

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 16TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Parliament met at 2.23 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Jacob Oboth, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. You all look great. I do not know what I can do for those very faithful Members of Parliament who come here every day. *(Applause)* I wish your voters could see you. One day, I will make a roll call of those very faithful Members. The only way I can pay you back is to let your voters know that you are here every day.

This afternoon, we have various items on the Order Paper. So, the Speaker will not communicate much from the Chair. I ask the Clerk to call for the next item.

Before we do item 3, there are a few Members of Parliament who would like to raise matters of national importance. Let them be very important, and you can state them within one minute. Anything beyond that, you need to draft a formal petition. Hon. Joan Namutaawe? Did I pronounce your name right?

2.26

MS JOAN NAMUTAAWE (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka): Yes. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to present a matter of national importance. Masaka District is stuck with funds meant for the construction of district headquarters. This is because the Ministry of Local Government has delayed to provide an architectural plan.

Mr Speaker, can I know from the Minister of Local Government when the plan will be out to prevent the funds from being returned to the Treasury? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Local Government? Government Chief Whip? The problem in Masaka is not too much funds. Money is there; the drawings are not there. I do not even know how the money came to be there because the drawings should have informed how much it should be. The Government Chief Whip?

2.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I will take up the matter with the Minister of Local Government tomorrow, together with the Member of Parliament, to ensure that the money does not return to the Treasury.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon. Aggrey Henry Bagiire, MP Bunya County West?

2.27

MR AGGREY BAGIIRE (NRM, Bunya County West, Mayuge): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance.

In Mayuge District, we have a central forest reserve known as Bukaleba. In June, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities gazetted that the central reserve had been turned into a national park.

Mr Speaker, there was a directive by the President in 2011 that the community be given 500 hectares of that forest reserve. That reserve is in Bukaleba Parish, which has five villages. The Uganda Wildlife Authority has now started harassing and chasing people out of the place. We do not know the demarcations. The whole parish is being asked to keep out.

I pray that the ministry comes and sensitises the population. Let the ministry, together with the Ministry of Water and Environment, demarcate the area so that we know exactly where the Uganda Wildlife Authority wants its land and its officials stop scaring and beating the people in that area. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.29

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, the Minister of Tourism is on her way coming to the House. I will be able to pass on the information so that she can take it up with Hon. Bagiire.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Patrick Kitiyo Salimo, MP, Kapchorwa Municipality, the land of the giants.

2.30

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Three bridges, including the Government Lodge Bridge, Upper Kaptokwoi Falls Bridge and Kapanguria Bridge, were recently washed away and damaged by the recent heavy rains within Kapchorwa Municipality, affecting the community, school-going children and long-distance champion runners.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Works and Transport should urgently intervene to reconstruct and restore the three bridges so that our people can access services across the board. One of the three bridges connects Central Division to East Division, and then the other one connects Central Division to West Division. Thank you right, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

2.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraji Ali): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Ministry of Works and Transport has dispatched a team of engineers to Kapchorwa to assess these three bridges and see how quickly remedial action can be taken, so that the bridges can be constructed. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is something going on in the Ministry of Works and Transport. I do not know whether you have noticed. If you want to appreciate them, please do. *(Applause)* Let us make other ministers jealous of them. It sounds like the "Ministry of Works"; they are working. *(Laughter)*

Hon. George Oketcho, MP West Budama South? I am sure the Member is still in Tororo? Hon. Robert Mugabe, MP, Kitagwenda County?

2.32

MR ROBERT MUGABE (NRM, Kitagwenda County, Kitagwenda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Following the operationalisation of Kitagwenda District in 2019, three subcounties, four new town councils, parishes and villages were created. Whereas LCI and LCII chairpersons have been duly elected, they have never been issued with official government stamps.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Local Government procure and deliver official Government stamps to all the affected LCI and LCII chairpersons, so that they can restore local administration and also public service delivery. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Minister? Government Chief Whip? *(Hon. Silwany rose_)* Procedure?

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I rise on a procedural matter. Last week, while you were away and the Deputy Speaker was chairing the House, he decried the absence of ministers.

The Cabinet is constituted of 87 able men and women. If I am accurate. *(Interjections)* Let it be as – They are beyond 80 ministers.

Hon. Bahati here, for the last 10 years, is always laying his back for Government. They say this but things are not followed up because he is not the minister. However, because he is always present in the House, he will come up and respond by saying, "The Minister of Local Government," "The Minister of this," you will see Hon. Bahati appearing.

The procedural matter I am raising is that the ministers know the time that Parliament starts is 2.00 p.m., and you are here on time. The Deputy Speaker was here during the Prime Minister's Time, crying about the absence of ministers. Are we proceeding well to continue calling ministers and they are not in the House? *(Interjections)* You are just four out of 80-

THE SPEAKER: I can see there are quite a number of ministers. However, the point Hon. Silwany is making is that let the relevant line ministers be there so that you do not make Hon. Bahati, who is the chairperson of the National Prayer Breakfast – a person who nearly became a reverend – *(Laughter)* You make people think he is lying when actually he is a very committed person. Hon. Bahati, what do you have to say?

2.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, there are two points on this. It is true that we, as Government, have to mobilise ministers to come to the House. However, as you have observed, our ministers are now very active. And the only way you can be active is by going to the field. So, many of them are in the field working.

I commit to tell you – *(Interjections)* If you can give me one minute. Every point raised here in the House is taken seriously. There is no commitment we have made here in the House that we do not follow up on. The Government is fully represented in the House. Mr Speaker, whatever you ask, we shall be able to follow it up. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bahati, the records in my office indicate that you are the acting Government Chief Whip for this week and probably the following week. You should congratulate him. *(Applause)* It is a hard job that you need somebody like him, believable, yet also doubted. *(Laughter)* It is because he is one of those who are always available. Procedure again?

MR KAJWENGYE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You know this is a House of record and Hon. Bahati, as usual, has done quite well. Unfortunately, our record has captured that "The Government is now active." That is a presumption that Government has not always been active and working. I would want — *(Interjections)* Yes. As far as I am concerned, this Government of the National Resistance Movement, headed by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has always been active and working.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Is that the procedure? *(Laughter)*

MR KAJWENGYE: Are we, therefore, proceeding well to accept a statement of that magnitude in our records that insinuates that it is only now that the Government is active and working?

THE SPEAKER: I think the application of the word "now" is present continuous. Even yesterday he would have said "now". That is politically correct, to give an impression of the present, but not ignoring that in the past the Government has been active. Also, it is good to know. We agreed that when something good is happening, we acknowledge it.

Hon. Migadde had raised the issue of the stamps. Has he been answered? We have

LCI chairpersons without stamps? Like now, you Members of Parliament without what? Letterheads?

2.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, on the stamps for the local government, every LCI chairperson will get a stamp. The Minister of Local Government will be able to update this House, to begin with, Hon. Migadde.

2.40

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for granting me this opportunity. With all due respect to Hon. Bahati, who we agree has been very active and disciplined in attendance, the issue of stamps cuts across the country, and yet this is the first point of administration.

We have LCs that have taken 10 years, six years – *(Interjections)* – Yes – without stamps. You go there; they have an LC and a chairperson, but they need to go to the next LC for this. Wouldn't it be proper that they give us timelines on when this can be resolved?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Angura, on the same?

2.40

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Mr Speaker, the issue that has been raised is such a serious one, and it should have been concluded yesterday –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Angura, we are talking about the stamps.

MR ANGURA: Yes. Mr Speaker, you are aware that most of the services that are being offered to our community recently – if it is forms, registration – they require stamps. We have been grappling with explaining to our people time and again that LCs that do not have stamps should be supplied with them. As Hon. Kimosho has said, our people are suffering. Let this be resolved once and for all.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR ANGURA: In the recent past, those villages that had stamps and leadership have changed; the handover has taken place. However, for those that did not have, there has been nothing to hand over. People are now borrowing services from the neighbouring villages.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Gonzaga Ssewungu?

2.42

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank Hon. Bahati for carrying other people's crosses; at one time he will go to heaven. I pray that as I raise my matter, Hon. Bahati sits closer to you as a Government Chief Whip. We see it is more comfortable when he is enjoying that corner where the Prime Minister sits, other than being next to the ministers. It gives him a lot of authority. *(Laughter)*

When you were communicating at the beginning, you thanked Members who are regular here and I remembered the late Gen. Moses Ali, the father of the honourable minister, Hon. Siraji Ali, who is also very regular here. He used to say here in this House that, "Mr Speaker, always consider those who are very regular in the House when you are travelling." Their being in full attendance should be another consideration for their happiness.

I am among the Members of Parliament who were against the number of ministers – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I thought we were talking about the stamps. *(Laughter)*

MR SSEWUNGU: I was trying to build my point. I was among those because I am also a member of the Committee on Appointments.

Commitments: When you talk about stamps of Local Councils (LCs) – I raised the same matter on the Floor. After electing LCI chairpersons, they need training. There is a lot of confusion in LCs. You talk about stamps, training them, transfer of stamps from the former leaders to the new ones; they are not all in active capacity,

and we know there is nothing you can achieve in court without the use of LCs.

I pray, Mr Speaker, like the honourable minister, Hon. Bahati – my good friend – stated before, let him still throw the cross to the other people so that when they come, he will report to them – and they are on their way coming.

THE SPEAKER: About rewarding committed Members of Parliament, who told you that I am not doing that?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, it was a disclaimer from me.

THE SPEAKER: I know Hon. Ssewungu was lobbying that I should – but even as Speakers, we look at that honestly. If you are not in the House and I have some freebies within my reach, even if you are my friend, I will not nominate you for a trip. If you were in a committee and I was the chairperson, I would never give you a trip – and I think that is the principle we are using. If you see me nominating somebody for a trip and he has never been here, that would be difficult.

As I was talking, the number two of this country arrived. Please, if you want to acknowledge her presence, do it well. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a group of students from Kampala International University. They are represented by Hon. Ali Kasirye Nganda and Hon. Shamim Malende. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Students of Kampala International University, please rise up for recognition. *(Applause)*

Also, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a group of students from the School of Law, Makerere University. They are represented by Hon. Madina Nsereko Ntale and Hon. Shamim Malende. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them to the 12th Parliament. *(Applause)*

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs in Uganda was in the School of Law nearly 28 to 30 years ago, and the Speaker was there about 20-something years ago; so be patient and be focused. To all the students, we wish you the very best. *(Applause)*

In the Public Gallery this afternoon, we also have the Director of Operations, Uganda Police Force, Assistant Inspector General of Police Frank Mwesigwa and the Director of Research and Planning, Uganda Police Force, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Erasmus Twaruhukwa. I used to know your name when you were in the legal department. Please welcome them. They are represented by the Speaker of Parliament. Is your constituency not represented by the Speaker at a national level? Thank you for making a historic visit to the Parliament of Uganda. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Vice-President, there is the issue of the stamps; LCI chairpersons do not have stamps countrywide. They have power without authority. The Government Chief Whip, represented by Hon. Bahati, is struggling to respond. Please do so.

2.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Government, which is fully represented by the Vice-President, we commit that we are going to resolve this matter up to the end of November. Therefore, if the House can give us up to November, we will ensure that the stamps –

THE SPEAKER: Is that November of next year?

MR BAHATI: Yes, the stamps are sorted out because I have realised that it is a very big matter –

THE SPEAKER: Today is the fourth.

MR BAHATI: Yes, today is the fourth; so, within those days, we should be able to sort the

issue of stamps, so that it is not a matter for the House again.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Kiti, MP T'oo County?

2.48

MR PETER KITI (NRM, T'oo County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to raise an issue of the landslide victims in Sebei Subregion, specifically Bukwo. It is exactly one year since we had the catastrophic landslide in Sebei Subregion that claimed over 27 lives. To date, they are still internally displaced persons (IDPs), and they have not been resettled. Even the provision of food has not been easy for them. Sometimes, I have to plead in the House for them to be supported.

My prayer is that the plight of these people –

THE SPEAKER: Conclude.

MR KITI: My prayer is: can they be resettled so that they live decent lives?

Secondly, there was an issue of land for the landslide victims, which I raised. We still feel that their land needs to be valued before they are displaced or taken over by the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.50

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and welcome back from Tanzania, where you represented us well.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. *(Applause)*

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: Before I answer that message, I bring you greetings from the Speaker of the Russian Federation, Her Excellency, Valentina Matviyenko, who is looking forward to meeting you soon and strengthening the cooperation between the two Parliaments.

The issue raised by the honourable Member of Parliament is being handled by the Office of the Prime Minister. Cabinet will discuss the issue exhaustively in consultation with the affected people, and a win-win solution will be adopted and shared with Members of this Parliament. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. Welcome back from Moscow. Hon. Patrick Bingi Nyanzi?

