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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 5TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Wednesday, 1 April 2026

Parliament met at 2.00 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Ms Anita Among, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. During today's sitting, we will receive the Tax and Revenue Bills and the Annual Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027, together with the various attendant documents as stipulated in Section 12(9) and (10) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

This stage of the budget is one of the most important in the legislation and appropriation function, which prescribes for us ways of how we are to finance the budget. I would like to urge all the committees to ensure that they do their work exhaustively and report back to the House by the 21st on the Tax Bills. However, on the 15th day of this month, we will debate the Ministerial Policy Statements (MPS).

I would also like to inform Members that we should be able to appropriate the budget by the 28th day of this month.

Honourable members, you will allow me to invoke Rule 26(1) to vary the Order Paper to accommodate a ministerial statement and a response from the minister, Hon. Bahati, on

illicit alcohol use and energy drinks, which the House asked him to address. Then we will receive a report on the concerns raised by the sugarcane growers and on the issue of weighbridges.

I will further vary the Order Paper to accommodate the following items:

- i) A request by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to reallocate budget estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and revision of work plans for the National Forestry Authority and the Ministry of Water and Environment – this was affected by rationalisation; and
- ii) Tabling of the 53rd and 54th Bi-annual Performance Report of the Inspectorate of Government pursuant to Article 231(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Honourable members, yesterday we laid to rest the father of the late former Speaker of Parliament, Rt Hon. Jacob.

I want to thank all those who managed to make it to Omoro and who contributed morally, financially and spiritually.

I wish you nice deliberations.

2.05

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I moved a motion under Rule 66 for adjournment to discuss the ongoing violent

demolition of people's structures and kiosks, which is in Kira Municipality this week.

Madam Speaker, you did direct that the matter be discussed at the next sitting, which is today. You also directed the Government to present a report on this subject matter.

Since the matter is not on the Order Paper as you had directed, I seek your guidance as to how it will be handled because you had directed that it is put on the Order Paper and it is not there.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Government Chief Whip communicated to the Minister of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs. I did follow it up myself. The minister is currently unavailable, but once we get the report, we will put it on the Order Paper. The reason you see us varying the Order Paper is that this one has just come. Therefore, even if it came now, we would vary the Order Paper and have it discussed. We are pushing for it.

Honourable member from Buhweju?

2.06

MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a matter of national economic importance –

THE SPEAKER: I thought we were still on “communication from the chairperson.”

MR BIRAARO: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ethel?

2.07

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also welcome you back, as well as the other honourable colleagues from yesterday's burial. Thank you for representing us.

Sometime back, we inquired about the policy on the different dead bodies that should be brought to Parliament – who should be catered

for and to what extent. We pray that one of these days you will consider it and allow the Executive to provide us with more information on that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.08

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I wish to respond that there is already a Bill before the Cabinet, sponsored by the Ministry of Public Service, on the matter raised by the honourable member for Wakiso. Once we get it done in the Cabinet, it will definitely come before the Floor of Parliament, covering the subject matter you have raised. Therefore, it is a work in progress.

In the meantime, we can use the precedent we have set. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you - Hon. Patrick?

2.09

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity to raise a matter of national importance regarding the funds allocated to the districts. In your capacity as the Speaker, you championed that our districts receive the Shs 1 billion as a road grant.

Since Parliament appropriated that money, there has been a lot of work by the Minister of Works and Transport to frustrate the process.

You remember we were here, and we raised a matter when the Ministry of Works and Transport had given guidelines stating that the money was for road rehabilitation, and the Shs 1 billion could only cater for about six roads at the time. We rescinded that decision and requested the ministry to ensure that we work with new guidelines that promote road maintenance.

Madam Speaker, in my district, before that, Shs 1 billion was given to us as a district; we were relying on the Uganda Road Fund. With that money, which was about Shs 480 million,

we were only doing about 220 kilometres. With the Shs 1 billion grant, we increased the kilometres from about 220 to 480.

These guidelines, issued by the Ministry of Works and Transport, are what prescribes how much money must be allocated per kilometre.

Madam Speaker, in our districts, we have road committees, and these would sit down and prioritise what is most effective in their work plan. Unfortunately, there is a letter from the PS that says, “Please follow the guideline”, and the guideline is saying you have to implement a kilometre at a cost of between Shs 8 million and Shs 20 million. Madam Speaker, that kills our purpose because our original goal was that all roads in the districts should be motorable. At least it would help us ensure that more kilometres are completed and motorable, so our people can move now. The Ministry of Works and Transport is advising our engineers that “Please do the road with about Shs 8 million to Shs 20 million”.

