



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2025





PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA  
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 24TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 27 March 2025

*Parliament met at 10.20 a.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

PRAYERS

*(The Deputy Speaker, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, in the Chair.)*

*The House was called to order.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting, where we will receive the tax and revenue Bills and the draft budget estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

The parliamentary power of the purse implies that the Legislature is duty-bound to match planned Government expenditure with appropriate revenue-generation strategies, hence the tax and revenue Bills, as prescribed in Article 152 of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, plus Rule 150 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

We are trying to ensure that we work within the given deadlines -so far, so good. I know all committees had already started processing the policy statements, but with the receipt of the final budget estimates, it will be much easier. It helps you to do much richer reports, which make the work of the Committee on Budget even easier.

I hope we can exhaustively interrogate these documents to come up with the final budget estimates that we will all appreciate. We want to give you enough time to look through these documents. We do not want complaints that "You did not give us enough time; we were rushed." No, we want you to have enough time to scrutinise them.

Therefore, after today's session, we shall adjourn to give committees time, so that we do not run plenary alongside committee work. We want maximum concentration from the members of the committees. It will not be a recess; it will be a plenary recess so that committees can continue working fully.

Apart from committees, which have special assignments, we want sectoral committees to sit because each Member is at least a member of one sectoral committee. We would like all of us to participate in the budgeting process.

Honourable colleagues, yesterday morning, various parts of the Lake Victoria Basin received heavy rains, which caused flooding in some places and subsequently impeded mobility; we even lost lives. I read in the media that we lost seven people and more are injured. What happened yesterday was very unfortunate.

Such climate-induced occurrences are a reminder about the need for a responsible and sustainable environment, and natural resource use by every one of us. At the end of

the day, natural disasters do not discriminate; whether you are looking after nature or not, they come for you. So, let us be crusaders of environmental conservation and sustainable natural-resource use.

The Committee on Physical Infrastructure has some work. It has been working on poor planning and people who have built on the road reserves. You have been doing some work; I do not know where you have reached. I hope you can interrogate this further when you are processing the ministerial policy statement. Honourable chairperson, once you are ready, we will be ready to give you space to handle this issue.

Honourable members, I will invoke Rule 25(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and vary the Order Paper to accommodate the tabling of a special audit report for the end of lease and assignment agreement between Umeme Limited and Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited. I will give more details on why I have done that when we come to that item.

Honourable colleagues, I am not taking matters of national importance today. I want to remain focused directly on the issues in the budget paper. So, I will allow only the Leader of the Opposition and the Chairperson, Committee on Physical Infrastructure. I do not want to prolong this session.

10.26

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Mr Speaker, I join you in condoling with the bereaved families. By the close of yesterday, seven people had passed on due to the flooding that happened in various parts of Kampala and beyond. With your permission, sir, hopefully at some point, we can observe a moment of silence for these Ugandans.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In fact, we can do it now. If we could do it now; let us observe a moment of silence and then the LOP can continue.

*(The House rose and observed a moment of silence.)*

**MR SSENYONYI:** A couple of days back, we were here discussing the heat wave, which had become very problematic. Some colleagues here reported deaths in their constituencies. People were collapsing and dying because of the extreme heat, and the Members tasked the Government to deal with that situation and update the country on what ought to happen.

We are now on the opposite side of the lane, with very heavy rains that are causing flooding. As you have mentioned, seven people died as of yesterday. In my constituency, I lost three people. There were two people in Mulimira Zone in Bukoto: a three-year-old child and an 11-month-old baby. There was another in Banda, and of course, different parts of Kampala.

I implore the Government to reach out to the affected and bereaved families. There are several that are now displaced. We are trying to find shelter for them in churches, mosques and so on, and take care of them from there. We are hoping that the Government comes in because many are not able to stay in their homes currently. They are still flooded; others were affected heavily.

I hope that the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, in conjunction with the Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, will intervene as quickly as they possibly can. But away from that immediate intervention - and I hope it will be immediate - Mr Speaker, the Government needs to update this House on what is happening to avert these happenings because the cause is known - poor drainage.

