old children and teach them how to play football. This is not the way to go about sports. If you want a good footballer, you must make it possible for that child to start playing football at the earliest age; that is, when he is six or seven years old. Each school should have good facilities for sports.

When I talk about sports, I am not only talking about football. In Kenya, sports is either football or athletics. There is a whole list of sports which can be introduced in school. We have lawn tennis, rugby, netball and athletics.

We should train our teachers so that we can have people like A.A. Evans. It is only people of my age who can remember that teacher. He was a sportsman. He devoted his life to produce good athletes like Mr. Paul Boit. I would like the Minister to address the issue of sports in our schools when he stands to reply.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even music and art should be developed. We have forgotten so many good things. I would like to remind the Chair that some of the best music comes from West Pokot District. I am delighted when I see the Pokot and the Turkana sing. We should develop the natural talents that Kenyans have so that we can preserve our culture.

My last contribution is on career development. When I was a student in *Ulaya* many years ago, a commission was formed because somebody felt that we were producing too many veterinary doctors who were not employed by the stakeholders. The universities were advised, through that commission, that since there were five veterinary schools in Britain at that time, each school should only take a certain number of students. We should have career masters who visit schools and advise secondary school-leavers on the options which are open to them today. It is not good to force students to pursue courses which cannot secure them employment on completion. We should know the jobs Kenyan industries offer.

I agree with my colleague who has just said that dentists are very few in this country. My colleagues, who are here, will agree with me that there is no difference between a medical doctor and a dentist. The courses usually take five years. During my time at the university, a student took five years to complete a dentist, a veterinary or a medicine degree course. Our children lack career advisers. I would like to see certain teachers being trained properly so that they can visit all the secondary schools and advise the students on the jobs available in Kenya. It is not good for Kenyans to pursue courses which will not secure them employment after completion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, given the current technological advances in the world, every school-leaver, especially in Kenya, is pursuing a course in computer. I strongly believe these computer courses should be done at school level, not after completing secondary education. Children are pursuing these courses thinking they will get jobs. There are so many school-leavers with computer knowledge, but they cannot be absorbed in the job market.

It is quite encouraging that today at least everybody has access to a computer. I am informed and ashamed to say this, that all hon. Members of Parliament in Uganda and Rwanda have laptops. They are computer-literate. I am computer-illiterate. I do not know how many of my hon. colleagues here are computer-literate. The reason is that I went to school a long time ago when computers were not there. Mr. Kipchumba, for example, went to school the other day, he had access to computers. So, the computer should be a home and school tool for everyday use. So, school-leavers should not just pursue courses in computer as a profession. Our children are being misled that if they have knowledge in computer, they will get jobs. A computer is just a tool. In fact, it is just like a pen.

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

Mr. Achuka: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii kuchangia Hoja hii. Hata hivyo, nitasema machache.