It would be very good if we had enough funds, but with the Shs 1 billion, Kassanda was reduced from 480 – With the money we have been using to work on about 480 kilometres, they have now reduced it to just 120 kilometres – implying that in a period of five years – because we have about 500 kilometres – only one road can be done in a particular constituency.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Works and Transport leave the powers, because the law empowers the road committees in the respective districts to prioritise this money. Let the power to prioritise how much money is given for which road be left to the people at the grassroots. There are chokes where a committee can sit and choose to say, “We are prioritising this, this financial year.” Let the ministry not prescribe how much money will be utilised, because for us in Kassanda, our priority was to ensure that all roads are motorable, and we have benefitted a lot. Now they have reduced it to 120 kilometres, many people are crying, and I am sure if this is happening in Kassanda, it could be happening in other districts.

My second prayer, Madam Speaker, is that if there is a need to do more of these roads, we need to come here and add more money to the grant so that it can be Shs 2 billion or more, so that more roads can be done.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, first and foremost, regarding your second prayer, we are not adding money until we see value from the first grant. I am happy Hon. Obua, the Government Chief Whip, is here. He is the one who emphasised road maintenance. Guidelines were brought by the Ministry of Works and Transport, as well as the Ministry of Local Government. I wonder if the roads are okay in some districts. How can you say that a kilometre should cost between Shs 8 million and Shs 20 million? Why do you predetermine the cost? Is the road the same throughout? Assuming it is in a swampy area?

2.14

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I want to agree entirely with the Member from Kassanda District. By the time the Government increased this grant to Shs 1 billion for districts, cities and municipalities that are making good utilisation of the money, you can see great improvement in the road network in terms of motorability. I would plead with you to give the Ministry of Works and Transport an opportunity to come and interface with Parliament regarding the justification for issuing new circulars without even informing this House. We debated this matter in a very protracted manner, guided the process, and we came up with the guidelines. The guidelines we agreed on the Floor of Parliament were communicated at that time. The district roads committee of the respective districts, where we sit, had the power to agree on how much could be covered in a kilometre. Madam Speaker, this money must really be put to good use.

Let the Ministry of Works and Transport be given time; this is my prayer – also, in addition to his prayer – to come and explain to Parliament, but we want to know the justification or the rationale of Shs 8 million and Shs 20 million. In Alebtong, we were

doing a kilometre for motorability at Shs 3.5 million, and we cover about 210 kilometres in one financial year. I am also reading from the book of Lamentations, but let the ministry responsible for the Shs 1 billion come and explain to us why they changed the guidelines without informing the House.

THE SPEAKER: Can we first suspend the new guidelines and go by the old guidelines as they come?

MR OBUA: Madam Speaker, on the suspension of the new guidelines, I undertake to write, with immediate effect, to the Minister of Works and Transport to ensure that they halt the implementation of the letter quoted by the honourable Member.

THE SPEAKER: Those in favour of the suspension of the new guidelines say “Aye” and to the contrary, “Nay”.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you are all coming from constituencies, and the voters there expect you to speak for them. When the roads are bad, they say, “This Member of Parliament is not working,” and when you do not bring it out in the House, like what Hon. Oshabe has done - originally, we agreed as a House that we should have guidelines that help to have a bigger mileage to be worked on. How can you predetermine how much mileage should cost? That is just “*cham-cham*”.

Yes, Hon. Aloba? When I pick you, then that means you brought your matter to me earlier.

2.18

MS JOAN ALOBO (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance: the incident that occurred on the 29th of March at Uganda Technical College (UTC), Lira grounds, where Teso and Lango provinces were playing under the FUFA Drum League. Unfortunately, calamity befell our supporters, where several were injured. Many supporters were on the roofs and in the trees to watch the game.

Unfortunately, a building at UTC collapsed, injuring several people. Notably, three, all from Teso - Elotu John, Emitu Michael, and Ayaka Elijah - were critically injured. Elotu John sustained several injuries to the brain, and the skull was fractured, but this surgery was made possible yesterday at 4.00 p.m. at Lacor Hospital.

I have some prayers, Madam Speaker: I request that the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) team take responsibility for providing adequate support to the injured supporters from the Teso and Lango subregions. I also pray that the Ministry of Education and Sports, together with the Central Government, urgently remove all asbestos from all public institutions in the country.

The negligence in allowing asbestos to remain in public institutions especially that particular one, is the reason the football supporters from Teso and Lango experienced that incident. The Ministry of Health also urgently needs to address staffing gaps affecting critical personnel, especially those managing Intensive Care Units (ICUs). We faced a problem at Lira Regional Referral Hospital, where there was no critical care staff member in the ICU to manage Elotu immediately, as she was on maternity leave. The surgery did not take place until the director arranged for the patient to be referred to Lacor Hospital, where it took place yesterday.