We see buildings coming up in every corner of Kampala. Different structures are coming up; we do not know who approves them. Many of them have not planned for drainage. We have seen KCCA and the Government go after some poor people in areas like Lubigi, but then some powerful people are not touched in areas of

Namanve, which used to be a water catchment area but is now entirely gone.

We see factories, hotels and so on, approved by the Government. We do not know whether it is encroachment on the environment and wetlands when you are poor, but when you are rich and powerful, it is okay because all of that is the effects that we are facing today. We hope that the Government can address these matters, because it cannot be okay for some and not okay for others.

There is also this poor planning that is all over the place. Kampala is already too congested; so, we keep adding many little things here and there, but drainage is not taken care of. We need to address these matters, otherwise, we shall be here crying again and again, mourning to no avail.

Finally, Mr Speaker, allow me to request a response from the Government on a matter that is not related. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January this year, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that civilians have no place under the country's military courts. We pushed to see that, as had been directed, those files would be transferred from the General Court Martial to the civil courts.

As we speak today, it has happened for some like Dr Kiiza Besigye and Hajji Obeid Lutale, and we are now pursuing to see that they get bail because they deserve their freedom. However, Mr Speaker, there are several other people whose files have not been transferred; the likes of Yasin "Machete", Sharif Kalanzi, Agaba Anthony, also known as Bobi Young, and a plethora of others. Their files have not been transferred; we do not know why. We thought that the Government would move quickly to adhere to the Supreme Court's ruling. Can we get an update because their families keep asking us?

Is the Government not interested in respecting the order of the Supreme Court? Are they not planning to? What exactly is happening around that matter? It is important that this matter is responded to. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Kimosho, and then I will conclude with the Government.

10.31

**MR DAN KIMOSHO (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo):** Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity, first of all, to thank you, for raising the concerns on the flooding in Kampala. Regarding the issue that you raised on the work that we have been handling, we were majorly handling the Lugogo flooding and the report is ready. When you avail us time, we shall table it.

Mr Speaker, yesterday's rain was the first or second rain we received, but we can see the extent of the damage. I would like to assure you that for the little time I have been on that committee, almost 60 per cent of the work you see going around in Kampala has no approved plans. Whoever has interested themselves, knows that.

Two, the ones that we have attempted to look at are not even supervised by competent engineers. Now it is Kampala, but there is also Kasese, Bududa and many other areas coming up. You can be sure that in this season, we shall be discussing disaster daily.

Therefore, it is now very important that the Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees comes to this House with a plan on how prepared we are for these disasters. Yesterday was just a sample; we are headed for more trouble.

Mr Speaker, it is very important that you give timelines to the Prime Minister's office to prepare the country on what they project and what they are prepared to do, so that we are not caught unprepared because we are aware of what is likely to happen. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Kimosho. It would be very important for the sectoral committee to interrogate it further because these are issues to do with funding sometimes. The Committee on Presidential Affairs should interrogate that deeply when

they are engaging with the Office of the Prime Minister.

On the issue of the report, I am going to crosscheck with the Clerk to see when we can get full space on the Order Paper, but that is if you have submitted it already. Let me first get a response from the Government on the two issues raised.

10.35

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Obua):** Mr Speaker, subject to your further guidance on the subject matter of what we are experiencing at the moment, I wish to put the following facts to the House: first and foremost, I condole with the families that lost their dear ones in yesterday's floods, occasioned by heavy rains.

The Ministry of Water and Environment recently briefed the country comprehensively on two fronts. One, they explained why in the three months of December 2024, January, and February 2025, the country experienced dry conditions and high temperatures. They even went ahead to project how the three months of March, April, and May 2025 would look like. I want to start with the past and come to the present.

On the question of the dry conditions and high temperatures, they attributed them to;

- (i) natural factors and
- (ii) human factors.

The natural factors are scientific. What I picked from them is the influence of tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean. That was the scientific explanation for why the country was very hot in those three months.

Point number two was the position of the sun. Scientifically, they explained that during February, specifically, the sun moves closer to the Equator. As we are all aware, the Equator directly crosses our country. That is why it was exceedingly hot.