Hoja hii ni muhimu sana kwa sababu inahusu sera ambayo itainua maslahi ya wananchi wetu. Kuelimisha wananchi wetu ni kuendeleza maendeleo katika nchi hii. Tulipopata Uhuru, Rais wa kwanza wa nchi hii, Hayati Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, alitambia kuwa adui mkubwa wa maendeleo hapa nchini ni ukosefu wa elimu au ujinga. Alisisitiza ya kwamba ni lazima kila Mkenya ajikaze kisabuni ili aielimisha familia yake. Alitambia ya kwamba bila elimu, hatuwezi kushindana kimaendeleo na mataifa ambayo yameendelea. Tunajua Bara la Afrika lina matatizo mengi ya kimaendeleo kwa sababu watu wengi hawajasoma.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, juzi Serikali ya NARC ilianzisha elimu ya bure hapa nchini. Elimu hii inawafaidi wanafunzi wa shule za msingi pekee. Ikiwa tunataka kuendelea kielimu, ni lazima tuanzishe elimu ya bure katika viwango vyote vya elimu. Kwa mfano, tunaweza kuwa na elimu ya bure katika shule za msingi, sekondari na vyo vikiu. Wakati wa ukoloni, watu wa wilaya fulani kama vile Turkana walibaki nyuma kimaendeleo na hawakufaidika kielimu. Hata hivyo, wakati Serikali ya NARC ilichukua hatamu za uongozi iliahidi Wakenya kuwa watazifaidi jamii zile zilizobaki nyuma kimaendeleo wakati wa ukoloni na baada ya Uhuru kama Waturkana. Inafaa wanafunzi wa kutoka Wilaya ya Turkana ambao wakati huu wanasoma katika shule za upili na vyo vikiu wapate misaada ya elimu ili wafaidike. Tukifanya hivyo, wanafunzi wetu watakuwa sawa na wanafunzi kutoka wilaya zingine ambao wameendelea kielimu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ugawaji wa pesa za misaada ya karo kwa wanafunzi katika maeneo ya Bunge muhula huu haukufanywa kwa njia ya haki. Hii ni kwa sababu wanafunzi wengi kutoka jamii ya Waturkana hawakupewa pesa za kutosha. Kwa mfano, eneo Bunge langu lilipewa Kshs600,000 pekee. Kiwango hicho ni cha chini sana tukilinganisha na pesa tulizokuwa tunapata wakati wa utawala wa KANU. Wakati wa KANU, pesa za kugharamia elimu ya wanafunzi ilikuwa ni Kshs1,400,000. Leo, imepunguzwa hadi Kshs600,000. Wakati huu, watoto 120 kutoka jamii maskini hawawezi kuenda shule kwa sababu ya kukosa karo. Hii inamaanisha kuwa mpango wa kutambua wanafunzi kutoka jamii maskini ili wasaidiwe na Serikali ya NARC haupo tena.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Jambo la nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Je, ni haki kwa mhe. Mbunge kuendelea kupotosha Bunge hili huku tukijua ya kwamba mwaka jana, kila eneo Bunge lilipata Kshs1 milioni za kugharamia msaada wa karo na zingine zikaongezwa baadaye? Hata Wilaya ya Turkana ilipata pesa hizo!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Bw. Wetangula, umeingia hapa Bungeni saa hii. Bw. Achuka alikuwa akizungumzia kuhusu muhula huu. Muhula huu sio mwaka jana.

Endelea, Bw. Achuka!

Mr. Achuka: Bw. Wetangula ni rafiki yangu lakini amejiingiza katika mambo ambayo hajui mbele wala nyuma yake. Kwa hivyo, naomba msamaha kwa niaba yake.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, Serikali ya NARC haijatimiza ahadi zake kwa wananchi. Walituhidi kuwa wakichukua utawala wa nchi hii watasaidia jamii ambazo zilibaki nyuma kimaendeleo wakati wa utawala uliopita. Wakati huu watoto 120 kutoka Eneo Bunge langu, sijui kuhusu sehemu zingine za Wilaya ya Turkana, watabaki nyumbani shule zikifunguliwa muhula huu kwa sababu ya kukosa karo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hivyo, ikiwa Serikali ya NARC ni ya kujali maslahi ya wanyonge na waliobaki nyuma kama Waturkana, ningepomba *bursary* ipewe watoto wa shule za upili na vyo vikiu kutoka Turkana.

(Applause)

Hii ni kwa sababu ikiwa watoto hawawezi kusaidiwa na Serikali, hawataweza kufaidika kielimu kwa kumaliza kusoma katika shule za upili na vyuo vikuu. Kwa hivyo, ikiwa Serikali hii ina mpango na ina maono ya kuwatakiwa wanyonge faida kielimu, basi ingewapa hawa watoto *bursaries*. Kusema kweli, watoto maskini ambao wazazi wao hata hawawezi kupata chakula, watawezaje kugharamia elimu ya shule za upili, na vyuo vikuu ikiwa hawatasaidiwa? Haya ni mambo magumu na hatuwezi kuyazungumzia hapa. Hata kama lugha yangu ni duni, mnatafikana kuitafsiri sawasawa.