I deeply appreciate the Lira Regional Referral Hospital team, led by Dr Odur, the director, for their commendable efforts in securing an ICU bed and the necessary facilities at Lacor Hospital, and in ensuring the safe transfer of our patient.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ALOBO: It is also worth noting that the Lira Regional Referral Hospital would have managed this operation, but the delay was due to insufficient staff, which could have even saved this young man’s life.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Your additional prayer would be to urge the supporters, next time, that buildings are not stadium seats for them to sit in. You are watching football, but how do you climb on top of the roof and sit there, for heaven's sake? Let us be responsible. Our sympathies go to the injured persons, but let us be responsible as well.

Hon. Obua, the Government Chief Whip?

2.22

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, this was an Ateker competition, much as it is under FUFA - Lango and Teso. You know that North and North-Eastern is where great footballers of the country normally come from. There is normally a lot of excitement, but I want to agree with you, Madam Speaker, that we need to start speaking to our fans. Normally, I see a lot of excitement. I saw when Lango went to Teso, when Teso was coming, they wanted a big bang.

THE SPEAKER: I actually saw Hon. Aloba on a motorbike. You go ahead. *(Laughter)*

MR OBUA: Madam Speaker, we need to talk to our fans to act reasonably, because the moment you climb onto a building to watch a game, you may not anticipate the disaster that could befall you. I sympathise with those who got injured. Our first prayer is to the Federation of Uganda Football Associations. Good enough, the president is a Member of Parliament. I undertake to move out with Hon. Aloba and speak to the president of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations regarding your prayer number one: taking care of the injured by the federation.

On prayer number two, removal of asbestos on the Government side, it is also a work in progress. Most of the schools we went to had asbestos. Some of you who have gone back to your former schools can see that, in a phased manner, the Government is getting rid of asbestos; it is a work in progress. That particular building is not even being used by students at Uganda Technical College, but

because it is near the football pitch, many of our fans, even those who travelled from Teso, you can imagine, had to climb on top to watch that game.

It is a work in progress; we shall conclude that as the Government, in a phased manner. May I now request you, honourable member, to step out so we can talk to the president of FUFA, or the Speaker can also help? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Also, please advise them that next time, when the Akii-Bua Stadium is complete, they will not use the roofs of buildings to watch football. Yes, the procedure?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The matter I want to raise is highly tethered to this House, and that is why I seek your indulgence so that we get some procedural guidance from you, but also from the Government. Uganda, alongside Kenya, is preparing to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). Preparations have been in high gear for quite some time. Parliament – Sorry, it is Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Parliament has been appropriating money. This financial year, the next financial year, we have seen proposals. Why? Because this event presents significant opportunities for regional integration, tourism growth, and economic boost, infrastructure development, etcetera.

That is why Parliament has been appropriating money.

As we speak, there has been a lot of talk in the public domain, and I am sure you have encountered that, especially after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) report. We have not met the CAF requirements, including the Category 4 requirements, which are pivotal, after inspection.

Hoima City Stadium – Government expenditure is so far estimated at nearly Shs 500 billion – that Government has injected into this project so far. This stadium was completed and officially commissioned in December of 2025,

but technical assessments reveal that it does not yet meet CAF operational standards. The Government completed and commissioned the stadium.

Namboole Stadium, to which the Government has committed approximately Shs 346 billion to its renovation. Again, this stadium continues to exhibit major compliance gaps relative to CAF Category 4 standards.

Akii-Bua Stadium, which you have just talked about, Madam Speaker. The estimated project cost is Shs 470 billion, but we understand that construction progress is currently at about 30 per cent. It is also one of those being looked at for AFCON, which is next year, and is around the corner.

Training facilities at Makerere University, Kyambogo University, and Wankulukuku Stadium remain below the required standards for operational competition and international competitions.

CAF is concerned about unrealistic construction timelines, the slow pace of developing these facilities, roads, and five-star hotels that are nonexistent. The tournament is next year.

When you compare Uganda to Kenya and Tanzania, the difference is that Uganda relies heavily on new construction projects. Kenya and Tanzania are mostly focused on upgrading existing facilities. They are also behind schedule on a couple of things. However, delays elsewhere should not justify delays here. I ask: Are we going to be ready for AFCON 2027? We have injected money heavily; we are still investing heavily. Many people are looking forward to it, but then there are these operational concerns. Are we going to be ready because it is just next year?