The other scientific explanation was what they termed an "urban heat island", where they explained that cities and large towns experience high temperatures –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Government Chief Whip, I am sorry for interrupting, sir. Our issue is not about the causes but the mitigation mechanism. You have repeated all these here on the Floor several times, but our challenge is: when the scientists knew all these were coming, what did they do to mitigate their effects on the population? (*Applause*)

You could just help us with that. I remember the Minister of Water and Environment and also the Minister for Disaster Preparedness brought all these issues here.

**MR OBUA:** Mr Speaker, when we keep dashing to mitigation without tackling the root causes, we may be treating symptoms and not, in my humble opinion, the causes –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I said that they had already been brought here.

**MROBUA:** Okay, with your permission, let me alert the country that still the months of March, April and May will be characterised, according to our scientists, by isolated thunderstorms, strong wind, lightning, hailstorms and heavy rains.

This fact must be stated because some of them are natural and we need to prepare ourselves that from what we are experiencing, we may even go to the worst.

As I speak, the ministry in charge of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Office of the Prime Minister and the agencies that do help us when such disasters occur, are meeting in order to come up with a way forward on what the country is experiencing.

However, I would like to state that majorly, it is attributed to natural disaster and partly occasioned by our human indiscipline. That is why we will continue experiencing this. If it pleases you, Mr Speaker, you may guide for

either the Ministry for Disaster Preparedness or KCCA to come and brief the House on what they have now agreed on as the way forward.

As I speak, all of them are under the inter-ministerial coordination to ensure that something is done, especially for families affected by the heavy rains.

Suffice to say, we also need to be champions of environmental protection as citizens of Uganda. That is where we have fallen short. We have left undone what ought to be done and are doing what we needed not to have done. The Bible says there is no truth in us. As a people, we also need to pray. Mr Speaker, thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Government Chief Whip, there was also the issue of the Supreme Court ruling and its implementation, raised by the LOP.

10.35

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Obua):** Mr Speaker, may I request that the line Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs be accorded space on the Order Paper, when the House resumes, to give a brief on that subject matter. We may not be privy to the details of the processes from the time the Supreme Court came up with that ruling.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, point of Procedure?

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. You said that plenary will be in recess. Our army is executing two wars: in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of South Sudan. Reports keep coming through the media, including the most unfortunate one that we lost a colonel who was part of the fighting in the DRC.

There are also reports in the international media, accusing Uganda of using chemicals in the South Sudan war – you may have seen the video circulating.

The procedural issue I am raising, Mr Speaker, is: when will you facilitate the Government to

brief Parliament and the country on these wars? This is because as representatives of the people, we cannot continue consuming information from social media when our country or our army is executing wars on two fronts.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the plenary recess will be short. Let us give Government time to prepare during that time so that once we resume, they can update the House. Next item.

## BILLS FIRST READING

### THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025

10.43

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025, be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Budget. Given the strict timelines that we have, I want the committee to report back by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May because I need them to go and concentrate on the Budget.

### THE VALUE ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

10.44

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, you could start with the certificate, if it is for all the Bills. I do not know whether each Bill has its certificate, or if you have done a general certificate.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, these Bills accompany the Budget, and we have one Certificate of Financial Implications for the entire Budget.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, but honourable colleagues, you know that the tax Bills are special; they are different from the other Bills that we usually have. We will look at the certificate for all and once we find any gaps, the minister is here; we will be calling on him.

The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Based on the given deadlines, we have to ensure that these Bills are processed and finished before we can handle the Budget.

Honourable colleagues, when the Committee on Budget is handling the Budget, we must look at the cost of every clause, how much money it was supposed to raise, or its implication on the Budget. That is so that if we have a clause – a proposed tax measure – dropped, we go back to the Budget and reconcile. Otherwise, we would be supplying air – you stop a tax measure, but continue giving the whole Budget the way it is. We have to be very cautious when processing the Budget. Hon. Ekanya?