(Applause)

Vile vile, tunataka wenyeji wa Turkana kupata walimu wa kutosha na ambao wanaweza kuishi pahali penye maisha magumu. Ni vizuri kupeleka watoto wenyeji katika vyuo vya waalimu na walipiwe *bursary*. Wakati watakapomaliza kusoma, wataenda mahali pagumu kusomesha watoto kwa sababu watoto wa mtaani hawawezi kukabiliana na maisha magumu yaliyoko sehemu ile. Kwa hivyo, naomba Bunge hili litoe kauli moja kwa sababu sisi ni Wabunge na tuko hapa kupigania haki za kila Mkenya. Pale palipo na ugumu, ni kazi yetu kutatua ugumu huo. Kama tunataka tuinue jamii iliyobaki nyuma kielimu, tafadhali *bursaries* za kutosha kuelimisha watoto wa jamii kama hizi yafaa zitolewe.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono Hoja hii.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute on this very important Policy Paper. First, I want to thank the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for bringing up this Sessional Paper. Among the Government's Departments and Ministries, this is one of the very few Ministries that wants to inform this Parliament adequately on the plans and strategies it has to realise its mission, vision and objectives.

Before I comment on specific issues, I also want to thank this Ministry for coming up with the free primary education programme in this country. I know that there are certain problems and challenges that face the provision of free primary education in the country but let us give them a pat on the back for what they have achieved so far.

I also want to thank, at the first instance, the Ministry for coming up with the Constituency Bursary Fund. This is a system that involves the participation of stakeholders at the grassroots level. As you know, until a year ago, bursaries used to be given directly to schools and it would be the decision, basically, of the headteacher to decide whom to give and whom not to give the bursary. Now, it is done transparently and with strong input from people's representatives. The committees that have been formed include various stakeholders in each constituency that have interest in the education development of each constituency. In my area, and I believe in all constituencies, whatever bursaries are given are openly given and people are informed accordingly so that they know that truly the person who has received the bursary deserves it. Where there are cases, and there were about six in my constituency, where people who did not deserve bursaries had been given, when they raised the issue, the committee sat, pursued those people and it recovered the money that had been paid to those six students who were capable of meeting their school fees requirements. Therefore, I want to thank the Ministry for all those steps that they have taken.

Let me now come to specific issues raised in this Sessional Paper. The first one is that they have talked about early childhood development and education but they have not given concrete measures as to how the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will intervene to provide quality and sustainable early childhood development and education. For example, we know that we have pre-primary schools in our primary schools but the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has not taken over the provision of teachers to these pre-primary schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish the Paper came out clearly stating that this Ministry is going to seek provision of resources from the national kitty to provide teachers for pre-primary education. We have left this to local people and local authorities and as you know, 90 per

cent of our local authorities are not even viable enough to maintain themselves, let alone maintaining pre-primary teachers. Even the training of teachers who are going to provide pre-primary education should be taken over by the Ministry so that it can provide quality training; training that meets professional standards. This will ensure that we know that when we give our children to those teachers to develop them, they are going to do so with professional know-how. Unless we do this, we will bring to our primary education children who have not been professionally handled and, therefore, create what we call "social misfits" right from the start.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will now turn to primary education. As I said earlier, I believe that the entire country is grateful to this Government for providing free primary education. The amount of money that is devoted for this purpose is like money being given back to Kenyans to put in their pockets.

Previously, a parent would spend close to Kshs3,000 a year on each of their children in primary school for school fees. The Government is now providing the resources. Therefore, parents are now saving an equivalent amount for other uses. We thank the Government for that. As we offer the free primary education, we must ensure that it is of good quality. How do we achieve this? First, we must have adequate number of teachers so that we do not have classrooms with 100 students being taught by one teacher. We must maintain the ratios which have been researched and established to be adequate levels of giving quality education. I know that achieving that may be expensive. It is expensive to provide adequate teachers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government is committed to develop its youth for the future. We must devote much more resources for this purpose. We must have adequate number of teachers in each of our schools; then we can guarantee quality education. We must make sure that these schools are inspected and that the management of schools maintains high standards. The syllabuses must be inspected. School inspectors must make sure they inspect schools to see if syllabuses are being adhered to and if teachers assessment of students is right. They should see that pupils are prepared adequately before advancing to senior education. I know that we have scarcity of teachers in primary schools.