Madam Speaker, I am also concerned about the template – if any – that the Government used because you completed Hoima City Stadium last year, commissioned it but they are now telling us it is falling far below the standards. What template was used? I thought we should aim first and then shoot. We seem to be shooting first and then aiming later.

There should have been a template from CAF for all these standards we were following. However, we finished construction, and they are telling us that you have to demolish much of what has been constructed.

Madam Speaker, it is important that this Parliament receive an update, as the money is appropriated here. The public should also get to know that the billions of shillings of their taxpayer money that have been injected into this project are not being wasted.

Football is loved by many Ugandans, so they are very concerned about whether we shall hear a message that; “You people are not ready; we are moving it elsewhere,” after causing so much excitement.

I seek your indulgence to proceed with your guidance on this issue, as we have discussed it here and money has been passed here, but we are in the dark. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I am happy that the Prime Minister is in the House.

2.31

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my brother for raising such a pertinent issue.

The fact is that we are going to be more than ready because –(Interjection)- Yes, those remaining gaps will be bridged between now and when AFCON will take place next year. We are ready and moving on very well.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is trying to comfort us by giving a generic response and saying, “We shall be ready.” That is too generic. What you are saying is not in concomitance with the CAF report. It is raising several critical concerns. It would be good to get a proper update.

When you say we shall be ready –

THE SPEAKER: Where is the CAF report?

MR SSENKYONYI: She has a copy of it. I am sure, as Prime Minister, you have looked at that report. I would be very disappointed if the Prime Minister has not read the report, but I am sure she has read that report.

For example, we are told that Akii-Bua Stadium is 30 per cent complete, yet we are banking on it as well as one of the AFCON facilities. I do not think it is enough to tell us that we will be ready. We are just a few months away. We need a proper update on the Mandela National Stadium and Hoima City Stadium, which were completed and commissioned last year, but they are telling us they are falling short of standard.

Madam Speaker, I am not satisfied with the response of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, wouldn't it be right for us to discuss this when we have a report because we are now debating in anticipation? We are speculating because we do not have a report. Have you looked at the report?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, the Cabinet discussed the report, and we have put in place all the necessary requirements for Uganda to host CAF next year. What we can do –

THE SPEAKER: It is not CAF; AFCON. We finished with CAF.

MS NABBANJA: Yes. I am saying that let us have a detailed report to allay my brother's fears.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, our next sitting will be on the 15th; so, we should have that report on the Floor that day. Hon. Muhammad?

2.34

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two issues. One is that the Constitutional

Court recently made a ruling about the Computer Misuse Act that we did not have an adequate quorum – *(Interjection)*- Hon. Linos – adequate quorum for the Bill to be sustained as constitutional.

I would like to hear a response from the Attorney-General in regard to it – *(Interjection)* – Yes, I know it is a judgment. I would like to hear from the Attorney-General regarding the steps he will take on the Bill and his response to the decision of the Court of Appeal.

Secondly, in the same line with technology, on 10 December 2025, the Ugandan Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Government, under the America First Strategy, with a brand-new policy of having us get a share of American funds. However, in return, Uganda would also share the medical data of all Ugandans, including mine and yours, with the Americans.

As we push to have sovereignty and talk about the Sovereignty Bill —

THE SPEAKER: What is sovereignty?

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO: Sovereignty is that all power belongs to the people of Uganda and they shall exercise it in accordance with the Constitution, and that –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nsereko, we are not aware of the Sovereignty Bill. It has not yet come here.

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO: Okay, let me go to the principal.

THE SPEAKER: Let us have the first question on the Bill answered.

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO: True, Madam Speaker, but this is also a concern because governments elsewhere in return, because this has been signed. It is there, and the Attorney-General will inform the nation.

Other nations in Africa have also asked the Americans whether it is possible for them to access the medical data of Americans, and they

have said, “No, you cannot access the medical data of our citizens. However, with this aid, if you want it, we can access the medical data of your citizens.”

This has elicited mixed reactions from citizens around the world and in Uganda, because sharing my data without my authorisation, even if you are the government, is in breach of the Data Protection Act. It is a mere turn back to the sovereignty we were talking about.

Ugandans, through their legislators, need to clearly understand the terms of the MOU, the terms of funding, and how the American Government will use everyone’s medical data to profit from it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General?

2.38

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Indeed, the Constitutional Court struck down sections 11, 23, 26, 28 and 29 of the Computer Misuse Act for lack of quorum. The rest of the Computer Misuse Act, Cap. 96, remains good law and enforceable.