2.52

MR PATRICK NYANZI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue this afternoon regards the appalling health service delivery in Kyankwanzi. What makes it urgent is that it is a matter of life. As popular as Kyankwanzi sounds, we do not have a hospital, but we could put up with that if at least Butemba Health Centre IV was operationalised, since it is sluggish. As if that is not enough, we have densely populated subcounties, which are in need of health centre IIIs, and this has been repeatedly communicated to the ministry, but they have not been catered for. They include: Byerima, Kigando and Bananywa.

My prayers are that:

1. The Government fast-tracks the elevation of Butemba Health Centre III to Health Centre IV, - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Health?

2.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Bangirana): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take note of the honourable member's concern. Regarding his prayers, the ministry is already fast-tracking Butemba Health Centre III to upgrade it to a health community hospital. I would like to say that the issue of other subcounties cuts across. I was here when I said that as a ministry, we are assessing all hard-to-reach subcounties that are densely populated. Assessment is being done to align them for Financial Year 2027/2028. We shall soon come up with a list of the subcounties we are going to embark on.

2.53

MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am raising a matter concerning the legal and operational status of the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO Bureau) following the enactment of the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, as amended in 2024.

THE SPEAKER: How many times have you raised this matter?

MR SEKABIRA: This might be the fifth time because the minister is not responding to it. He is under a duty to constitute a bureau by nominating members and forwarding them to the Cabinet for approval, then we can have the Act operationalised. That is the issue I am raising.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs, I asked that question, so that whoever is here should attest to the testimony that he has been raising that severally.

2.55

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu): Mr Speaker, this matter has been raised, and we have taken action. Next Tuesday, the 10th of November, we are reviewing not only the law but also the ban that had been imposed on some of the NGOs. After this meeting, some of these issues will be completely addressed. Thank you very much indeed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You can see the relevance of asking such questions. You have gotten more than you asked for. Hon. Okwi?

2.55

MR CONSTANTINE OKWI (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Kibale Secondary School in Kibaale County, there is a collapse in the delivery of education services because the school is a Universal Secondary School (USE) populated by Non-USE students. When the Minister of Local Government went around emphasising the ban on non-payment of fees, even the Non-USE students refused to pay.

To date, the school has run to a crisis. It has no stationery for printing examinations for the end of year, and teachers who were recruited on the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) have all left, so they do not even have teachers to set exams.

My prayers are the status of non-USE students in a USE school - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: The good thing is that the ministers already have copies of this. Minister or Government Chief Whip – For the first time we do not have anybody from education?

2.57

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Yes, Hon. Peter Ogwang is delayed, but someone from Education is coming. Nevertheless, we are going to take up this issue in Pallisa District to stabilise the school.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The people of Pallisa are watching. Hon. Okot Boniface? That is the very last one.

2.57

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Mr Speaker, Bala Town Council in Kole District is one of the commercial and trading hubs well recognised in Lango Subregion. For about four days now, Bala Town Council has been in a power blackout. The Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) has been engaged, there are no efforts to restore up to now, with a number of businesses are not operational.

My prayers are:

First, there should be quick interventions by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to restore electricity in Bala Town Council.

Secondly, three areas in Kole, Greater – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I believe when we are handling item No.7, I want Members to pay attention. It is not only Bala – I do not know

where you come from, but there is a need. We should prepare to debate the matter of power blackouts. Minister for energy? The minister needs to be here for that item. We are not going to postpone it.

2.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, we are mobilising Hon. Okaasai or any other minister from the ministry to be present when we are debating this matter. However, I have also sent him a message about this particular one and copied the new Executive Director (ED) of UEDCL to attend to this, which looks to be extremely urgent.

THE SPEAKER: Acting Government Chief Whip, and your Excellency the Vice President, there is a huge problem with UEDCL and the management of this matter. Therefore, depending on what we shall hear from the committee – which is a very good report, we need serious commitment from the Government. The next item had been called.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON SOME SECURITY INCIDENTS IN SPECIFIC DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY AND MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM

3.00

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu): Mr Speaker, this statement is about the security situation in the country generally and more specifically, about reported specific incidents of violent crime in the following districts: Mubende, Kyegegwa, Bukwo, Mitooma, Ibanda, Sheema, Kagadi, Kazo, Ntungamo, Kyankwanzi and Masaka. These were raised by some Members of Parliament from these districts.

The report also gives the measures undertaken by the joint security agencies as well as the operational challenges encountered and the ongoing measures being taken to maintain law and order and guarantee internal security in the country. I should add, this report does not include security incidents touching on sovereignty and territorial integrity as these matters are for the generals.

Secondly, the report does not include security incidents involving political activism. This too requires "Generals". Attorney-General is a "General". This report also does not include security incidents that are routinely handled by the Uganda Police Force. That one, even as we are talking, the Police is doing its job.

Background

The security situation in the country and along its borders remains generally normal and calm. The country is at peace with itself and with its neighbours. The security fundamentals are solid and robust. Public peace has been maintained, public gatherings have been properly managed, stability during elections was ensured, and key sectors of the economy that include mining, environment, agriculture, among others, have been protected. Parliament has been conducting its business in a peaceful and secure environment.

However, there are isolated incidents – *(Interjection)* - Yes, this is true – of criminality in the affected districts. Concerns have been raised regarding homicides in these districts: Mubende, Kyegegwa, Bukwo – I have mentioned them, these districts, and you have raised concerns on the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker, you directed the Government to give an account of these incidents to the House and the security measures undertaken to address the situation. This statement is in fulfilment of your directive.

Following reported incidents in these districts: Mubende, Kyegegwa, Bukwo, Mitooma, Ibanda, Sheema, Kagadi, Kazo, Ntungamo, Masaka and Kyankwanzi, field inspections and engagements with territorial commanders and district leadership were undertaken on 4 October 2026, to deal with the situation and to assess operational readiness to maintain law and order in these districts.

Subsequently, the Uganda Police Force coordinated rationalisation of combined security forces and operational enablers, with emphasis on preventive and pre-emptive policing.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, as you are well aware, in executing its mandate of guaranteeing internal security, exercises policy oversight over the Uganda Police Force, which operationally is responsible for prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in the country. This framework is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

Objectives of the statement

Mr Speaker, the purpose of this statement is to appraise Parliament on the following:

1. The status of the security situation in the country generally, and the nature and status of the reported crimes in specific districts referred to above, as well as police investigations and enforcement actions taken;
2. We want to share with you challenges affecting crime prevention and case resolution and;
3. Finally, to give you the measures being implemented to strengthen security and build public confidence in the defence and security of the country.

Problem statement

Mr Speaker, between January and September 2026 – Just to give you what the problem is all about – a total of 3,192 homicide cases were recorded. Of these cases, 818 were taken to court, 72 were not proceeded with, and 2,302 are still under inquiry. A total of 1,184 suspects, of whom 1,059 were male and 125 were female, were arrested and charged in courts of law.

Of the suspects taken to court, nine were convicted, six were discharged, while 1,169 are still awaiting trial. The highest number of homicide cases were recorded in January with 389, while the lowest was in February with 326.

I think those who are following the screen can see a graph showing the trend, and if you look at that graph, you can see the situation is being steadily handled. In January, the cases were 389, by September, they were 383, meaning the situation is not getting out of hand. We can give details of the incidents in specific districts and the metrics, which I can just read to you, district by district.

We have mentioned the period when it happened, what happened, the action that was taken, and the status of the situation. We start with Mubende. I am mentioning these districts because they are the districts, which were raised on the Floor of the House.

Mubende

i) On October 10th, an 80-year-old man was killed in his home at Rwengabi Village, Kitenga Subcounty. The Crime Report Book (CRB) is 1357/2026. The motive was robbery. So, what action was taken? Suspects were arrested using intelligence and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking, including the principal suspect. All these were arrested in Ibanda. They committed the crime in Mubende, but they were followed and arrested in Ibanda.
ii) Now, Ibanda itself. 18 murder cases with 23 victims, arising from family wrangles, robbery, domestic violence, and social disputes. Action taken: 22 suspects were arrested, 17 charged, and on 9th October, three suspects were arrested, two of whom had escaped from Ibanda Central Police Station in July. A recipient of stolen property and his communication link were also arrested.
iii) Kazo. Between July and September, 13 murder cases with 17 deaths, mainly domestic and family disputes. They include attacks on homes that killed three children. The Crime Report Book is registered. A mother and her two sons were killed. The action taken was that the suspects were arrested and charged in seven cases; six under inquiry. The rape-murder under CRB 691/2026 has been linked to the Ibanda gang. On Kazo, I should commend

Hon. Kimosho because he confirmed that the actions we took have reduced crime in the district.

iv) Kyegegwa. In September-October 2026, a fatal assault after a domestic dispute, a triple murder at Karokarungi, and a murder at Kyarujumba after a land-related dispute. Action: One suspect was arrested in each of the two October cases. Other suspects are being traced.

v) Mitooma. Between January and September, a series of murders arising from domestic violence, land disputes, robbery, and personal misunderstandings have happened. Action: Several suspects were arrested by joint security forces. Others are still at large.

vi) Bukwo. April to September 2026. Gang activity, including a group known as "B13" around Amanang Trading Centre, Kapkoros Subcounty, Suam and Bukwo Town Councils: eight murders, six robberies, 10 break-ins, 10 animal thefts and two produce thefts. Action: 32 suspects were arrested for these offenses. District-wide, 347 suspects were arrested, 241 charged, and 20 convicted.

vii) Sheema District. From July to October 2026, there was a surge in cattle and coffee theft in Kabwohe and surrounding areas; 38 head of cattle were stolen between July and September. Action: 26 heads of cattle were recovered, 29 suspects were arrested, and 14 suspects were convicted. Since 8 October 2026, 10 more suspects have been charged and remanded, while 12 heads of cattle, four goats, and two vehicles have been recovered.

Mr Speaker, in Kagadi, from July to October, coffee theft: 2,122 kilogrammes coffee were stolen between July and September. We registered 43 cases; 50 suspects were arrested, and all were taken to court.

In Kyankwanzi, from January to August, livestock theft along the cattle corridor: 208 animals were stolen. Action taken: 24 animals were recovered, 34 cases recorded, 61 suspects were arrested, 43 were charged, and two vehicles, one with foreign registration numbers were intercepted.

We come to Masaka. In September, a woman was abducted and murdered and decapitated in Nyendo-Mukungwe Division in a suspected ritual killing. The police record is there. So, what action? Five suspects were arrested, including two traditional healers in Kyotera. His Excellency the President had guided that they be tried in an open court so that people can be discouraged.

In Ntungamo, from January to June 2026, a 52-year-old woman was kidnapped, held in Mbarara City and murdered after a ransom of Shs 5 million was paid. What action? Five suspects were arrested. They were charged and remanded.

Mr Speaker, we want to share with you some causes of criminality. Uganda Police Force has established that the isolated violent crimes involving murder, aggravated robbery, break-ins, and theft registered above, are largely triggered by some of the following causes.

We have land conflicts. Conflicts over land is a big problem. Property and inheritance disputes among family members.

Secondly, we have domestic and family conflicts as a result of marital disputes, witchcraft, infidelity and divorce cases.

Thirdly, we have –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can you specify which area was about witchcraft? *(Laughter)* Was that Sheema largely or -? But you can go on.

PROF. KAMUNTU: Masaka, generally. *(Laughter)* What I am reporting, Mr Speaker, are cases, that happened in places which are known, and that is what I am reporting. I am not alleging anything.

Mr Speaker, part of the reason causing some of these cases of homicides and criminality, there is gambling. Gambling, money, debts,

competition over valuable assets, which are sometimes aggravated by unemployment, especially unemployment for young people; all these contribute to criminality.

Then there is alcohol and drug abuse. Violent arguments easily escalate into fatal assaults as a result of loss of self-control and impaired judgment.

Violence linked to criminal gangs and repeat offenders

Mob injustice as a result of limited appreciation of the justice system, leading the communities to take the law into their own hands, among others.

I am giving these reasons causing criminality because the moment you know the cause, then you can deal with the measures to cure them. These are the measures we have taken.

Mr Speaker, the Government has taken the following measures to contain criminality in the affected areas:

1. Command, assessment and redeployment: On 4 October 2026, field inspections and engagements were held with territorial commanders and district leaders in the affected districts. The Uganda Police Force thereafter rationalised the deployment of combined security forces and operational enablers with emphasis on preventive and pre-emptive policing;
2. Intelligence-led operations: The Uganda Police Force, working with the intelligence services, conducted and targeted operations against violent offenders. These operations led to the arrest of the Ibanda, Kazo, Mubende and Masaka networks, the Ntungamo kidnappers and the cattle theft rackets in Sheema and Kyankwanzi;
3. Investigation supported by technical enablers: I will come to these technical enablers when it comes to addressing long-term solutions to this criminality. The joint security teams using technical enablers, including CCTV cameras, canine units, and forensic services, were deployed to support identification of suspects across Mubende, Ibanda, Kazo, Mbarara, and the Greater Masaka.