From time to time, the Ministry has carried out recruitment exercises to employ teachers. The recruitment exercise takes time and is not done professionally. This House has empowered the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to recruit teachers all over the country. The TSC has, however, abdicated its responsibility of recruiting teachers. It has decentralised the whole exercise and given it to people who are not professionals and who are not entitled to recruit, according to the law.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last recruitment exercise, many people experienced a lot of problems in the country. In my district, teachers were not recruited according to the criteria set by the TSC, but at the whim of the District Education Officer (DEO). He recruited teachers depending on who could bribe him with what. We raised that issue with the Ministry although it ignored carrying out investigations so as to establish whether there was corruption involved in the recruitment exercise. I thought there was failure on the part of the Ministry. It should make sure that there is no corruption introduced in education.

If you look at the latest corruption index in Kenya, TSC has been rated among the most corrupt institutions. This is because there is a large number of unemployed people who are aspiring to be employed by the institution. We also have trained teachers who have been jobless for the past ten to 15 years. If one was told to give Kshs100,000 in exchange of a job and within three months of working they would have recovered the money instead of staying at home, one is forced to pay it.

I witnessed an incident where three people were asked to pay Kshs70,000 each, so as to get teaching jobs. The three people went out to look for this money but, unfortunately, two of them could not get it. One lady sold her piece of land which was very valuable. You know how valuable land is in Kisii District. She sold a quarter of an

acre of land, and raised the Kshs 70,000. That made her get the job. The other two who could not raise the money did not get jobs.

I wish the Ministry could recruit teachers on the basis of first-come-first-served. The Ministry is the one which has trained teachers. It has copies of their certificates. It should make sure that it employs those who leave college first. This will ensure that those who qualified in the earlier years are recruited before those who have just finished college. In so doing, TSC will be fair and objective. There would be no chance of corruption. The TSC can do that from its headquarters. We dedicate a lot of resources to maintain the TSC. Why do we do it if it cannot fulfil its mandate?

We know that there are some regions of this country which were neglected by the colonial and the past Governments. We want to urge this Government to rise up and uphold affirmative action and bring up these areas. These are areas which have been talked about; like Turkana District. Why can the Government not help these areas, including the North Eastern Province?

I was shocked when we were discussing about bursary funds last year. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology told us that in certain constituencies such as those in the North Eastern Province, you will only find one primary school and not even a secondary school. I come from an area where there are 41 secondary schools. When I compare my constituency with an area which has only one secondary school, I feel pity. I wish the Government would seek resources from our development partners so as to bring up areas which have been alienated to develop together with the rest of Kenya. Education is one of the best instruments of fighting poverty. Unless we introduce and bring up education in areas which are affected by lack of it, we would not stop fighting poverty and cattle rustling. If we educate these people and give them an alternative way of life, they will see the benefit of modern life instead of fighting amongst themselves like it is happening in Mandera.

We should also implement school feeding programmes in deserving areas. We cannot run effectively on empty stomachs. We should establish a minimum number of boarding schools in certain constituencies in this country. In this way, we will know that we have got a certain number of pupils that we are sure will remain in schools. They will learn and qualify and in this way become role models to the youth in those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot have finished talking about education if I did not talk about examinations. We have not established adequate standards for examinations. I believe our quality of education department in the Ministry should establish certain standards for assessment so that pupils are assessed on regular intervals, which should help us know if they are catching up. The Ministry should help them rise to national standards if they do not seem to be catching up.