The purpose of the amendment was to clarify and strengthen certain provisions of the law. In fact, in some instances, the provisions of the law existed, but they had weaker penalties. That is being done.

We have advised our prosecutorial agencies to cease using those provisions of the law but to continue using the rest of the law as is. There are sufficient grounds and sufficient law to regulate the use of such material.

The Government is processing the amendment to the Computer Misuse Act in the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and we are going to bring it back to the House for proper enactment. That is ongoing work.

I can only call upon the general public not to misuse these facilities because there is still sufficient law. Even now, it may not be

as punitive as what we had in the Computer Misuse Act, but there is a punishment for those that will be committed. Therefore, Madam Speaker, we are processing that, and we shall bring it back to the House for enactment at the appropriate time.

On the issue of medical data and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) they discussed, yes, the Government of Uganda entered into an agreement with the Government of the USA on the sharing of data, both ways and in material form. That agreement is available, and I am sure the necessary committee can request the Ministry of Health to make it available for them to look at. What I can assure Members here is that no one’s data can be used or shared, which is not in consonance with the laws of Uganda.

Indeed, the Data Protection Act is still in place, and in fact, when the committee looks at that contract – I also see people debating these things without getting an opportunity to read them. So, I encourage the committee to look at them.

We did make it very clear that if you want to use the data of Ugandans, it must be used in accordance with the law, but the committee can look at it. Yes, there is a contract, and I cleared it; I looked at it, and I am absolutely certain that it is in accordance with the laws of Uganda. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Namungoona Parents Secondary School. They are represented by Hon. Kawalya Abubaker of Rubaga North constituency, and Hon. Shamimof Kampala. They are here to witness the proceedings. *(Applause)*

Also, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a group of leaders from the Uganda Sugarcane Growers Alliance. Where are you? Please join me in welcoming them. They are here to witness the proceedings. They are 36 in number. *(Applause)*

Honourable Member of Buhweju?

2.41

MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I raise a matter of national importance and concerns about the plight of smallholder tea farmers in the Greater Bushenyi.

Igara Growers Tea Factory was opened in 1969, and then Buhweju Tea Factory was also opened in 2010. Both tea factories are owned by smallholder tea farmers from the districts of Buhweju, Sheema, Mitooma, Rubirizi, and Bushenyi. The farmers hold about one million shares worth Shs 5 billion as *bona fide* shareholders.

Both factories employ more than 1,300 staff – skilled and semi-skilled – and thousands of others on farmers’ estates who are paid on a monthly and contract basis. They have been commanding a turnover of about Shs 60 billion per annum. In recent years, we have – and I in particular – been informing this august House about the huge challenges in the tea industry in Uganda.

Finally, the Igara and Buhweju tea factories ceased operations in early March this year. This spells economic doom for the stakeholders mentioned above and the country economically.

My prayers are:

1. I ask the Government to urgently intervene and rescue the tea farmers.
2. The Government should expedite the much-craved-for tea policy so that it can ameliorate some of the challenges causing hardships in the sector.
3. Thorough investigations into the mismanagement aspects should be carried out to find out the causes that led to the closure of our tea factories to our detriment.

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I am happy that you have it in writing. Why don’t you pass it on to the Prime Minister, since it is written, so

that she can effectively respond to it? Prime Minister, do you have –?

MR BIRAARO: Madam Speaker, I take the opportunity, as requested and accepted, to lay this copy of my petition and concerns on the Table for the benefit of the Government to follow up.

THE SPEAKER: Please hand it over to the Prime Minister. Let it be on record that it is not a petition; it is a matter of national importance written to the Prime Minister, and she is going to respond. Hon. Goli?

2.44

MR GOLI OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance, mainly because Lake Victoria has double openings, which have led to flooding of Lake Kyoga and on its way to Egypt. More importantly, it has caused water to move in a different direction. Water used to come into Lake Kyoga from the north. We have a bridge called Olweny, but because of this flooding, this bridge is threatened and could easily overflow. We may have problems as we have had on River Katonga. I request the Government to look at the issue of that bridge threatening to overflow because it may cause us challenges.

Secondly, in October, we passed a supplementary budget, and it included the provision of seven million hoes. The season started a long time ago, and we need those hoes. Could the Government advise us on what is happening to those hoes we passed?

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

2.46

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Ministry of Works and Transport will go to the river and find out what we can do now that the flooding continues, and then we shall report accordingly.

Then, for the hoes, I request that you allow me time to consult; I will come back and report.