These measures were effective. These technical enablers are being scaled up. We are going to scale them up. I have mentioned, in passing, that even in cases where people deny their own children, we will employ DNA to test at the registration of a child of birth to ensure that the parentage of each child in this country is established.

We shall also use artificial intelligence technologies to detect what is suspected. Machinery can now tell if you are telling a lie. They can confirm you are telling a lie or you are telling the truth. We are going to employ them to ensure that we have a crime-free society in our country;

4. The disruptive operations: Between June and September, 226 nationwide disruptive operations against animal and produce theft, burglary and mugging have led to the arrest of 22,009 suspects. Of these, 6,875 were taken to court, 5,611 remanded, and 329 convicted;
5. Visibility and rapid response: Foot and motorised patrols were intensified in profiled hotspots. Rider-based quick response force teams were deployed, and joint snap checkpoints were mounted along the cattle corridor. This has led to the interception and impounding of vehicles transporting stolen animals;
6. Joint overt and covert operations: Overt operations were conducted with local councils and communities, and inter-agency covert operations were conducted in crime hotspots; and
7. Community policing: Neighbourhood watch arrangements were established to improve knowledge of persons in each community and to identify strangers involved in crime. Opinion, religious, clan and local leaders were engaged to support early reporting.

We have future measures that we are contemplating on, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, to contain and deter future criminality, the following measures will be taken.

Full operationalisation of the subcounty policing model: His Excellency the President has directed that implementation of the subcounty policing model be accelerated. Deployment gaps will be closed so that every sub-county has 18 police personnel, three motorcycles, a toll-free counter phone, intelligence-gathering community engagement, and rapid response. In this case, I appeal to Members of Parliament to help in providing land free of encumbrances where these sub-county policing models can be established as soon as possible, because some of the delay is because land is not available. I have instructed the police to start with those sub-counties where land is available.

Threat-based deployment

Murder hotspots, motives, victims, and recurring crime patterns will be mapped and analysed. Crime statistics and a study of regional crime patterns will guide the deployment of personnel and resources.

Strong investigations

Homicide investigations will be strengthened through crime scene management, forensic support, evidence preservation and case linkage analysis. Greater use of force multipliers will be made including forensic services, canine units, CCTV cameras, and artificial intelligence.

Speedy justice

Uganda Police Force is working with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and the Judiciary, to expedite murder trials. Unnecessary granting of police bonds and court bails will be discouraged. Emphasis will be put on pushing suspects to court for trial.

Additional measures

Mr Speaker, in addition to the above measures, the Government is undertaking the following further measures:

i) Detention only in gazetted facilities. Every suspect arrested by any security agency will be held in a gazetted place of detention and processed in accordance with the laws of Uganda. This matter has been discussed in the National Security Council, and it will be implemented;
ii) National CCTV Cameras Project Phase III. We will extend CCTV coverage to support surveillance, rapid response, and evidence for prosecution. Actually, plans are underway to even link private CCTV cameras to the Command Centre of the police so that you have a whole command streamlined;
iii) Livelihood programmes. We will encourage them because there are some forms of crime committed because of need. We shall foster support and promote the implementation of Parish Development Model (PDM) and other livelihood programmes to reduce idleness and economic stress among the youth;
iv) Local Government mobilisation. We will work with lower local governments, all the way to LCI, to mobilise communities against crime; and
v) Public communication. We shall provide timely public updates on police action to build confidence and encourage reporting crime.

Following the implementation of these measures taken by the Territorial Police Command to contain criminality; murders, cattle stealing, and animal theft cases have reduced significantly. Suspects are being arrested and charged in courts.

In conclusion, the purpose of this statement was to appraise Parliament on the status of the security situation in the country, and the nature and status of the reported crimes in some specific districts of the country. For those questions that were raised later, we will provide the answers, but this report was specifically on questions you raised on the Floor of this House.

The security situation in the country, I can assure you, remains stable and under control. The incidents reported were largely isolated

– *(Applause)* – and driven by domestic land conflicts. Friends, the hallmark of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) administration has been peace, security, and stability. This is a record no other regime can boast of. *(Applause)*

The Government is totally committed to preserving and defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country, protect life and property of all Ugandans, prevent crime and provide law and order. This requires the full co-operation and support, not only of the Government side, but of both sides of the Parliament. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Leader of the Opposition.

3.28

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I join you in welcoming the senior police officers that have joined us for this particular sitting. Those senior officers sit at the Naguru Police Headquarters, which is within my constituency, so in a way they are supposed to be my voters - *(Laughter)* - I do welcome my voters to the House.

First of all, let me give some credit to Prof. Kamuntu. Without doubt, he is one of the most brilliant minds in this country. He is somebody many of us have grown up looking up to. In fact, if you notice, I keep trying to copy his haircut -*(Laughter)* - I have not got there yet, but I will.

Mr Speaker, I was looking forward to this statement. A number of times, whenever Prof. Kamuntu comes to the House, he likes to come clad in *Kaunda* suits, *Kitenge,* and similar attire. On one of those times, somebody raised the concern, and you said, "No, Prof. Kamuntu is very smart." Since you said so, I was looking forward to this statement, so I said, " Let me come dressed in one of the ways Prof. Kamuntu likes to dress. Of course, I was disappointed when I came and found him dressed otherwise today. That is how prepared I was for this statement.

That said, I am disappointed in this statement because it lacks a number of things that we have been asking questions about. Yesterday, he did make a commitment here to say, "All those issues; human rights violations, abductions, and so on - I am ready with a statement." Today, he began by saying those things are not therein.

His statement actually touches some of those things. When you go to item 7.1, in that table, he is saying there are additional initiatives to minimise future occurrences and that detention will only be in gazetted facilities. That every suspect arrested by any security agency will be held in a gazetted place of detention and processed in accordance with the laws of Uganda. I want to believe that, that is a commitment he is making.

However, I had expected him to begin by apologising to this Parliament and to this country. This is because by him even including this, he is acknowledging that there are several people who have been picked up outside of the law and taken to non-gazetted detention facilities. Now that this is a commitment coming from the Minister of Internal Affairs, Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, can we then begin to right the wrongs.

There are people who are up to now held in non-gazetted detention facilities. Sam Mugumya was picked up in August last year. Christopher Godi was taken in April this year. Eria Jengo, a journalist, is in detention up to now, and a plethora of others. They are held in non-gazetted detention facilities.

By the way, I am even surprised that this is a commitment coming from the Government because this is about the law. It is provided for in Article 23(2) of our Constitution that for anyone arrested, first of all, it should be within the law - Chapter 4, the Bill of Rights, does adumbrate that – and is taken to a gazetted detention facility.

For the Government to even sit and say, yes, we want to begin doing this, why have you been violating the law? Ideally, we should just be following it, but my point is: can we then correct the wrongs? Can all the people who are held in ungazetted detention facilities be freed? Their families have no access to them.

In a gazetted detention facility, even family and lawyers have access, and then these people have got to be produced in a court of law in no more than 48 hours. However, for Sam Mugumya, it has been over a year; Christopher Gody and King Zale have been detained for several months, and Eria Jjengo, a journalist who, by the way, is accredited with Parliament. He is part of our family at Parliament. For months, we do not known where he is.

Can we get a commitment from the minister that these wrongs will be corrected immediately? That these people are freed? If there is any offence they are suspected to have committed, why not produce them in a court of law for heaven's sake?

There is no honour in violating the law. I do not know why the Government finds this to be okay because, for you to continuously hold these people illegally, it is as if to say you find pride in it, and it is not right. By the way, it can happen to anybody. Previously, it has been happening to us in the Opposition: the Opposition leaders and supporters. However, nowadays, it can happen to anyone. It has happened to Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we were here in the last Parliament and one of us, Hon. Paul Akamba, was granted bail by a court of law. Within the same court precincts, he was abducted immediately after. For days we were here asking where Hon. Paul Akamba was. He belongs to the National Resistance Movement (NRM). I can list several other NRM leaders and supporters. I will not do that for today but the point is that the rule of law is good for all of us. If somebody has committed an offence, produce them in a court of law. For heaven's sake, that is the law.

Why should we be here bargaining and saying, "Government, please follow the law?" However, the 1995 Constitution is a brainchild of the NRM Government. I am glad the country's number two, the Vice-President, is here. You people gave us a good constitution in 1995 until you began to tear it to shreds. Moreover, the tearing has not stopped at making some amendments, but even that which is still in place, you choose not to follow. This is not right.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, the commitment came from the Government. I think the Leader of the Opposition (LOP). I join you in thanking the Minister of Internal Affairs. It can only be the Government that can make commitments to comply with the law. Next, don't we have a shadow minister? Are you the shadow of the professor? You try. *(Laughter)*

3.35

MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luweero): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, before I make my response, I thank you for encouraging us, your Members, to always do research, which I did to enrich my submission. I am aware that the rules do not allow me to visit my notes as I make a response. However, I want to request because –

THE SPEAKER: You should, but just make a summary. You have about three minutes to respond. You can use your notes. If you have researched, we can benefit from it. However, I also know of other people who can threaten to have very researched work when they actually do not have. *(Laughter)*

MR SEKABIRA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister of Internal Affairs for the statement and for the information he presented to this House. I have highlighted some points that I want to respond to.

The minister has reported that 3,192 homicide cases were reported between January and September 2026. To me, this is an alarming figure that deserves serious attention. Mr Speaker, this year has not yet ended, and according to the minister, there are already 3,192 homicide cases. One can only imagine what the figure will be at the end of the year, that is by December 2026.

Imagine if this were a disease that claimed 4,000 people. We would have declared it a pandemic. Going forward, therefore, we want to task the minister to make a meaningful assessment of the security situation using isolated statistics,

without establishing the trends, because in the table he has data from 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Mr Speaker, the next concern is on the large number of unresolved homicide cases. According to the minister, out of the 3,192 homicide cases recorded, only 818 had been taken to court, 72 not proceed, while 2,302 remained under inquiry. This means that more than 72 per cent of the related cases are still under inquiry at the time of reporting.

The 2025 annual crime report similarly indicates that 2,638 out of 4,238 homicide cases remained under inquiry. This raises a fundamental question about the investigative capacity of the Uganda Police Force. I, therefore, request the minister to provide an account of the outstanding homicide cases, including the reasons for delays and the measures being taken to resolve the same.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of inadequate police presence and operational capacity, the minister proposes to accelerate the implementation of the sub-county policing model under which every sub-county is expected to have 18 police officers, three motorcycles and other operational facilities. I am a member of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, where the Inspector General of Police (IGP) subsequently reported that Government had allocated Shs 50 billion towards the programme, against a projected requirement of Shs 249 billion. This demonstrates that there is a substantial gap between Government's security commitments and the resources available to implement the programmes.

Therefore, I request the minister to provide to Parliament the current staffing position of the police force, the police to population ratio and the number of sub-counties that have fully operationalised this model.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, the minister did mention the major causes of homicides in this country. He identified land disputes, domestic violence, inheritance conflicts, poverty, unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse as some of the major causes of violent crime –

THE SPEAKER: You left out witchcraft. *(Laughter)*

MR SEKABIRA: And witchcraft. However, I am concerned that the proposed interventions are predominantly security-oriented, focusing on arrests, patrols, checkpoints, CCTV and intelligence-related operations. These measures are necessary, but they cannot adequately address the underlying causes of criminality as listed by the minister. Therefore, we need a comprehensive approach that brings together the police, local government, and the ministries; for example, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and other relevant institutions to address the causes.

Lastly but very importantly, is the constitutional implications of discouraging police from, for example, issuing bonds and court to give court bails. I am particularly concerned by the minister's proposal. The Constitution guarantees the right of an arrested person to apply for bail under Article 23. It also provides for the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair hearing before an independent and impartial court, under Article 28(3)(a).

As of July 2026, for instance, the Uganda Prisons Service recorded a total of 82,606 inmates, with over 45 per cent, that is 3,713, on remand awaiting trial. We are already grappling with the issue of congested prisons, prolonged periods of remand without conclusion of trials, and the minister still wants to deny suspects bail. The minister must, therefore, clarify whether the Government intends to discourage the lawful exercise of judicial discretion in granting bail.

Mr Speaker, as the shadow minister, I have these proposals to Parliament going forward. I propose that the ministry provides a comprehensive account of unresolved homicide cases over the last five years, including the reasons for delayed investigations and measures being undertaken to conclude them.

Secondly, the Government should provide an updated implementation report on the Sub-county Policing Model, including staffing, transport, communication facilities and funding gaps.