That also raises the problem of leakage of examinations; for example, exam cheating which is a major problem in some areas of this country. We have not established adequate and fool-proof assessment standards. This Ministry has also not established the sanctions for transgression of these exams. A school is said, for example by the Ministry, to have colluded or cheated in an exam. Unfortunately, examination candidates are punished but the invigilators and supervisors are never brought to book. So, year in, year out, there are attempts to allow collusion and cheating in exams. It is rather unfortunate that no punitive measures are taken against the people who are managing those exams.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the free primary school education programme to be properly implemented, the Government must provide each primary school with an accountant or clerk. If you give anybody money, for example, unless you assign him or her an accountant, he may not be able to account adequately for the resources which are devoted to a certain exercise. There are enormous resources allocated for the free primary school education programme. So, I would like to urge the Minister to ensure there is, at least, one accounts clerk to every school in this country or one accounts clerk assigned to a group of schools, maybe in a location or division so that our schools can have proper books of accounts. This will ensure that the management of resources devoted to this

exercise is properly done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a sick child cannot attend class comfortably. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology must liaise with the Ministry of Health to ensure that children have access to proper health care. Children in primary schools, for example, are most exposed to the risk of contracting various diseases that grown-ups are not likely to suffer from. So, these two Ministries must work hand in hand to make sure that children are healthy.

Let me now move to the issue of secondary education. Mr. Kosgey said that the Ministry urges us to establish and build as many secondary schools as possible to provide adequate places for children graduating from primary schools. The Minister said that by introducing the free primary school education programme, more than two million children have joined primary schools. That is about 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the children that are in school. Therefore, has the Ministry ensured that we have increased places in secondary schools by about 65 per cent? Absolutely not! In my constituency, this year, through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), we wanted to establish six more secondary schools. These were proposed as: Nyakome, Kiomani, Kiongomi, Mosati and Mesaria secondary schools. Unfortunately, these schools have not been registered to date although we made the applications late last year. We have provided the necessary facilities that are required. The District Education Officer (DEO) informed the District Education Board (DEB) that the Ministry has put an embargo on establishment of new secondary schools although the Minister said the contrary today. The DEO told us that the Ministry wants to encourage the expansion of existing schools. Where I come from, we do not have adequate land. So, if you want to expand a school which has got, for example, two or three acres of land, there will not be sufficient space for expansion of that school.

As a community, we have decided to establish schools to promote some of the primary schools where there is land so that we can have more places for students who want to join secondary schools. So, I would like the Ministry to be categorical and state the policy on whether or not they support the establishment of new schools so that they can provide adequate places in secondary schools for our children. If they do that, and they send a circular to all DEOs and give copies to all hon. Members of Parliament, we will know the policy of Government. When we attend DEB meetings, we will be able to challenge DEO's.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have a problem of management in secondary schools. This is where the school boards tend to be controlled by religious groups. This is a secular state. Therefore, if education is being funded from the public coffers, let that education be managed by the Government. We are not saying schools cannot provide spiritual nourishment, but the management must be based at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology alone. If we want to include other stakeholders then, the hon. Members of Parliament, councillors and other leaders can provide the additional leadership that is required to manage our schools. The Ministry should put its foot down and tell religious organisations that if they want to establish their own schools that they want to run, we will liaise with them; please go ahead and do it. But for public schools, leave it to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. That is why the Ministry gulps 40 per cent of our Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have a problem of staffing in schools. We also have a problem of training for teachers. Like my colleagues said, we must look for ways of training teachers who are going to remain in those areas where they will be posted to provide the service of teaching. Where there is deficiency, and we have excess trained teachers in some areas of this country, they can be absorbed to serve in those areas, and there should be a minimum time spent there. Sometime back, teachers could work anywhere in the country.