THE SPEAKER: Next item -

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER
OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
COOPERATIVES ON CONCERNS BY
SUGARCANE GROWERS REGARDING
THE MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE FOR
THE REMOVAL OF ALL SUGARCANE
WEIGHBRIDGES ALONG ROADS IN
FAVOUR OF ONLY WEIGHBRIDGES AT
SUGARCANE FACTORY PREMISES

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you recall that during the parliamentary sitting held on the 26 March 2026, the issue of the sugarcane weighbridges was raised. I directed the ministry concerned to consult with the stakeholders on this matter, and the minister is ready to report.

2.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Madam Speaker, as you recall, during the parliamentary sitting held on 26 March 2026, the issue of sugarcane weighbridges was raised. You directed that we consult further with sugarcane stakeholders, farmers and millers to resolve the pending issues related to weighbridges. Before I present the report, allow me to brief the House on the current status of the sugar industry.

A contribution of the sugar industry in Uganda

The sugar industry is one of Uganda's key agro-industrial sectors today, contributing significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment, and exports.

- i) Size and output: Uganda currently produces about 650,000 to 700,000 metric tonnes of sugar per year, with roughly 450,000 tonnes consumed domestically and 200,000 to 250,000 tonnes exported, making Uganda a net exporter of sugar in the East African Community.
- ii) Fourteen sugar factories are operational, crushing around eight million tonnes of sugarcane annually, most of which is sourced from outgrowers.

- iii) The sugar industry contributes 5 per cent of Uganda's GDP and Shs 500 billion to our tax revenue on an annual basis.
- iv) Employment and livelihood: The sugar industry directly employs 50,000 people in factories alone, and provides indirect livelihood to several hundreds and thousands more, including outgrowers, transporters, traders and service providers.

Categories of sugarcane farmers in Uganda's sugar industry

In Uganda's sugar sector, farmers supplying sugarcane to millers are broadly categorised as follows;

- i) Aided or contracted outgrowers

These farmers enter into formal or informal agreements with sugar millers under which they receive inputs such as seed cane, fertilisers, and sometimes credit or technical advice. In return, they are expected to supply cane to the contracting millers.

- ii) Unaided (independent) outgrowers

These farmers grow sugarcane with their own resources and are not bound by strong input-support contracts. They can choose which mill to supply, based on the prevailing price and transport conditions, giving them greater market flexibility but often less access to credit and technical support.

- iii) Nucleus-estate farms

These are sugarcane farm plantations owned by millers, as required by the Sugar Act.

Madam Speaker, let me now turn to the main subject, which is the weighbridges.

Consultations on weighbridges

In Uganda's sugar sector, weighbridges are critical for determining sugarcane volumes, settling payments and preventing theft, but they remain few in number and unevenly distributed. Most are located in key cane-growing districts

such as Masindi and Hoima and fall into two main categories: sugar company-owned facilities at mills – they have weighbridges at their factories or approved allocation points – and cooperatives-owned stations operated by farmers' unions.

Madam Speaker, the ministry invited stakeholders in the sugar industry, as directed, and held a meeting on Tuesday, 31 March 2026, at Imperial Royale Hotel. The meeting was open to the media.

The meeting was chaired by me and attended by;

- iv) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- v) Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
- vi) Sugar farmers' cooperative societies from Busoga, Bunyoro, Toro and Buganda
- vii) Millers from Buganda, Busoga, Toro and Bunyoro
- viii) District local governments – we invited District Agricultural Officers and District Commercial Officers
- ix) Uganda Revenue Authority
- x) Uganda National Bureau of Standards
- xi) Uganda Police Force
- xii) The Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) – which fall under the Office of the President
- xiii) The media – as I had indicated.

The following were the findings from the consultative meeting that we held:

1. We discovered that Section 26 of the Sugar Act, 2026 provides for the weighing of sugarcane, ensuring accuracy in measurement, transparency in participation, and regulatory oversight. So, there is a regulation that provides for this establishment.
2. The meeting also noted a gap in the regulations regarding the weighbridge operations. Two points to note – which are not here – are that the weighbridges are also used to measure some other items, not sugarcane alone. For example, some use them to measure seed cane. Some use them to measure maize, while some use them to measure fertilisers and timber – in addition to the sugarcane. This is to avoid cheating by transporters or the case where there can be offloading while transporting.
3. The meeting further observed that the weighbridges are critical instruments of measurement as they enable farmers to ascertain the weight of their sugarcane prior to sale, thereby promoting fairness and transparency.
4. The meeting noted that most of the weighbridges are owned by millers. They establish or install weighbridges to weigh sugarcane from their sugarcane plantations established far away from their mills, and also to buy cane from farmers after ascertaining the accurate weight to facilitate business transactions. This means that when we license these people and compel them to have a nucleus plantation of 12,000 acres, not all the acres are in one place. In some cases, the acres are far away. Therefore, what the sugar millers do is to put weighbridges at those farms where they plant from.
5. It was noted that the weighbridges were not regularly calibrated and may cause cheating of the farmers.
6. The meeting was informed that these weighbridges provide employment and business opportunities for the local people around where they are established.
7. The meeting also noted that there had been several engagements regarding the

issues of weighbridges, and the meeting reported that the consultation had gone to the level of His Excellency the President, who had guided that the weighbridges should continue operating as instruments for weighing sugarcane.