Thirdly, the ministry should develop a co-ordinated crime prevention strategy addressing land-related violence, domestic violence, livestock theft, organised criminal gangs and other underlying causes to violent crime.

Lastly, the relevant parliamentary committee should assess the security situations in affected districts and report to Parliament on the adequacy of the interventions as claimed by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity given to me to make a response to the statement by the minister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I will get three people only from this side, and probably three from that side. Hon. Opio.

3.44

MR KENAN OPIO (NRM, Busiro County South, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to commend the Ministry of Internal Affairs for this professional approach. Honourable colleagues, security is important for all of us. That is why these days I also move with security. Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Did you say these days you move with security or?

MR KENAN OPIO: It is important for all of us, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR KENAN OPIO: Wakiso is a district with 3.5 million people, an economic hub for Uganda, a bedroom for all of us, and a very important district among others. I want to call upon the Government to embark on installing more CCTV cameras to be able to encounter crimes. Largely, I want to thank the Minister of Internal Affairs for intervening not only professionally, but also appropriately.

Lastly, I want to thank my Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Hon. Witonze – my fellow Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) member – for keeping his phone on until late hours and responding precisely. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The woman Member of Parliament of Rubanda. Then I will go to Ntungamo, where there are a few isolated cases of witchcraft – *(Laughter)* – Kazo – Please, if you know that your district was mentioned, I will need to hear something from you.

3.46

MS EVELYNE NINSIIMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the Minister of Internal Affairs for the elaborate report. While we sleep, the security takes care of us at night, so we must appreciate them.

However, we must admit that 51 per cent of the youth are in it: not employed, not educated and not trained. Statistics show that 46 per cent are between the ages of 15 and 24, while 50.9 per cent of the youth are between the ages of 18 and 30. Keenly listening to the minister, giving an example of Sheema District, particularly Kabwohe and Kyankwanzi, a lot of cattle is being stolen. I do believe this is because of the money that the Government has given to the PDM farmers.

Mr Speaker, isn't it really advisable for the Government to plan for these 51 per cent of the youth who are not employed, educated, or trained for us to prevent these homicides and thefts that we are facing in the country? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Member from Kyotera? I want to hear some live cases of –

3.47

MS FORTUNATE NANTONGO (NUP, Woman Representative, Kyotera): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Fortunately, I am from Kyotera. We are free of witchcraft, so I am going to submit on the issue that the minister has talked about on land conflicts.

Mr Speaker, we have a major challenge of the land conflicts, which are mostly handled by the local council leaders. We have a pertinent issue with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. There are many instances where land titles are issued for plots with the same block number and the same plot number. I am saying this because I am also a lawyer. We have many of those challenges.

The Ministry of Lands needs to take critical care when it comes to issuing land titles. Many people come under the pretext of getting special land titles, but instead, they are getting land titles for pieces of land to which land titles were already issued. Mr Speaker, if it is possible, the minister needs to respond to this matter because it is pertinent. People have many land conflicts, killing each other over titles that have the same block number and have the same plot number. Thank you. Kyotera has no witchcraft, for record purposes.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Ntungamo, why are you killing each other in Ntungamo?

3.49

MR GERALD KARUHANGA (Independent, Ntungamo Municipality, Ntungamo): Thank you, Speaker. Ntungamo District, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), has 650,000 people with an area of 2,051 square kilometres. It is so large that it has 125,001 households. According to the Electoral Commission, Ntungamo has 135 parishes and 1,035 villages. It touches Tanzania and Rwanda borders.

I was keen on mentioning the source because yesterday I restrained myself when the minister disputed the information that is available from reliable sources on the internet. Today, I decided to be keen on these sources.

Mr Speaker, the District Police Commander (DPC) in Ntungamo has only one patrol vehicle. The fuel for that vehicle, in some cases, is almost not there at all. I had thought that the Minister of Internal Affairs would be very specific in terms of logistically empowering these districts. We had imagined that, considering that this has been prevalent for so long across the country. Why can't we be specific in our commitments, especially from – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR KARUHANGA: Mr Speaker, if I may conclude in just a second with a prayer. We have a lot of respect for our minister, and these are the lives of our citizens. Kindly sacrifice what you have to do or whatever resources you have to find and make sure these districts have adequate resources to protect our people. It is sad, and we cannot keep losing lives. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I allowed you to access the microphone because one, you researched about this matter. Two, I am your father in Parliament – I became his father because we share the first name with our two parents. That was very good. I now want to get to the Vice-President to give us an overview.

3.52

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The statement we are discussing is extremely pertinent, especially to the grassroots people and particularly the 33 per cent of households who are outside the money economy.

For the last over four decades, all the people of Uganda have seen unprecedented safety, peace and security under the leadership of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as a Commander-in-Chief. I would like this House to acknowledge that fact. *(Applause)*

However, the minister's statement has prescribed solutions to the challenges. I am sure he has heard that the Ugandans are now used to peace and safety.

Those isolated incidents create terror in villages and a lot of discomfort even in the neighbouring districts when they hear about such incidents of killings of people in cold blood. I would also like to say something here, which we told the minister when he shared

with us the statement in Cabinet. He should ensure that no member of the security forces should ever be an accomplice to any of these crimes. Rather, they should always stand with the *wananchi* to ensure that the culprits and the suspects are singled out expeditiously and taken to the courts of law.

The Judiciary should also be on notice, especially when handling these types of cases. The Minister of Finance the other day in Kololo told us that we have agreed on Agro-Industrialisation, Tourism Development, Mineral Development (including oil and gas), Science, Technology, and Innovation (ATMS) and the enablers. The first enabler is the peace and security of the people. You cannot talk about implementation of projects without people's peace and security. *(Applause)*

Therefore, the matter before you, is a matter that touches all the people of Uganda, especially the grassroots people who are struggling to join the money economy. The matter of peace is a basic need for the people, Mr Minister, as we told you. We look forward, as leaders of this House and members of Cabinet, to giving the minister all the support that he desires, to ensure that the people of Uganda are very safe in all their villages and participating in wealth and job creation activities. I thank you.

3.56

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you because when I raised this matter of national importance about insecurity in Kazo, you gave me that opportunity. Now, we are getting the reports.

Allow me first, to thank the ministers, Professor and Hon. Witonze and the police because they responded when we cried out to Government. There has been some level of calmness in Kazo. However, there are issues that I thought I would bring out. During our engagement with police, there are clear gaps that we need to look at.

Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs, you changed the deployment policy and withdrew all the police to the sub-county level where they now operate from. Yet, the rate at which towns grow in our areas is a bit rapid. This growth comes with crime and yet you withdrew all the police. From the sub-county headquarters to some of the villages, it takes 20 kilometres or so.

The President had directed that they give 18 police officers per sub-county. They later reduced them to 12 or 16. When we were doing the census in Kazo, that also did not happen. You find a sub-county with 10; two are sick, another is on maternity leave and the other on paternity leave. When some of these officers, especially in the villages, overstay in the district, they become localised, and the drinking pattern becomes as localised as they become. You find every force has less by two because of the drinking patterns. You can study this because we were looking at sub-county by sub-county.

The last one is on the issue of facilitating the police. In our interaction, we realised that each police Officer In-charge (OC) of a sub-county receives Shs 50,000 per month for fuel. You can imagine what that can do. Most of the motorcycles were grounded. Therefore, it is very important that as we try to synergise and fight crime, we look into these issues of facilitating police.

Finally, the minister ought to have explained in detail the pattern of crime because there is a pattern that is coming from Ibanda to Kazo to Kyegegwa and to Mubende. They seem to be having a common trainer. Unfortunately, one of the suspects died before much of the information could be got. They kill in a very sophisticated way because no one makes noise. Even the immediate neighbours never get to hear. They clearly target the same parts, the head. They slaughter someone and never does a neighbour give testimony of noise.

Generally, I would like to thank the Minister of Internal Affairs and the police and that director of operations because I was calling 24 hours, trying to engage him so that they respond. Thank you – *(Hon. Kateshumbwa rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Sheema is where the Minister of Internal Affairs comes from but they were also not spared. There were some cattle rustlings.

MR KATESHUMBWA: As my colleague has mentioned, when the issue was raised here, police top bosses went to Kazo and indeed the feedback we got was that there was immediate impact.

I would like to give information and advice. When you look at the police structure, honourable minister, it is top-heavy. If it takes senior police officers to get into the region in order for us to realise an immediate impact, wouldn't you consider looking at the police structure and decentralise it? Imagine if you had a senior commissioner of police in charge of Greater Bushenyi, for example, some of these issues would perhaps get attention. For the Officer-in-Charge (OC) gets Shs 50,000 per month, perhaps if there was a senior top boss, he would be well facilitated and be able to attend to the issues immediately.

Secondly, when we started the Parish Development Model (PDM), we had seven pillars. I feel that the Government should consider having an extra pillar for security, without which, we are going to erode the gains under PDM. There are people who have resorted to not going into rearing animals because they are not sure if they will not be stolen.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I do not know what that was, but it was not information.

4.03

DR ELIODA TUMWESIGYE (NRM, Sheema County North, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to thank my senior, the Minister of Internal Affairs, for a good statement and the police for the job well done.

I would like to inform the Minister of Internal Affairs that the report was about Kabwohe area, but just this morning in my constituency in Sheema North, I got reports of losing over 10 cows plus goats last night. What hurts sometimes is that even when people get the real thief, he is taken to the police and within a few days, the man gets out. Therefore, nobody can go and provide witness.

I also thank the minister. He did talk about the digital transformation of the police and operations. I would like to add, as a former minister for science and technology, that these days we have Artificial Intelligence (AI) enhanced tools that can improve CCTV to such an extent that you can even put in instructions that the moment you see a cow or a lorry with cows at night, stop or even make an alert to somebody in a police station to take action. There are many mechanisms which can be put in place to make our CCTVs AI-enhanced.

I also know of a programme that was piloted in Karamoja - and this can be followed up – called, "digital livestock identification and trace-back system." Of course, now with improved internet connectivity and our systems in police, even at a police station you can - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Where is the Member for Isingiro? Member for Ibanda? Member for Kagadi? I am just looking for people - No, the reason I am doing that is because those areas were most affected - honourable members, first resume your seats. For a debate to be relevant, we have to relate it to the incidences.

The target was to measure the minister's statement with the actual findings on the ground. That is what I was looking for, but I am being told that Hon. Khemis of Arua said though that his district is not mentioned here. He has a problem of witchcraft. *(Laughter)*

4.06

MR KHEMIS MUZAID (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Truly, even though colleagues here did not want to speak about the issue of witchcraft, I want to say that it is one of the sources of insecurity in this nation. I want to bear that witness because I am from a border county where we have 345 porous border

points. In one of the then sub-counties, where we had 450 witch doctors operating, the level of insecurity at that time was very high. This is because the witches give charms to these boys who are operating. There was a woman they used to go and breastfeed in order to get strength. They were even using the –

THE SPEAKER: I think for future readers of the *Hansard*, be clear. Would they breastfeed the woman or they would -*(Laughter)*

MR MUZAID: They would go and breastfeed from the woman to get a charm that gives them strength to go and do various activities. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: And you call that witchcraft?

MR MUZAID: It is because she was a part of it –

THE SPEAKER: Find another name for that exercise. *(Laughter)*

MR MUZAID: Mr Speaker, truly, they give charms to these boys; tie the charms around their waists as they go and steal and do dubious things. It is true that witchcraft is a key source of insecurity, though colleagues here do not talk about it.

I was a mayor in Arua and one of the key issues, when we had that saga of the by-elections - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I know those ones. Honourable members, what the honourable member is stating is factual. Whereas we have Christianity and religion, there are still people – and those people are not in this Parliament – who still believe in witchcraft. We have a duty as Members of Parliament, and as leaders, to engage our people from that primitivism to civility.

The Member for Kyegegwa? Yes, there was an incident there. I will get the Wakiso District Woman Member of Parliament.

4.08

MR TOM BRIGHT (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to also thank the minister for the good statement. However, the numbers presented from Kyegegwa are not correct. I have shared a copy with the minister, and as we speak, there are over 34 people killed. These killers come at night; they slaughter people, and they do not take anything. Unfortunately, when you report to the police, they bring the canine dog, which goes to an innocent person; he is arrested and taken away. These killers or murderers then take off and also find refuge.

My colleague, Hon. Dan Kimosho, was trying to narrate how they kill these people. It is very true that they use chloroform. A case in point was yesterday. I was in Kyegegwa and saw an entrepreneur who has a hotel and had five guests who had stayed in her hotel for over 10 days. She reported to the police that she did not know what those people do. They sleep at her hotel, leave at night, and come back. She found small bottles of chloroform in their rooms.