10.46

**MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The budget process is participatory, and we handle it based on Vision 2030, the National Development Plan and the 10-fold growth strategy. We also handle our Budget guided by the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, which is for three years.

Mr Speaker, we are having a challenge in the committee. The minister for finance has guided the accounting officers not to raise any issues that are not funded, yet these are issues, which are in the National Development Plan and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. However, the resource envelope is limited.

It is important for the country to get to know, through their Members of Parliament, that there were items like schools to be built and

roads to be done this financial year, but that resources were not adequate.

Mr Speaker, I am seeking your guidance to the minister for finance and all committees to enable us to bring a report to this House with items for which the Government or the country has not been able to raise the resources, but they were in the plan for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, during the Budget Framework Paper (BFP), these issues were brought up – those that they had proposed to fund and those that they did not fund. I am also sure that in the Ministerial Policy Statement, they are captured.

Therefore, if we already have these documents and where they are captured - because I expect the minister for finance, for example, to show us, in the BFP, that out of your recommendations, we funded A, B, C and D, but that we were not able to fund A, B, C and D because of A, B and C reasons. That is how you work together. That is how participatory budgeting and comradeship work within this House. I hope it is not a big problem.

Honourable minister, is it a problem for us to know what you have not been able to fund but was a priority?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, you are correct. Hon. Ekanya is also correct: budgeting is a participatory process. That is why at every stage, all stakeholders are consulted and involved. In the ministerial policy statements, we are even reporting on the actions that we have taken on the Budget Framework Paper recommendations. I think it is fair enough. We are open and saying that in case of anything, we are willing to move with Parliament in the process.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, there is a Bill – you see, I was interrupted before I could refer the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill. It stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.



**MR SSEMUJJU:** Mr Speaker, I sit on the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the fact that the minister is not tabling a certificate per the Bill is a departure. Hon. Musasizi knows that last year, he tabled a certificate per Bill showing how much money that tax measures were going to raise and, as the rules and law require, the impact of that particular tax measure on the economy.

Mr Speaker, I will take your guidance if we have now departed from that practice, because that is what he did.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, you submitted the certificates to us but you wanted to do it at once. Maybe you can table for each. Otherwise, I have the certificates here.

I have the one for the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill and the External Trade (Amendment) Bill. Therefore, honourable minister, we can share. Instead of - yes, that is how I had wanted us to do it.

However, since Members are insisting, I do not want it to look like you do not have the certificates, yet you have them. Therefore, honourable colleagues, let us submit all the certificates at once. They are many, but I will give him an opportunity to read each certificate. Thank you, let us do it at once.

BILLS  
FIRST READING

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
(NO.2) BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.52

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that “The Excise Duty

(Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

BILLS  
FIRST READING

THE TAX PROCEDURES CODE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.52

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that “The Tax Procedures Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning, and Economic Development for processing and reporting.

BILLS  
FIRST READING

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT)  
(NO.2) BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.53

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that “The Income Tax (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for processing and reporting back.

BILLS  
FIRST READING  
THE EXTERNAL TRADE (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.53

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that, “The External Trade (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

BILLS  
FIRST READING  
THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.54

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that “The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands to be referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for processing.

BILLS  
FIRST READING  
THE HIDES AND SKINS (EXPORT DUTY)  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.54

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that “The Hides and Skins (Export Duty) (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

BILLS  
FIRST READING

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

10.55

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that “The Appropriation Bill, 2025” be read for the first time.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Budget and I hope that you are mindful of the timelines. Therefore, please ensure that you handle it expeditiously. Before that, the minister needs – or you wanted - I think you can lay the certificates for the Bills now.

10.55

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I wish to lay the following certificates of financial implications accompanying the Tax Bills for Financial Year 2025/2026.

1. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
2. Certificate of Financial Implications on the External Trade (Amendment) Bill, 2025;

3. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Excise Duty (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025;
4. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
5. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Hides and Skins (Export Duty) (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
6. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and
7. Certificate of Financial Implications on the Tax Procedures Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

I beg to lay.