We concluded the meeting and, by consensus, agreed on the following;

- i) Uganda National Bureau of Standards should ensure that the weighbridges operating within sugarcane-growing areas are regularly calibrated and inspected.
- ii) The ministry should strengthen the current Sugar Regulation, 2025 to streamline the licensing process of weighbridges. For any gaps within the regulations, as the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperative, we should look at them and strengthen them.
- iii) It was agreed that since weighbridges are measuring instruments used in the industry to ascertain the actual weight of cane to be sold to the millers, only existing weighbridges should be allowed to continue operating.

Madam Speaker, to fast-track the implementation of the above recommendations, this morning, the ministry wrote to the Attorney-General – he might not have received it yet – to help us look at drafting the necessary instrument to effect resolution number two, which is to strengthen the regulations.

Madam Speaker, this is what we came up with, from the consultation that we had yesterday about the sugar millers – by consensus.

Thank you so much. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister.

MR BAHATI: I beg to lay the list of the people who attended the meeting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Leader of Government Business, do you have anything to say?

3.02

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, the issue of weighbridges along the roads started in 2023, and we have made many consultations. The fact is that some weighbridges have been a problem, but others have not. They have been aiding sugarcane growers to know the exact weight before they sell the sugarcane to factories. However, there are those that have been a problem and have been reported to police constantly.

Therefore, as the Leader of Government Business, I have had back and forth engagements to have this solved. Now that Parliament has come in, and since the Attorney-General is going to come up with regulations, we shall consult further to have this settled once and for all.

THE SPEAKER: Since the minister has said that most of these weighbridges have not been regulated, what we need is proper regulation for them. Since we know the benefits of the weighbridges, then we should have them regulated.

You have talked about the resolutions that the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) should ensure – honourable minister, you have powers under Article 113 to direct UNBS.

MR BAHATI: Thank you for that correction. We have directed them to do regular calibration and inspection of these weighbridges and report to the minister on a monthly basis.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

3.03

DR BAYIGGA LULUME (DP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also thank the honourable minister for presenting a self-explanatory statement. I just want to know whether there are immediate measures in your resolutions as we wait for the minister to come out with the regulations.

Madam Speaker, the production and sale of sugarcane, and the cheating have continued as people transact business. It has been a public outcry for a long time and, therefore, it requires stern measures from the Government. What did you prepare, as an immediate solution, before Uganda National Bureau of Standards comes in, and as we prepare the rest to come in?

THE SPEAKER: Immediate, medium, and long-term – do the resolutions that you have made take immediate effect? Yes, Hon. Jona?

3.04

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was here when the honourable member raised that matter. This statement by the minister does not seem to have answered the concerns of the honourable member because at that time, the farmers were concerned that the weighbridges, which were at their farms, had been removed and taken to the factories.

The farmers had trust that if the sugarcanes were weighed on the farm, they would be able to verify. Now, the millers and buyers have taken the weighbridges to their factories. So, you load your truck, and then the sugarcane is sent yet inside the factory, the farmer does not have access to verify how much has been weighed.

Madam Speaker, they were requesting that the practice of weighing at the plantations be upheld as opposed to loading from wherever the farmers have grown the canes and taking to – that is the concern that was raised and I have not seen it come –

THE SPEAKER: The good thing is that the mover of the question was also part of the meeting. So, his issues were resolved in the meeting. Hon. Pius?

3.05

MR PIUS WAKABI (NRM, Bugahya County, Hoima): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I also have something related to sugarcane growing. I am a farmer and I grow sugarcane in Masindi.

I just want to remind the Government that last year, the President pledged to support sugarcane farmers in the form of a Shs 45 billion grant. However, up to now, nothing has been fulfilled.

Therefore, I am just reminding the Leader of Government Business that farmers are still waiting – otherwise, like the minister said, sugarcane is contributing almost 5 per cent of the GDP. So, the farmers play a big role. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, do your resolutions take effect from when they were passed?

MR BAHATI: To answer the matter of the pledge, we shall follow up on the President's pledge of Shs 45 billion.