We must be able to offer Information Technology (IT) to every secondary school in this country. If we cannot do that, then we must provide some specific secondary schools with IT in each constituency. It is unfair for students in Turkana or Garissa not to study IT and yet, those in Nairobi

have that chance.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology must liaise with the Ministry of Energy to provide power to some specific schools in each constituency, so that our children can access computer technology. I hope that the Government, in the next Budget, will enhance the amount of money it is giving to constituencies as bursaries. The Ministry must stand firm with the programme that it has developed for the disbursement of bursary funds. It is adequate. Let the busybodies make noise! Let us continue running the programme properly. Where we make a mistake, they can correct us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me move on to tertiary and university education. As Mr. Kosgey said, the cut-off grade to university is C+. But now, we have students with B+. The remaining students with C+, B- and plain Bs; where will they go? What opportunities do we give them? When you get an opportunity to go to Module II, you do not get a bursary. Could we enhance the amount of resources that we devote to the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), so that it can provide bursaries for students who opt for Module II?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a student can join Module II with both parents being able to pay fees. But if one parent, who is the breadwinner dies or loses his job, could the Ministry not come to his rescue? Why is it that fees for Module II are three or four times more than the fees for regular students and yet, all of them are Kenyan youths and the institutions were built by public resources? Why is there such a discrepancy? Why can we not make it one-and-half times more than what is paid by regular students, so that we could give incentives to lecturers to teach for more hours? The Ministry should look at that very seriously. It should establish a university in each province to give adequate education. It can even provide two or more universities in some populous provinces, so that people can go for Module II from their homes instead of going to Australia, India or Russia. We are losing a lot of resources through students who seek education abroad.

We should also encourage private universities to be established in some remote areas, like Baraton University. We should give them incentives, so that children or even older people who want to learn in those areas, can access those facilities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I forgot to talk about national schools. I would like us to have a national school in every province or even district. I am offering Kisii High School for Kisii District, Sironga Girls High School for Nyamira and Nyamagwa Girls High School for Gucha. We have other examples like Kakamega High School, Kamusinga High School, Wajir High School, Machakos High School, Kaaga Girls High School and so on. We must spread them out because they take the cream of this country. That is why they do well in exams. As I finish, I urge the Ministry to bring such Sessional Papers here and we shall support it.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Wetangula!

Hon. Members: No! No! Aah!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those who are grumbling know that I sit in this House much longer than they do on an average day.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Wetangula! What are you now responding to? Continue!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Sessional Paper. I will start off by associating myself with the many positive points that Mr. Angwenyi has put forward. My good old friend here, Mr. Achuka Ewoton, has spoken so well; the best I have seen him perform since we came here.

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, education is the foundation of our society and this Policy Paper sets out several issues, some of which have already been in the public domain, some are just emphasis of what is already there but, more importantly, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, which is the engine of human intellectual growth of manpower development in this country, ought to be proactive in its activities. I keep on wondering why we still have the 8-4-4 system in this country. Everybody has said that the 8-4-4 system is not compatible with the region and our developmental needs. The Koech Commission, which spent billions of shillings, recommended the scrapping of the 8-4-4 system. The report has never been released! The conservative forces that have, for a long time, run the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, must now wake up and face the crisis of the 8-4-4 system and adopt and implement the Koech Report. They should take us back to where the region is and where everybody is going.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, parents are opting to take children to Uganda *en masse*, because they are avoiding the 8-4-4 system, which we all agree that it is not proper, and which we all do not want to do anything about. There was a conference at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) last year, and many people spoke against the 8-4-4 system. I spent a lot of time there. Professors, educationalists, technocrats and others spoke against it. But, at the end of it all, there was a skewed and manipulated programme from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to show that people liked the 8-4-4 system, which is not true!

My colleague here, Dr. Mwiria, is a very progressive character.

(Applause)

I would like him to take up this matter and unload the yolk of the 8-4-4 system from Kenyans. The running of this country---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in law we say, to specify one is to exclude others. In 1981, there was a white man from Canada called Prof. Mackay. For some strange reason, he was appointed to chair a working party, and that is the man who destroyed our education system. The Mackay Report remains the foundation and cornerstone of the flawed 8-4-4 system. We have to get rid of it. This Sessional Paper touches on many things that we need to address to improve our education system. I will start with secondary schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Wetangula! You will have a balance of 25 minutes to utilise next time.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will promptly be here tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of the House. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 7th April, 2005. at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.