When the lady reported to the police, the police arrested one of them, and two took off. When she left the police after one or two hours, the person was behind her, telling her she would be the next. They came at night and opened her small goat house to lure them out and maybe harm them. Nobody moved out. She was very disappointed with the police in my own area, Kyegegwa. When she tried to go back and ask the District Police Commander (DPC) what had happened, the suspect was still - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Lyantonde District Woman MP, and thereafter, I will pick the Wakiso Member.

4.11

MR DOREEN BIRUNGI (NRM, Woman Representative, Lyantonde): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the statement that he has just presented. I would also like to request that Lyantonde be put into consideration because recently we had

a similar incident of a 66-year-old man who was laid to rest without any organ in his body.

After intervention in some districts, these criminals are now moving towards other districts. Unfortunately, the families that went through this are underprivileged. They were not even able to pay for the post-mortem exercise that the police have to do.

It was a very sad story that they had to struggle to get the body from the police, back to their home, for burial. My prayer is that you put that into consideration. Thank you so much.

4.12

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the minister for his statement. Allow me to bring to his attention a matter concerning the mode of arrest.

Last week, when I went to visit some youths at Entebbe Division Police who had been arrested, there was a juvenile amongst them. These young boys narrated how they were arrested randomly at a roadblock. This came about from the scenes that took place at the burial of the late Hon. Matovu. My plea is: can the police obey Article 23, as far as arresting any person is concerned?

Secondly, as Wakiso and urban people, we are requesting that you please handle irregular SIM cards that are in circulation. You find that even MPs and many other Ugandans are affected. Someone calls you but you cannot trace the number. You at times waste more money and time moving to police stations over these irregular SIM cards in circulation.

Finally, there is the matter of ransom. Criminals are asking for ransom. Someone takes a boda boda or car number plate, then asks you to move here and there. They will direct you to where you will find this number plate, but they ensure you have sent them some money. We request the honourable minister to intervene and trace these criminals because they are doing it continuously, yet we are heading towards the festive season, when it becomes worse. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu, you denied something. You deny it on record and give your evidence.

4.14

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I would also like to thank the minister.

The issue of the operational fund for District Police Commanders is very key. You can never carry out operations when you do not have money. Most of our districts only got police vehicles during the previous elections. There is no money for the repair of these vehicles.

Secondly, we had adopted community policing. You cannot manage or control insecurity without proper police community policing. For instance, in a district like Kalungu, the operational fund for the DPC is Shs 500,000 per month, even with the escalating fuel prices. You need to give them enough funds.

We have a canine dog in Kalungu, but you must pay money to pick it up from police. These dogs are looked after like human beings. I constructed a dog kennel for Kalungu police. How can you give money to the local levels like the LCIII –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, go slow there. Did you contribute to the construction of a canine house?

MR SSEWUNGU: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: This Parliament should appreciate you for that patriotism, and we should emulate him. *(Applause)*

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, after constructing that kennel - it is a house in nature, by the way - the DPC who was there then was transferred - but not because of my work. I wanted – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: One minute for constructing a police house. *(Laughter)*

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker and honourable minister, the biggest challenge we still have with our new districts is that when you give us a DPC, he is transferred within a year or eight months, yet he might have been trying to put in place the best operating procedures to manage the districts. The DPCs would at least serve for three or four years, depending on the Public Service Standing Orders. Otherwise, the issue of operational funds for DPCs is very key. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner, Jesca Ababiku. We have other matters, and I want you, honourable members, to hold on for item 7 on the issue of UEDCL. We need to find a solution. Hon. Ababiku.

4.17

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the minister and the Government for the peace we are enjoying in our country. However, I have two issues.

The first is at the border point between Adjumani and South Sudan. Our people regularly lose their animals and getting them back is a problem. I request that the honourable minister takes it seriously and deploy more people at Elegu Border to prevent stealing of more animals by some South Sudanese. These cases have been registered at our police stations.

Secondly, there is the issue of land in Ukusijioni Sub-county. Honourable minister, we also request for more deployment at the border because two weeks ago, many of our people were chased away from their land and their crops were destroyed. If we can deploy more officers, that will improve the situation.

There is also the issue of facilitation of our District Police Commanders. In Adjumani District, we have only one patrol vehicle, which the DPC uses for responses and also his internal movement. I request that the DPCs be given official vehicles, other than the patrol vehicles. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Former police officer, now that you are a Member of Parliament, what do you have to say?

4.19

MR BERNARD OTIM (NRM, Maruzi North County, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I take cognisance of the presence of my former bosses who are in the gallery, particularly the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Mr Frank Mwesigwa. I trained with him - *(Applause)* - He is above me in rank, but he is listening to me here. I am going to speak about three things:

One, the minister should take note of a witchdoctor who is officially killing people in Lango. They have given him the name "Butaleja". This man, whenever theft -

THE SPEAKER: A name called what?

MR OTIM: "Butaleja," in quotes. I do not know if it is a district or what, but he is called "Butaleja."

THE SPEAKER: Butaleja is a very peaceful district.

MR OTIM: I understand. I have roots there, Mr Speaker; you know. Honourable minister and the police bosses up there, Lango Sub-region has lost over 10 people, courtesy of this witchdoctor, which the police must investigate. The background is that whenever theft occurs, the person whose things have been stolen goes to this witchdoctor. He then comes to the community, mixes his herbs, and people die.

Last month, a young man was killed in my constituency by this witchdoctor, and the story goes on and on. It is already too much for me. The minister and police bosses should take note of this. This is unacceptable. This extrajudicial killing cannot go on like this.

Secondly, as a former police officer, we are speaking about poor facilitation for the DPCs,

but the police officers are poorly paid. They are not motivated to do their work – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: For all other security agencies like police officers, like all other security agencies, the Government has to – The UPDF, the Uganda Prisons Service – I believe the Government will have to say something about their welfare.

Maintaining security is more expensive than the other option. So – I mean, the other option is more expensive than maintaining security. We have to maintain it.

Hon. Marshall Alenyo – One minute, strictly, because people want to talk about witchcraft.

4.22

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the senior minister and junior minister, Hon. Witonze. I was in that ministry for 25 years, and I identify with the good work they are doing.

Secondly, giving police places in the subcounties is not bad. The issue is that we need guidance: how big should this land be? For example, Pukwero Subcounty had 10 acres. They gave police five acres out of their 10, and it became a very big issue. We shall need guidance from the authorities, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on how big or small this land, which we should give to the police, should be.

Finally, on the issue of witchcraft, indeed, there is a phenomenon, mostly where old women who remain in villages are alleged to be witches so that people get land, particularly when those women remain and stand between land sales. It is a - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. David Mulindwa, Busongora County South -

4.23

MR DAVID MULINDWA (NRM, Busongora County South, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the honourable minister. You raised a pertinent issue about land. There is a Hima Division in Kasese, particularly in a village called Nyakakindo, in the parish of Karungibati. We provided the police with two acres, and they established a facility there. They later abandoned the facility, and now they are claiming it is deep in the village. They are using the two acres that we provided for bean growing yet the theft of cattle in that community of Nyakakindo is raising high alarm.

Lastly, honourable minister, there is a missing senior one student in Buringo - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: State the details of the missing. That is why you are a Member of Parliament.

MR MULINDWA: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Talk about the missing -

MR MULINDWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Nixon Amanya is a senior one student who has gone missing for a month now from St Ignatius High School, Buringo, in Sheema. We have tried to engage the police and the school management but to date, we have not gotten feedback. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Paul Mwiru - I am concluding this with Hon. Paul Mwiru.

4.24

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am saying this way -

MR MWIRU: I want to thank the minister for the statement -

THE SPEAKER: Then I will call the Vice-Chairperson.

MR MWIRU: But I -

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead.

MR MWIRU: I want to thank the minister for the statement, but I wanted to contextualise that the statement, in my view, was supposed to be twofold.

The first one is the issues as raised and ably responded to by the minister. On that issue, I want to associate myself with the submission of our shadow minister.

The other is in respect of where the minister issued a disclaimer that he did not want to delve into the issue of human rights violations. I just want to underscore the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition that there are categories of people who are arrested by security organisations and not produced before the courts of law.

My submission is that the rights of those people, as enshrined in our Constitution in Chapter Four, particularly Article 21 and Article 28, are non-derogable. What I expected from my good friend, the minister - Yes, you have been releasing some from those ungazetted places. Thank you.

Even recently, I heard the army commander, the Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF), saying he was about to release one person who is held in that illegal facility, by the name of Gen. Charles Bakahumura. That is also a good gesture.

However, our request is that you come up with a list of those yet to be released from these illegal detentions so that we know when to keep on reminding you and then see the progress you are actually making. The law does not allow you to hold those people in that category.

Finally, on this side of the Opposition, we normally receive many - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Paul Mwiru, yesterday you talked about Brig. Gen. (Rtd) Charles Bakahumura. Today, he called me in the morning and he said he never spoke to you to speak about him here. Somebody who is in detention would not call me. He actually called me and said I should inform the House that he never talked to Hon. Paul Mwiru about his detention.

Today, again, you have brought up his name. The men in uniform are here; they rarely speak. Their minister is here. Honourable minister, you will have something to say about that.

Can I have the vice-chairperson? *(Hon. Ngompek rose_)* I called Kibanda North representative, but he was not there.

Yes, Hon. Mwiru, say something about that?

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When our offices are approached by the relatives of the victims, it is actually our duty to raise this matter. I raised an issue here about Amos Rwangomani. It is the wife who approached us.

If Amos Rwangomani also called you from illegal detention, he would have said the same. Actually, I have not – However, I understand the circumstances under which the soldiers would fear, maybe, to say that the families have actually contacted us. It is our duty that when family members reach out to us, we raise these matters. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I needed to make the record straight also. You are saying it was not him who called you. It is a family member, maybe.

The vice-chairperson of the committee – No, the committee. *(Laughter)* The caucus will speak for –

4.29

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the Financial Year 2026/2027, we allocated the police billions to purchase vehicles for the District Police Commanders (DPCs).

The money was released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development but up to today, these vehicles that DPCs – When the Inspector General of Police (IGP)

was tasked in the committee, he said DPCs overuse the patrol pickups that are meant for operations. They now prefer DPCs to have their personal police vehicles to do administrative work.

I would like the minister to shed more light on that, and how far the police have gone with purchasing these vehicles to facilitate DPCs. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, the minister should do something about the issue of vehicles. I have a police officer who came to greet me at home because there is an OC nearby in Mulanda. His vehicle could not start. *(Laughter)*

I was embarrassed because there were other guests who saw that a police vehicle could not start. He was calling villagers to come and push. The villagers said, "But you usually harass us; how do we help you? You suffer alone."

I do not know. Minister?

4.31

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am going to comment on a few things as a member of the National Security Council, as we have discussed with my colleague. Then, he will complete the other issues.

First of all, as Hon. Sekabira said, we still struggle with the availability of resources to complete all the things that we need, but the issue of welfare of the officers, both in the police and the army, is top on our agenda. Therefore, you can be sure that every resource that we can save to put towards the welfare of the officers, we are doing just that. We may not achieve everything now, but we are going to work towards that.

I agree with you, Hon. Sekabira and the Woman Representative for Rubanda, that the problem is underemployment, lack of education and, of course, lack of skilling, among other things. The report of the minister was addressing the security aspect. The Government has several programmes which are addressing these issues. The Parish Development Model (PDM) is supposed to be dealing with the problem of underemployment; Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) is dealing with education; skilling is – So, we have all these programmes in the Government which we need to put together to deal with the problem, but we are not yet there. We need to work together, and we request you, Members of Parliament, to support these programmes because you have actually appreciated that with these programmes in place, we shall be able to deal with the issue of criminality.

We have the issue of court bonds and bail. Well, Members are complaining; it is a contradiction. Members complain that when they take people to the police station, their voters come back complaining that they came back to the village the next day. On the other side, Members are saying, "Give them a police bond". We must decide. What do the people want? Do they want the people they have taken to police to be given bond or not? Or should they be given fairness?

What we are saying, colleagues, is that the police should try to expedite the processes of dealing with these people. As opposed to releasing them back into the community, have them sent to court. We discourage the police from granting bond; we are encouraging police to expedite the process of delivering people to court, but even bail is discretionary. You have the right to apply, not to get.

Hon. Kamuntu will comment on the issue of equipping police, but we discussed it in the National Security Council, and the police, in this report that Hon. Kamuntu presented, have told you that they have already started the process of rationalising the resources. Therefore, we did not abandon the subcounty model of policing. The human resources we have are not sufficient and the police must recruit about 3,500 personnel per year depending on the resources available. With the available resources - that is what they were talking about - they are going to map and

determine which area needs to be beefed up as quickly as possible. Some areas have 12, or 18, and others have eight, but it is work ongoing.