#### LAYING OF PAPERS

##### THE SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT FOR THE END OF LEASE AND ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN UMEME LIMITED AND UGANDA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you recall that on 20 March 2025, this House passed a resolution authorising the Government to borrow euros equivalent of US\$ 190,988,556 from Stanbic for the Umeme Limited buyout.

This amount was conditioned on the confirmation of the actual monetary amount of Umeme's investment by the Auditor-General. This morning, the Auditor-General submitted the special audit report for the end of lease and assignment agreement between Umeme Limited and Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

The Auditor-General has verified and confirmed the buyout amount of US\$ 118,385,603 million against the amount we approved of US\$ 190,988,556 million, which we had conditioned to this special audit. I now invite the Parliamentary Commissioner to table the report and then, I will guide further.

10.59

##### **THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)**

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the special audit report for the end of lease and assignment agreement between Umeme Limited and Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, minister for finance. Honourable colleagues, since we conditioned the approved amount to this audit, and the Auditor-General has given a varying amount by a big margin, we need the Government to take into consideration this audit when they are finalising with Umeme.

This can only be done if this report is adopted by the House, so that it is a document of the House, since the Auditor-General is part of the House.

I now put the question that the House adopts the recommendation - please, the minister for finance is a member of the Parliamentary Commission - Hon. Ssemujju, I have not allowed you. This is a report of the Auditor-General, who is part of the House. I do not want to subject it to debate. We simply want this report to be submitted to the Government to demonstrate that we have fulfilled our part. The approval of this loan was conditioned on this special audit; so, I don't know -  
Point of procedure.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Mr Speaker, I have been here for several years, and we have never passed a report of the Auditor-General that we have not read. This is going to be the first time in the modern history of Parliament for a report to be laid there and for MPs to pass it without even seeing it.

The procedural issue I am raising, Mr Speaker, is that the rules governing committees - we have accountability committees that deal with these reports and then report back to Parliament for us to adopt, as advised. So, the procedural issue is whether you have now waived those

particular rules, and reports can now be brought here and passed without us even knowing and looking at them.

11.02

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**(Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Mr Speaker, I am a little flummoxed because we were here, as Parliament, and we appropriated \$190.9 million. We protested that, firstly, because there was no Auditor-General's report. It carried the day. We are now being told that there is an Auditor-General's report mentioning \$118 million.

Mr Speaker, you are saying that we should adopt the Auditor-General's report and hand it over to the Government. I do not know how that applies because are we then handing over the appropriation role to the Government? I thought it is this House that appropriates. We appropriated \$190.9 million in error because there was no Auditor-General's report.

Now, we have the Auditor-General's report. Perhaps we should rescind the other and appropriate a new figure, as opposed to just passing the Auditor-General's report and then telling the Government that "we trust you to perhaps, bring back the balance," and take it back to where we do not know.

Mr Speaker, it would be prudent that the Auditor-General's report is, number one, verified and studied. The Auditor-General is part of Parliament and submits an annual report to it. We send them to the accountability committees, they are scrutinised, and all of that because that report has to be studied; the Auditor-General does work for us, as Parliament.

Therefore, before we pass it, it would be good for us to know, as honourable colleagues are saying, what is in that report so that we do not have too many run-ins. This is because there is \$190 million, \$118 million - we might discover that it should even be less, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, to begin with, these

are not annual reports that must go to the committee. These are special audit reports. Annual reports are those provided for under our Rules of Procedure to be submitted to committees.

Number two, this is a time-bound report that you, when passing the resolution two weeks ago on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, conditioned on it. Mind you, we must sort this out with Umeme by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, which is Monday.

What it means is that if by then we have not yet pronounced ourselves on this report of the Auditor-General, the Government will continue with what we passed because they do not know about it; they do not have it.

The Government has a figure that it presented to us. We passed it, and now the Auditor-General has said no, the amount was higher. We have verified that it should be reduced by this amount, and this is an officer of the Government.

So, it is about the timelines, honourable colleagues - otherwise, what do I lose by referring it to the committee? I would love that, but if we are to beat the deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, which is next Monday, and is in the contract, if we do not settle it by that timeline, Umeme will get a blank cheque to start tripling and doing whatever in terms of interests and penalties. You do not have much. Yes, Hon. Ekanya.