Hon. Kateshumbwa, yes, it is already decentralised, and it has been. We have a District Police Commander (DPC) at the district, we have a Regional Police Commander (RPC) at the region, and the army and the different units. Therefore, security is already decentralised. It is not in Kampala; it is everywhere around the country.

Regarding the arrest of the juveniles, I think the minister has noted that. It happens, and it is something that probably the Deputy Attorney-General could comment on. Work to weed out the juveniles is being done through this process.

Hon. Ssewungu, on the issue of deployment of DPCs, I think we should leave the police to determine how and for how long they deploy a person. It is not an exact science that you can say that they will be there for four years. You have heard Members say that when police stay too long in an area, they become part of the society and that becomes a problem. Let the police be agile enough to do that, but at least we are happy to note that - I hope that when he supported the building of the house for the canine unit and the DPC was transferred, I hope the house was not transferred because it would be a bad thing.

We have noted the issue of irregular SIM cards, and we are going to address it in the National Security Council. It is a simple matter. All we have to do is enforce fines on these telecom companies, and it will stop, but we have taken it up. I think we need to also reconcile witchcraft and conmen. There is witchcraft and there are conmen, so we need to balance those out -

THE SPEAKER: Which one are you familiar with?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I am more familiar with the issue of conmen. *(Laughter)* We need to be sure of what you are asking us to investigate. Our skills are more akin to conmen, but we are going to make ourselves available to you.

Lastly, on my part, Hon. Mwiru, we understand your concern, but we request that when you have matters of a security nature that involve security officers, you reach out to us directly. There are some things we are not going to discuss here for certain reasons. Come to us; we shall share what we can share with you and deal with it, but we thank you for the concern. We are actually more concerned about our officers than you are, but we thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Professor? *[Hon. Acon: "Procedure."]* We are proceeding well so far. Hon. Acon, hold on, let the professor come.

4.37

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your effective guidance of the House; I appreciate it. I thank Members for the enthusiasm you have shown in participating and engaging in this statement I have made.

Let me begin with making one clarification. This statement was prepared to respond to the issues you raised on the Floor of the House. Some of the matters relating to security which were not raised on the Floor of the House, were not covered in the statement. I brought a team of police officers to listen to your contributions - even when they are not in the House - so that those matters which relate to operations are picked. Afterwards, we will sit down and we will pick those areas which were not covered in my statement and we shall, as much as possible, put them in practice. We thank you very much indeed. Your criticism makes us work better.

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has moved out; I thank him immensely because he is doing an excellent job. Only that the history of the Leaders of the Opposition in the House who do well – stretching from Basil Bataringaya in the 1980s; he did well in the House, but his boss was outside the House. If you go by the experience of Prof. Latigo, he did an excellent job in the House; his boss was outside. Hon. Ssenyonyi is doing extremely well, but his boss is outside. The law of power. If you outshine your boss, you are dead; you are finished. I am so sorry. Hon. Ssenyonyi is

doing an extremely good job as the Leader of the Opposition. May he be the Leader of the Opposition for a very long time, but for that to happen, he needs to be aware that his boss is watching.

Friends, let me also explain the security situation in this country so that there is no doubt in this House about how robust, calm, and firm it is.

I have mentioned in this statement that the security situation in the country, along its borders and within itself, is under control. The country is at peace with its neighbours and itself. Friends, security has maintained the fundamentals of security; they are solid. Public peace is maintained. Public gatherings; there is no chaos anywhere. Stability during elections was ensured and I think we had the most peaceful elections in recent history. Yes, we did. The major sectors of the economy, including mining, environment and agriculture, have been protected.

I mentioned it quite seriously that this Parliament has been conducting its business peacefully and in a secure environment. I dare say, the hallmark of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) administration has been peace, security and stability, and we will do whatever it takes to make sure that this posture of history is maintained.

Regarding the cases, I have reported comprehensively. We did the enforcement, strengthening, and welfare of the staff will be addressed. The issues of vehicles, salaries, and human rights that you have raised are all being addressed. Only that Hon. Mwiru- I am so pleased that my honourable colleague, the minister for defence, has responded to your anxieties; matters of the generals are left to the generals. Not that what you are saying is not heard, it is definitely being heard.

I can also confirm to you, because this is from the Head of State, Head of Government, and President of the Republic of Uganda, that the issue of law in arresting suspects must be respected. This is from the horse's mouth and has been discussed in the National Security Council meetings. It should not happen, we should discourage it, and do things in accordance with law. That is the position.

Mr Speaker, I have taken notes on every contribution that has been made and it will be difficult to go point by point. All I can say is that we shall find a solution, even for witchcraft. *(Laughter)* We shall find counter-witchcraft to contain those who practise witchcraft.

Otherwise, thank you, I appreciate your contributions. We will do everything. I can only appeal that security matters have no partisan position; they are for all of us. If this House were to close, they would not open it for any one side. It would be closed to all of us. Collectively, I am sure we shall make this country secure. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you and I agree with you that security is universal, like oxygen; we all need it. Hon. Julius -

MR ACON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point of procedure I want to raise is what the minister did not state. On the 23rd of October, an incident happened in Otuke at 8.00 p.m. The Officer-in-Charge (OC) Police Station of Otuke had a patrol with the Gombolola Internal Security Officer (GISO) of Otuke Town Council at 7.00 p.m. and they found a group of children waiting to eat their mother's food in the evening.

What happened is that the OC explained that he asked the GISO of Otuke Town Council to stop and fire the gun to scare away the children who were seated at their home. Unfortunately, one of them who was in Primary five (P.5) was shot dead with a pistol. Later on, on the 24th of October, the post-mortem was done and the bullet was found in the child's neck.

As I speak, both clans of the deceased and the OC settled the issue and the burial is taking place. I, therefore, as: Is it procedurally right for police to fire guns when people are just seated? Because guns are used when something has happened very closely. Therefore, I want to

let you know of what happened in Otuke, and such a thing is happening in other parts of the country.

THE SPEAKER: It is very sad. The Minister of Internal Affairs, can you respond belatedly as a matter of national importance? A procedural matter is only what is within the House, but it is sad.

PROF. KAMUNTU: Very sad, indeed. We say it very passionately, because the reason we have government is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. That is the rationale-*raison d'etre.* When cases such as he has reported happen, count on us. We shall follow it and leave no stone unturned until we get these criminals to face the law.

LAYING OF REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 34 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: I will request Hon. Kabasharira to give a brief summary and recommendation under Rule 35(2), and we shall schedule another date for debate. Hon. Naomi Kabasharira is the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Uganda Branch.

4.48

MS NAOME KABASHARIRA (NRM, Rushenyi County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I move under Rule 34 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, 2025 to lay the report of Uganda delegation to the 55th CPA Africa Region Conference and Annual General Meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 9th to 16th August 2026. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Have you laid?

MS KABASHARIRA: Yes, I have laid.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, let the record capture that.

MS KABASHARIRA: The delegation was led by none other than the Speaker, and the delegation was seven in number, with the Clerk and other members of staff accompanying. The conference was well attended; about 300 delegates from about 63 countries.

What comes out mainly, through the workshops, was the theme: "*Renewing the Social Contract, Parliaments as Catalysts for Inclusive Growth and Citizen Trust."* There were many discussions that arose from that, and a recurring message throughout the conference was that restoring public trust requires parliaments to become more participatory, transparent, accountable, people-centred, and result-oriented.

The definition of democracy by Abraham Lincoln as, "The Government of the people, for the people, and by the people" was emphasised during the conference. During the workshop, we had a topic on: "Navigating Disruption: Parliamentary Strategies for Resilience in an Era of Political, Economic and Technological Turbulence". We also had another good topic in the workshop on "Building Inclusive Parliaments and Societies, Legislative and Oversight Strategy for Advancing Gender Equity, Youth Participation and the Rights of Marginalised Communities".

Mr Speaker, we also had another good workshop on "Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into National Budgets and Development Plans with a Focus on Polluter Pays Principle and Carbon Credit Markets". We also had another one on "Parliamentary Oversight of Continental Trade Agreements: Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) work for African Citizens"

There was another workshop on "Bridging the Skills Gap: Aligning Education with Labour Market Demands in Africa". We also had a very important topic on "Preparing African Parliaments for Cybersecurity Threats and Digital Disinformation". All the topics I have mentioned were attended by the Members, and they contributed immensely to each topic. We were divided accordingly, and represented you very well.

We also made some conference resolutions, which are normally done at the conclusion. The conference delegates adopted a series

of resolutions aimed at strengthening parliamentary democracy and promoting inclusive development across Africa. The text of the resolution will be as follows - you can read through it.

Mr Speaker, there were resolutions on the following:

1. Navigating Disruption: Parliamentary Strategies for Resilience in an Era of Political, Economic and Technological Turbulence.
2. Parliamentary Oversight of Continental Trade Agreements: Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) dealing progressively in the harmonisation of domestic legislation, expansion of intra-African trade, investment promotion, job creation, regional value chain development, and removal of non-tariff barriers.
3. Mainstreaming climate resilience into national budgets and development plans with a focus on the polluter pays principle and carbon credit markets.
4. There was also one on building inclusive parliaments and societies, legislative and oversight strategies for advancing gender equity, youth participation, and the rights of marginalised communities.
5. Bridging the skills gap, aligning education with labour market demands of Africa.
6. Preparing African parliaments for cybersecurity threats and digital information threats.

Mr Speaker, there are major lessons that we learnt which I can interest Parliament to know: The participation of the private sector in the organisation of the CPA conference in Malawi. Parliament of Uganda has hosted a number of inter-parliamentary conferences such as Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), and others. In all these conferences, the funds came from the public coffers.

The delegation learned that the 55th CPA conference in Malawi was sponsored by both the Government and the private sector, for example, banks and manufacturing entities. Centenary Bank was one of the sponsors of the 55th CPA conference in Malawi. Uganda Parliament should borrow a leaf from Malawi on conference financing when it hosts international conferences in the future.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, the participation of the Parliament of Uganda was particularly notable through its leadership in discussions on education reform, youth employment, cyber security, and digital governance. Uganda's contribution demonstrated both the progress made nationally and a willingness to candidly acknowledge areas requiring further action.

The conference reaffirmed that parliaments remain critical institutions for democratic governance and sustainable development. It emphasises that restoring citizen trust requires parliaments to be accountable, inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the aspirations of the people they serve. The resolutions adopted provide a useful framework for future parliamentary action, underscore the continuing importance of CPA as a platform for cooperation, learning, and advancement of democratic values across Africa.

The delegation recommends that this report be adopted and the resolutions contained thereunder be carefully worked upon. In particular, the delegation would like to recommend that the Government should sign and ratify the AU Malabo Convention on Cyber Security and Private Data. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Member. We shall get time to debate this and allocate adequate space for it. Next item –

MS KABASHARIRA: Mr Speaker, I move again under Rule 34 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament to lay the report of Uganda delegation to the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa from 13th to 19th September 2026. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the records capture that. Just give a few highlights, maybe more summarised than the previous one.

MS KABASHARIRA: Mr Speaker, the conference theme was "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order and Commonwealth Leadership. Many topics were also addressed, and to mention a few, they were held during the workshops that were attended by Members of the delegation. There was a workshop on promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue for inclusive –

THE SPEAKER: I think, for the record, just read the Members only so that colleagues get to know the different shades. From one to seven, even if you do not read the first one.

MS KABASHARIRA: Okay, thank you for the guidance, Mr Speaker. The delegation was led by:

1. The Rt Hon. Jacob Oboth, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda
2. Hon. Naome Kabasharira
3. Dr Emely Kugonza -

THE SPEAKER: If he is here, can he stand up so that Members know him?

MS KABASHARIRA: 4. Hon. Fortunate Nantongo. 5. Hon. Silas Aogon -

THE SPEAKER: I think he has gone to Kumi.

MS KABASHARIRA: 6. Hon. Bernard Otim -

THE SPEAKER: That is the former policeman who spoke.

MS KABASHARIRA: 7. Hon. Adrine Katusiime. That is the delegation that represented you.

THE SPEAKER: Just summarise the topics.

MS KABASHARIRA: Yes. The topics in the workshop were:

1. Promoting Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue for inclusive fair trade in diverse economies, addressing inequality and underdevelopment in the Commonwealth and beyond.
2. There was also a workshop on accessible Parliaments inclusive for people with disabilities.
3. Workshop on Parliamentary leadership in promoting climate adaptation and resilience.
4. We also looked at artificial intelligence in Parliaments, the current application, prospects, and implementation strategies.
5. On protecting human rights and promoting peace, the role of Parliament was also discussed.
6. There was also a workshop on post-legislative scrutiny, connecting Parliament with the public.
7. There was a workshop on Youth roundtable, building youth trust and participation in democracy.

Mr Speaker, this conference had the 10th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, and the theme was, *"Making Gender Sensitivity an Institutional Mandate; Ethics, Accountability and Structural Change"*.

Mr Speaker, there were several awards that were given. Maybe I need to interest Members so that next time, we can also participate and get these awards because we saw other people getting the awards like someone called Hon. Ruth Forrest received the Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award.

Another one was taken by Dr Angelo Farrugia, House of Parliament of Malta, Parliamentarian Lifetime Achievement Award.

The new parliamentarian award was taken by Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva, from the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The Parliamentary Equality and Diversity Award was taken by Hon. Babar Saleem Swati from the provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

There was the Green Mace Initiative, and we recommend that next time, we also try and get some of these awards. These ones were given to a big number of MPs.

We had a chance to accompany our Speaker for the bilateral meeting with the Speaker of the

National Assembly of Pakistan, Rt Hon. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. One of the things we talked about was to deepen Uganda-Pakistan Parliamentary relations and explore cooperation in areas including trade, education, agricultural research, climate change, and capacity building.

We also had a side event where one of us was the leader, Hon. Silas Aogon, and it was to do with the Global Parliamentary Water Network.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, the participation of the Parliament of Uganda in the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) was particularly notable through its leadership in discussions of Commonwealth Parliamentary workshop and global participatory Parliamentary water network and participation in workshop topics as I elaborated.

The delegation appreciated the need for investment in the promotion of trade and stronger legislative support for regional trade and intra-Africa trade under the framework of the African Continent Free Trade Area.

The delegation also appreciated the importance of accessible Parliaments for persons with disability and the need for more parliamentary leadership in peace and conflict resolution in the country, the region and Africa as a whole.

Delegation members would like to recommend that Parliament of Uganda aspires for environment and sustainability excellence by firstly, installing solar panels on the rooftop of the new parliamentary chamber to harness and supply solar power to the new building to cut on electricity costs. *(Applause)*

Secondly, we harvest water from the roof of the new chamber building for use in all the washrooms in the new and old buildings to save on water supply by National Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Thirdly, move towards paperless processes by leveraging technology to protect the environment and reduce costs associated with printing and storage.

Lastly, championing fruit tree planting. With these measures, Mr Speaker, Parliament of Uganda should be able to favourably compete for the Green Mace Award in the subsequent Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conferences.

The delegation members request that this report be adopted together with the recommendations contained therein. I beg to report, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. As guided before, we shall get time to put this back for debate and then adoption will follow thereafter. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO EUROS 31,980,000 FROM THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE UGANDA CANCER INSTITUTE MBARARA REGIONAL ONCOLOGY CENTRE PROJECT

THE SPEAKER: The minister. Move?

5.09

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to borrow up to Euros 31.98 million from the Government of the French Republic for the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Are you supported? By the Deputy Attorney-General, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Third Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Elioda, Hon. Nangoli, Hon. Auma, there are several Aumas, Hon. Molly Kamukama, Hon. Evelyn, Hon. Tanna Shyam Jay, the honourable from Kagadi - there are several names here. Amuria Woman MP and my colleague whom I catch his eyes always. *(Laughter)* Then doctor from - majority of Members.

I wanted to put on record those who have not supported, but I will wait for what they will say later on. We are processing a motion which is before us and is being seconded and there is something else that will follow. Yes, sir. Then you will bring your procedural matter if you want.

5.10

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, in line with Article 159 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, Section 34 of the Public Finance Management Act Cap. 171, and Rule 162 of our Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, I have moved a motion seeking Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow up to €31.98 million to finance the Uganda Cancer Institute Oncology Centre in Mbarara.

The justification is that the burden of cancer in Uganda is increasing yet access to quality oncology services remains inadequate. With over 35,968 new cancer cases and 24,629 cancer related deaths reported annually, the need for comprehensive and accessible cancer care is urgent.

However, limited availability of oncology services outside Kampala creates significant challenges including geographical barriers, high patient congestion at the Uganda Cancer Institute, long waiting times and financial burdens on patients who must travel long distances to access treatment.

As a result, many cancer cases are diagnosed at advanced stages due to limited early detection services, leading to poor treatment outcomes and higher mortality rates.

Establishing regional oncology centres is essential for decentralising cancer care and ensuring equitable access to timely diagnosis and treatment. These centres will facilitate early screening, diagnosis and treatment, improving treatment outcomes and survival rates.

Decentralisation will also reduce patient congestion at the Uganda Cancer Institute enabling the centre to focus on specialised care, research and training, as outlined in its mandate.

Furthermore, regional centres will significantly ease the financial burden on patients and their families by reducing costs associated with travel, accommodation and low income due to prolonged hospital days.

The project scope and components

The project will establish and equip the Oncology and Diagnostic Centre in Western Uganda, integrating and scaling up cancer services at regional level.

The project site in Mbarara is easily accessible via the main road, located at the Kihumuro Campus of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and within five kilometres of the Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.

The land designated for the centre is owned by the Government and well connected to key infrastructure services including transportation, electricity, water supply and free from encumbrances.

The proposed project shall involve the construction of wards, clinical rooms and rooms for CT-scan, including attendant auxiliary facilities, procurement of the requisite medical equipment and furniture.

The scope of the proposed project will also include the cost of consultancy services for the site evaluation, design; this includes architectural, structural, electromechanical and implementation supervision.

The detailed categorisation of expenditure is as follows:

1. Equipment. Requisite medical equipment and furniture: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) and other key equipment for the oncology and diagnostic centre in western Uganda shall be captured, installed and tested by competent service providers.

2. Services. Consultancy services for the architectural design, construction and supervision of civil works will be produced by the institute. Site evaluation will also be conducted before the design and final construction are carried out.

3. Project financing. The project is expected to cost a total of €33.58 million, comprising of €31.98 million concessional loan from the Government of the French Republic, and €1.6 million as counterpart funding from the Government of the Republic of Uganda.
4. The Government of Uganda will provide technical and administrative support to the project and payment of all taxes related to the implementation of the construction works and procurement of medical equipment and furniture.

The terms of financing are as follows:
1. Loan amount is €31.98 million.
2. The maturity period is 25 years, including the grace period of 10 years.
3. The interest rate is 0.347 per cent per annum.

As a requirement by law, these are the conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the loan. We require a legal opinion issued by the head of the legal department of the borrower.

We are required to submit powers of attorney and specimens of signature of the representatives of the Ugandan buyer for payment of the French supplier. The documents are required to be approved by the representatives of the Ugandan buyer.

Lastly, submission of a document attesting to the coming into force of the contract for the drawings made after the first down payment.

Mr Speaker, with this justification, I would like to invite and appeal to the House to consider and approve this loan so that we can give better health to our people of Uganda. I submit for the consideration of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable member, procedure?

MR SILWANY: Rt Hon. Speaker, that is not my name. I am called Hon. Solomon Silwany.

THE SPEAKER: I did not know that you were the one going to respond. I had actually referred to somebody else. Anyway, Hon. Solomon Silwany.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the able Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Henry Musasizi, for coming to seek for this loan in Parliament.

However, the Government always comes with very good loan proposals to this House. At the time of asking for the loan, you have a lot of interest because now they are talking about cancer; it touches everybody and you pick interest as Members to support this loan.

I remember Hon. Bahati came here with a promissory note for the Lubowa Specialised Hospital. I was one of the Members that supported it vehemently because we needed it.

Mr Speaker, there is also the loan for the Kampala-Jinja Expressway. The procedural matter I am raising is, are we proceeding well when the Government comes up here with a very good proposal, asks for a loan, but then that issue is not implemented?

I remember we raised that matter when Hon. Ikojo was the Chairperson of the Committee on National Economy in the last Parliament. The same minister was the minister then for Finance, General Duties. Are we proceeding well to keep approving these loans, without doing an assessment on them, and knowing whether they are going to perform what they are being asked for, before we approve them?

THE SPEAKER: The chairperson of the committee? After the Chairperson of the committee, then you will be able to know whether we are proceeding well. This loan came up here; the request was on the 29th

- Honourable members, order. What Hon. Silwany is doing is that he is expressing fatigue, but this Parliament referred this matter to the committee, so let us hear the committee report. If it also says what you are saying, then we debate and take a decision.

Committee chairperson, I want you to summarise your report. It is full of figures, which is good, but this is also about cancer. For these regional ones - we have done others; we can also do this one.

5.22

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Ms Jane Pacuto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This loan request was referred to the committee on the 29th of September. As a committee, we have scrutinised it and I am here to report back to Parliament.

In accordance with Rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on National Economy considered the request by the Government to borrow up to Euro 31,980,000 from the Government of the French Republic for the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute, Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre project.

The request was presented to the House by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on 29 September 2026, and accordingly referred to the Committee on National Economy for consideration.

The Committee has considered and scrutinised the request and now begs to report. As a committee, this is the methodology we used, among others. The committee held meetings with:

(i) The minister and technical team from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
(ii) The minister and technical team from the Ministry of Health;
(iii) The Executive Director and technical team from the Uganda Cancer Institute; and
(iv) The Vice Chancellor and top management of Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

We also had field visits to Uganda Cancer Institute, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, and Mbale, the site where the cancer oncology centre for Mbale Region is being implemented.

Mr Speaker, before I go to the details of the report, allow me to table a copy of the report of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by the Government to borrow up to Euro 31,980,000 from the French Republic for the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute, Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Capture.

MS PACUTO: I also have with me a brief to Parliament by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and also a letter from the President here attached. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture the same.

MS PACUTO: Mr Speaker, I also have minutes for the meetings held by the committee. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture.

MS PACUTO: I have a report on the environmental and social impact assessment. Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MS PACUTO: I have the feasibility study report by the Uganda Cancer Institute, whereby it is on establishment of the regional oncology and diagnostic centres at Arua, Mbale and Mbarara. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture. Are those minutes of lands? Okay.

MS PACUTO: I have a report by the Committee on Health on the same loan proposal to borrow, shared and presented to our committee. Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MS PACUTO: I have the financial protocol between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uganda. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that. Hon. Harriet, you can go. We shall talk.

MS PACUTO: I have a report on the design, build and equipping of a diagnostic and oncology centre in Mbarara, a proposed concept by the contractor, Tyllium. I beg to lay.

I also have a letter from the Attorney-General clearing the same. I beg to lay.

I have a comprehensive report on the performance of Uganda Cancer Institute infrastructure projects, dated 13 October, 2026.

I also have a report here on the design, construction and equipping of diagnostic and oncology centre in Mbarara, and a contract agreement. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record capture all that.

MS PACUTO: I have a letter from Mbarara University of Science and Technology on the availability of 8.5 acres of land at Kihumuro Campus for the same project. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record capture that. You have so many papers, which means your report must be solid.

MS PACUTO: This is the last one, Mr Speaker. It is a copy of updated financial conditions of the two concessional loans from the French Treasury and responses to issues raised by the committee from the Ministries of Finance and Health. Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that. I think we had asked the –

MS PACUTO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Having laid the accompanying documents, I beg your indulgence. Since the minister of finance has ably and in a detailed manner given us a good background to the loan, I request that I go straight to –

THE SPEAKER: Go to page 18 to 19; give us the loan terms. That should have been your preoccupation. Then go to pages 21, 22 on economic and financial return on investment. Those are public issues we want to know and then the current debt situation.

MS PACUTO: Yes, Mr Speaker. Starting with page 21:

4.6.3 Financing Conditionality of the Loan

Table 7, that is, Debt indicators of the loans. Mr Speaker, I believe these members can read. What I want to emphasise here is that Table 7 indicates that the present value of the loan, €15.34 million, is typically smaller than the nominal value of the loan contracted, that is €31.98 million. This implies that the country's total future payment for this loan is cheaper than the proposed amount to be borrowed in present terms.

The total repayment of the loan will amount to €33.64 million. The Government of the French Republic loan is highly concessional since it is its grant element is 52 per cent which is higher than the threshold of 35 per cent recommended by the IMF and World Bank.

4.7 Economic and Financial Rate of Return

The regional oncology project for the three oncology centres of Mbarara, Arua and Mbale presents positive Economic Rates of Return (ERR) of 58.9 per cent. Since the ERR is higher than Uganda's economic opportunity cost of capital of 11 per cent, it is an indication that the project is economically viable and impactful to the whole country with both indirect and direct benefits.

Oncology services are recognised as one of the most cost-effective cancer treatments, particularly for common cancers. Early-stage cancers treated with radiotherapy can prevent the progression of the disease, thereby reducing the need for more expensive, complex, and resource-intensive treatments in the future. This translates into substantial cost savings for both the health care systems and patients. A well-developed health care system is a powerful economic engine for any economy, as it ensures a healthy and productive population, yielding a reduction in treatment costs and enabling national savings.

Below are some of the benefits, Mr Speaker. With your indulgence, I request that the Members go through that, and I believe they have gone through it since this report was already uploaded.