11.06

**MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was a chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, and we have a position as the accountability committees in Africa. Governments in Tanzania, Kenya, and South Africa are not stopped from implementing the report of the Auditor-General. In fact, in Tanzania, once the report comes out, the Government implements it and then reports to Parliament as Parliament discusses it. It is the wish of the Government and the role of Parliament to decide the way we want to move.

Special audit reports have issues of a criminal nature. In some countries, the Government does not need to wait. However, this report is time-bound. What we request, Mr Speaker, is that you invoke the necessary rules so that when the House takes a position, the operation is within our rules.

In addition, the Government needs to look at the practice that has been adopted; the Government does not need to wait for Parliament before they implement the report of the Auditor-General. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, and I agree with you, especially on annual audit reports. This is a special audit report that has been requested by Parliament. It is not provided that the Auditor-General must have done this under the law, and we are time-bound. So, honourable colleagues, the decision is ours on whether we want the Government, in its final settlement with Umeme, to consider this report or not.

Colleagues, I now put the question that the House adopts the recommendation of the Auditor-General, as contained in the Special Audit Report for the end of the lease and agreement between Umeme Limited and Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report, adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Clerk, please extract this resolution and ensure it reaches the Government today, so that it is considered in their final discussion with Umeme.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026; PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 155 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, 1995, SECTION 13(3), (9), (10) AND (11) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2015, AND RULE 148 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

11.08

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 13(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and rule 148 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay the Annual Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

They are in three volumes. Volume one covers Votes 001 to 1700. Volume 2 covers Votes 1701 to 3426. These are both central government Votes. Volume two covers all local government votes. I beg to lay.

I also wish to lay Volume 3, which covers the state-owned enterprises and public corporations. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, the annual budget is accompanied by the following other documents:

- i. The Appropriations Bill 2025, which I laid earlier;
- ii. Statement of Multi-Year Commitments of Government - Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the following documents that accompany the budget:
  - i. Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance for the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure;
  - ii. Statement attesting to the reliability and the completeness of the budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
  - iii. A Certificate of Climate Change Responsiveness to the Budget Framework Paper;

- iv. Certificate of Compliance to the annual budget by the National Planning Authority;
- v. The Certificate of Financial Implications for the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Financial Year 2025/2026;
- vi. The list of accounting officers for the Financial Year 2025/2026 covering all votes of the Government; and
- vii. Uganda's Multi-Year Commitment Statement for Financial Year 2025/2026 and the Performance of Multi-Year Commitments for Financial Year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

Mr Speaker, I also beg to lay the budgets of the self-accounting institutions as follows:

Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 101, Judiciary for the Financial Year 2025/2026 - Mr Speaker, I sent you other budgets for other statutory votes; if I can have access to the documents I submitted.

In the meantime - no, it's okay. I am sorry; somehow, they were put together as one document.

Mr Speaker, I already laid the one for the Judiciary, and the rest are:

- i. Budget estimates for Vote 102 - Electoral Commission for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- ii. Budget Estimates Vote 103 – Inspectorate of Government for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- iii. Budget Estimates Vote 104 - Parliamentary Commission for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- iv. Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 105, the Uganda Law Reform Commission for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- v. Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 106, Uganda Human Rights Commission for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- vi. Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 107, the Uganda Aids Commission for the Financial Year 2025/2026;
- vii. Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 108, the National Planning Authority for the Financial Year 2025/2026; and

- viii. Budget Estimates for Statutory Vote 131, the Office of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay all that has been mentioned on the Table -

Mr Speaker, I also wish to lay the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy for the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Financial Year 2028/2029.

Accordingly, I beg to lay the Treasury Memoranda on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year, ended 30 June 2023, for Central Government votes, Volume 2.

Further, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023, Volume 3 - Missions Abroad.