4.8 Budgetary Implications

The project is included in the Public Investment Plan, Financial Years 2026/2027 to 2028/2029. The project forms part of the approved budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 under Vote 114 Uganda Cancer Institute, with project code 1806. Establishment of regional oncology and diagnostic centres in Arua, Mbale and Mbarara with a total allocation of Shs 94,228,302,820 as external financing.

Therefore, approval of this proposed borrowing will finance the budget and shall not change the deficit since the project is already included in the budget deficit for the Financial Year 2026/2027. In addition, the project activities were included in the multi-year commitments of the Government for the Financial Year 2024/2025 that are indicated in the Multi-Year Commitment Statement presented to Parliament during the consideration of the financial year 2026/2027 estimates with a total allocation of Shs 34.6 million in external financing.

In addition, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has committed to provide the required counterpart funding for this project during its implementation. See the letter from the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST) dated 26 June 2026 attached.

4.9 The Loan and the Current Debt Situation of the Country

I want Members to pay particular attention here. This loan will increase the country's total nominal public debt stock that stood at $37.12 billion, approximately Shs 136.06 trillion as at end of June 2026 up from $32.24 billion equivalent of Shs 115.40 trillion as at end of June 2025. This debt stock constituted $16.30 billion, equivalent of Shs 59.74 trillion as external debt, while $20.82 billion, equivalent of Shs 76.32 trillion was domestic debt. As a result, preliminary estimates indicate that the nominal debt to GDP increased from 50.86 per cent of GDP in 20 June 2025 to 54.3 per cent of GDP in June 2026.

Even though public debt will remain within sustainable levels, Uganda is rated at moderate risk of debt distress. If Uganda experiences an adverse shock leading to a decline in GDP growth, some of the debt risk indicators will exceed the Charter of Financial Responsibility thresholds rendering our debt unsustainable.

4.10 Project – I think this one Members can read.
Allow me, Mr Speaker, to go straight to the observations and recommendations.

These are our observations and recommendations:

i. Discrepancy in the interest rate of the loan: The committee noted a discrepancy in the numerical and written interest rates of this loan. Article 3 of the draft financial proposal between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uganda sets out the terms and conditions governing the Government of the French Republic's financial support. The discrepancy arose because the applicable interest rate changed from 0.216 per cent per annum under the 2025 financial terms to 0.347 per cent per annum

under the revised 2026 financial term. In his explanation, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development stated, and I quote, *"The discrepancy arose because the applicable interest rate changed from 0.216 per cent per annum under the 2025 financial terms to 0.347 per cent per annum under the revised 2026 terms."*

The committee was intimated that the matter had been forwarded to the Government of the French Republic to amend the draft agreement to reflect the revised interest rate of 0.347 per cent per annum in line with the updated financial terms communicated by the French Government.

The committee therefore, recommends that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides Parliament with the amended final financial proposal or agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uganda reflecting the revised interest rate of 0.347 per cent per annum in line with the updated 2026 financial terms communicated by the French Government.

The honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is urged to always supply Parliament with complete documentation at the time of tabling the funding proposal for the loan project.

ii. Restrictions on purchase of goods and services outside France

The committee observed that Article 1 of the draft financial proposal between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the purchase of Ugandan or foreign goods and services using the loan proceeds will be up to a limit of 30 per cent of the total amount of the loan, and the performance of these contracts will be under the responsibility of the French suppliers. The 30 per cent limitation affects locally available purchases and in effect hinders Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) policy.

The committee therefore recommends that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should always ensure that the terms and conditions of negotiated debt finance projects offer greater flexibility for promoting the government's Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU). This will ensure that debt finance projects, debt finance projects significantly contribute to the building-to-building domestic production capacity, create jobs and curb heavy reliance on imported goods.

iii. Radiotherapy Omission and Infrastructure Safeguards

The committee expressed concern that omitting radiotherapy from the designs and civil works in Phase I will limit the immediate clinical impact of the facility, as 60 per cent of the cancer patients require radiation therapy. While appreciating the budgetary constraints under the French financing ceiling, the committee observed that the civil works for Phase I must architecturally incorporate foundations, structural load-bearing provisions, and space allocations for subterranean radiation bunkers to avoid disruptive and expensive structural retrofitting during Phase II.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Health and Uganda Cancer Institute must ensure that architectural designs and structural engineering works for Phase I explicitly integrate subterranean spatial allocations, shielding load provisions, and utility conduits for Phase II radiotherapy bunkers, in order to prevent costly structural re-engineering.

iv. Counterpart funding

The committee noted persistent historical delays in sector projects such as projects implemented by the Uganda Heart Institute, caused by the Government's default on counterpart funding obligations. The Government of Uganda's contribution of €1,600,000 (approximately Shs 7.36 billion) for this project covers vital operational components, namely, staff accommodation (€900,000), PMU operations (€450,000), and cancer registry software (€250,000) *–(Interjections)-* PMU. Sorry. I said PMU.

THE SPEAKER: Because you know PLU is more popular these days than – *(Laughter)*

MS PACUTO: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I do recognise that fact. However, for purposes of this report, it is PMU operations, equivalent to €450,000, and cancer registry software, equivalent to €250,000. Retaining specialised oncologists in Mbarara will be impossible without secure on-campus accommodation.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development must therefore ring-fence these resources within Uganda Cancer Institute's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Year 2027/2028 and Financial Year 2028/2029.

The committee recommends the following:

a) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development commits to disbursing the €1.6 million (equivalent to Shs 7.36 billion) counterpart funding within the approved Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of Vote 114 across Financial Year 2027/2028 and Financial Year 2028/2029, with immediate prioritisation of specialised medical staff accommodation.
b) The Committee on Health should ensure that the €1.6 million (equivalent of Shs7.36 billion) counterpart funding for this project is provided for during the approval of the Financial Year 2027/2028 budget for the Uganda Cancer Institute - Vote 114.

v. Land Security and Institutional Tripartite Agreement

The committee highly commends Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) Governing Council for allocating 8.5 acres of land at Kihumuro campus for the project. The committee, however, notes that the land is not yet titled in Uganda Cancer Institute's name. In order to prevent future institutional friction, the ongoing drafting of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital and Uganda Cancer Institute, must be finalised and signed within four weeks, guaranteeing unencumbered, perpetual user rights and clear asset-sharing protocols for clinical diagnostics. The titling process must be initiated within six months of adoption of this report.

The committee recommends that Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital and the Uganda Cancer Institute must conclude and execute the formal Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding within 30 days after the approval of this loan in order to have the project site secured with unencumbered land tenure and institutional collaboration.

vi. Equipment maintenance, local capacity, and warranty negotiations

The committee noted that turnkey contracts of this nature carry severe risk of equipment obsolescence once warranties lapse. The project contractor proposal provides 24-month warranties on high-technology imaging equipment and 12 months on general biomedical units. The committee envisages the need for the Uganda Cancer Institute to renegotiate extended three-year warranties on high-end imaging systems, and embed mandatory factory-level training for Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Uganda Cancer Institute biomedical engineers.

The committee recommends the following:

a) The Uganda Cancer Institute must re-negotiate with the French contractor (Tyllium SAS) for the high-technology imaging equipment and other critical equipment to receive an extended warranty period from 24 to 60 months at no cost, while enforcing technology transfer and operational training for biomedical engineers from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.
b) The Uganda Cancer Institute must ensure that the project contractor (Tyllium SAS) provides free repair or replacement of equipment failures resulting from manufacturing or contractor faults.

c) The procurement of equipment should be the mandate of Uganda Cancer Institute to ensure continuity of their expertise in operations, and maintenance as well as sustainability of both skilled manpower and equipment.

vii. Proven performance/capability of the contractor

On 30 April 2026, the Uganda Cancer Institute entered into a contract with Tyllium SAS, a company incorporated under the laws of France, for the design, construction and equipping of the diagnostic and oncology centre in Mbarara. The committee was not able to ascertain the technical capabilities of the procured contractor for this project.

The committee recommends the following:

a) The Uganda Cancer Institute should provide to Parliament a performance assessment of Tyllium SAS and indicate the contractual safeguards and remedies available to Government in the event of poor performance or failure to meet contractual milestones.
b) The Uganda Cancer Institute should ensure effective supervision of the contractor during project implementation to ensure that the contractor delivers this project on time.
c) Parliament, through its relevant oversight committees, should timely monitor the implementation of this project by ensuring quarterly reporting by the Uganda Cancer Institute, including submission of reports to Parliament on the physical progress, financial progress, loan disbursements, contractor performance, cost variations, extension of completion time, outstanding certificates and claims and any emerging implementation or financing risks of the project.

THE SPEAKER: Go to the conclusion.

MS PACUTO: Mr Speaker, as guided, I will do that, but Members, I request that you read the report.

THE SPEAKER: Members are quiet because they read the report. The report is not controversial.

MS PACUTHO: As guided, Mr Speaker, I now move to the conclusion. Beyond healthcare, the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute Mbarara Regional Oncology Project will have a transformative socio-economic impact on the Western region. It will create employment opportunities during and after construction, stimulating local industries such as construction, hospitality, and transport. Additionally, the presence of the Uganda Cancer Institute Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre will attract health professionals, researchers, and investors, fostering medical tourism and positioning Mbarara as a key regional hub for oncology care. Ultimately, this project will not only save lives but also drive regional development, enhance local capacity building, and contribute to the broader goal of achieving an inclusive and resilient health care system in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, the committee therefore recommends that the request by the Government to borrow up to €31,980,000 from the government of the French Republic for the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre project be approved and the report adopted subject to the above committee recommendation.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Leader of the Opposition, there is no minority report. What do you have to say?

5.50

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee for the report.

Mr Speaker, the health sector is the most underfunded sector in this country, and as the Opposition, we support such initiatives which seek to improve the health sector. However, I call upon the Government to take the issue

of counterpart funding very seriously. We had expected the minister, maybe with time, to give us an update on the progress of other loans which were passed, such as the one of Arua and Mbale.

For purposes of dealing with this report as the Opposition, we support, but we wanted to underscore the importance of counterpart funding as eliminated in the report. I thank you.

5.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Dr Charles Ayume): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committees of health and national economy for doing a very wonderful job.

As a Minister of State for Health, I appeared before them. To my colleagues in my former home, it was more of an interaction and I thank them very much. That is the Committee on Health -(*Applause*)- but it was a job interview before the Committee on National Economy. I am sure they put us through the grilling session to ensure that we get a very good product. Therefore, I would like to thank the committee and their chairperson, especially.

Mr Speaker, this loan is very important for the country. In line with the manifesto of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party and NDP IV, we are trying to decentralise oncology services by taking cancer treatment closer to the people, so that somebody does not have to leave Kisoro, or Kanungu, Kaabong, Koboko, and elsewhere to come to Kampala for treatment. Meaning that it saves time, high out-of-pocket expenditure, but also the quality of treatment.

The surge in cancer cases, is really because of late screening, late detection and no equipment at the peripheral units. Therefore, with the new oncology centre in Mbarara, we shall have achieved the objective of having oncology centres in the four regions; West Nile, Northern Uganda, Mbale, and eventually Western Uganda.

Mr Speaker, I would like to allay the fears of the committee that there was an omission on radiotherapy. The amount in the loan was not able to help us achieve everything. As the Government, as a ministry, and as the Uganda Cancer Institute, we said we shall start small. We shall start with basic services like chemotherapy, surgical oncology, histopathology, and so forth. In the near future, Mr Speaker, we shall come back to this House or even using domestic financing, we will go and build the bunkers for the linear accelerators and the other very complicated machines. We have done that even here at the Uganda Cancer Institute in Kampala, where we started our cancer journey 10 years ago, and it is only now that we are just completing the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) project.

To give Members reassurance, let us start with the current loan of €31.9 million, and in a year or two we shall come back because the university has given us 8.5 acres. Mr Speaker, that is a lot of land. We shall start with the current project and place the infrastructure in one corner of the 8.5 acres, and in the near future, we will come and put the radiotherapy unit. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to put a question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament to authorise Government to borrow up to €31.9 million from the French Republic for the construction and equipping of the Uganda Cancer Institute Mbarara Regional Oncology Centre project.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, chairpersons of the Committees on National Economy and Health. They worked together. He had wished to say something, and I think I missed it, but when a report is not controversial, you do not just talk. You will have to talk when you want to gain consensus, but the consensus is there. I want to thank you for this kind of behaviour today because every minute you delay debating this motion, somebody is dying. We want to thank you, and congratulations to the

honourable Minister of Finance. Please make good your part.

Honourable members, the minister of energy is not here, and it is 6.00 p.m. It seems like the most appropriate thing to do is to go to item number nine and these other ones we can be able to do them tomorrow. Next item.

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 5.58 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 5 November 2026, at 2.00 p.m.)