Mr Speaker, as well, I beg to lay the Treasury Memoranda on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023, Volume 4 for public universities, referral hospitals and specialised health facilities.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memoranda on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2030; this is repeated; this is Volume 4 for public universities, referral hospitals and specialised health facilities.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay treasury memoranda on the report of Parliament, on the report of the Auditor-General for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, Volume 5: Local Government.

I beg to lay the report on public debt, grants, guarantees and other financial liabilities for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I beg to lay the Consolidated Board of Survey Disposal Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 for local governments.

Accompanying the estimates is the Petroleum Fund report, the semi-annual report of inflows,

outflows and assets of the fund for the period ended 31 December 2024.

Further, I beg to lay the Tax Expenditure Report for the period July 2024 to March 2025 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

The Macroeconomic Development and Fiscal Prospects for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and the Financial Year 2025/2026.

I beg to lay a Consolidation for Disposal for Missions Abroad for the Uganda Mission at the United Nations, New York.

Mr Speaker, the theme of this year's Budget remains the same as the one for last year, which is: "Full monetisation of Uganda's economy through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanding and broadening services, digital transformation, and market access."

Mr Speaker, the total budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 amounts to Shs 71,956,621,530

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**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Mr Speaker, there was a time here in the past when in this copy and paste, government forgot to remove the word "Guyana" in their budget.

Hon. Musasizi read the statement as the 2024/2025 Budget. Is he proceeding well by regurgitating documents relating to the budget of this financial year, but claiming and misleading Parliament that he has brought 2025/2026 and he is displaying them reading 2024.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, what have you laid on the table?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, I am sorry for this typo, but I was careful when reading. I corrected and read Financial Year 2025/2026.

The resource envelope for the Financial Year 2025/2026 will be Shs 71,956,621,530,685.

Mr Speaker, next year's budget is focused on growing the economy tenfold through the ATMs and the enablers as follows:

- (i) Agro- industrialisation;
- (ii) Tourism development;
- (iii) Mineral-based industrialisation; and
- (iv) Science, Technology, Innovations, including ICT and the creative art industry.

The enablers are the following:

- (i) Maintaining peace, security and the rule of law;
- (ii) Human capital development, including health, education, water and social protection;
- (iii) Full monetisation of the economy through the Parish Development Module (PDM);
- (iv) Infrastructure development. Here we are looking at roads, railways and electricity;
- (v) Regional integration;
- (vi) Irrigation through bulk water to stabilise agriculture;
- (vii) Manufacturing with a focus on industrial parks;
- (viii) Eliminating corruption;
- (ix) Environmental and natural resources conservation and protection; and
- (x) Vertical and horizontal integration of our economy.

In this budget we have attended to crucial issues that were raised by the Cabinet, Parliament, the NRM Parliamentary caucus, the presidential advisory committee on budget and the national Budget Framework Paper.

We have also addressed other critical policy commitments, mainly in domestic arrears, agriculture, health, education, including the African Cup of Nations 2027, the Electoral Commission and the General Elections Roadmap, wage shortfalls in the local governments, unfinished infrastructure projects due to counterpart funding, amidst the constrained fiscal space.

Mr Speaker, we shall continue to provide for other critical areas as we go through this process.

Before I come to the last, I beg to lay the Semi-annual Budget Performance Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025, Volume 1 and Volume 2, which covers votes 306 to 617.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I want to commit on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that we shall provide total support to Parliament and the relevant committees during the process of considering this budget.

I submit, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. In line with Section 13(2) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Rule 148 of our Rules of Procedure, I refer the Draft Budget Estimates and the attendant documents that have accompanied it, to the Committee on Budget and the sectoral committees.

This will help each sectoral committee to pick out their areas of relevance, process, and report back by 8 April, and these reports submitted to the Clerk so that we can put them on the Order Paper to be presented here so that they go to the Committee on Budget.

Honourable colleagues, on the issue of Umeme, since we have varying figures, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development will be required to come back here and report on what they would have paid to Umeme and how they agreed on that amount since the Auditor-General has guided.

House adjourned to the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, at 2.00 p.m.

*(The House rose at 11.30 a.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 9 April 2025, at 2.00 p.m.)*