On the issue of the request by the farmers that was particular to the weighbridges in Masindi, two of them were removed. In the meeting, through consensus, we said that they should be reinstated so that the farmers do not suffer.

Madam Speaker, as the Prime Minister said, apart from strengthening the regulations by the Attorney-General, the others should go on because the inspection and calibration take immediate effect. We are sending the team from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards after the Easter holidays, to go and ensure that all the operational weighbridges are calibrated and inspected, while the only existing ones can continue to operate to help the farmers as we work on the –(Interjections) - Madam Speaker, the issue is calibration and inspection. So, we are sending a team from UNBS to calibrate all the weighbridges. We shall have a report by the end of next week because they are 44 in number.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 152(1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, Section 7 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 134(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development must lay, on the Table, the tax Bills with the attendant documents and the Budget, by the 1st day of April, which is today.

Hon. Bahati, I know you have another document, but I am only being mindful, first, of the statutory deadline. We can discuss other things after the statutory documents.

Honourable members, I now want to invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to table the tax and revenue Bills and thereafter refer them to the relevant committees. Yes, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

3.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move a motion that the Bill entitled “The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026”, be read for the first time. I beg to move. The Bill is accompanied by the Certificate of Financial Implications.

Madam Speaker, with your guidance, I beg to move a motion that the following tax Bills be read for the first time:

- i) The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026;
- ii) The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026;
- iii) The Tax Procedures Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026;

- iv) The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026;
- v) The Lotteries and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 2026;
- vi) The External Trade (Amendment) Bill, 2026;
- vii) The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and
- viii) The Traffic and Road Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Madam Speaker, all the Bills I have mentioned are accompanied by Certificates of Financial Implications. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 135(1) of the Rules of Procedure, all the tax and revenue Bills that have been tabled by the honourable minister are referred to the sectoral Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for consideration and report back to the House on 21 April 2026.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 156(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 12(11) (a) of the Public Finance Management Act, and Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the honourable minister to lay on the Table the Appropriation Bill, 2026.

3.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move the motion that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read for the first time.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration and reporting back on 21 April 2026.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 155 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, 1995, AND SECTIONS 12 (3), (9), (10) AND (11) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2015 AND RULE 155 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 155(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Sections 12 (3), (9), (10), and (11) of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 155 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to table the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 with its attendant documents as stipulated in Section 12(10) and (11) of the Public Finance Management Act.

3.14

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the draft estimates of revenue and expenditure, both recurrent and development, for the Financial Year 2026/2027, Volume One, Central Government Votes. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the draft estimates of revenue and expenditure for both recurrent and development for the Financial Year 2026/2027, Volume Two, Local Government Votes. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the draft estimates of revenue and expenditure for both recurrent and development, for the Financial Year 2026/2027, Volume Three, State-Owned Enterprises and Public Corporations. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, pursuant to the laws you have just mentioned – (*Interjections*) - The Attorney-General says there is no harm if I repeat.

Madam Speaker, for emphasis, pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 12(3) of the Public Finance Management Act Cap. 171 and Rule 155 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the draft estimates are accompanied by the following documents – the first is the Appropriation Bill, which I have just laid.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: The second is the draft budget for the self-accounting departments, commissions and organisations set up under the Constitution and the opinion of the Government on these budgets, which I wish to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for the statutory Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for Vote 104: Parliamentary Commission, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for the statutory Vote 105: Uganda Law Reform Commission, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for the statutory Vote 106:

Uganda Human Rights Commission, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for Vote 108: National Planning Authority for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for statutory Vote 103: Inspectorate of Government, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for statutory Vote 101: Judiciary, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the budget estimates for Vote 102: Electoral Commission, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the estimates are also accompanied by the statement of multi-year commitments of the Government for the Financial Year 2026/2027, and a report of performance of projects for the Financial Year 2025/2026, which I also wish to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: I lay the report of the multi-year commitments statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027, and the performance of multi-year commitments for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the estimates are also accompanied by a statement attesting to the reliability and completeness

of the budget estimates of revenue and expenditure, for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I also beg to lay the Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance for the draft annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Certificate of Compliance of the annual budget issued by the National Planning Authority.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the Certificate of Climate Change Responsiveness of the National Budget Framework Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Certificate of Financial Implications for the draft annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table the list of accounting officers for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The list of accounting officers is referred to the joint committee of Public Accounts Committee (Central Government) and the Committee on Statutory Authorities, State Enterprises, and State-Owned Enterprises, for scrutiny and report to the House.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I now wish to lay the half-year semi-annual budget performance report for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: These are pages 1 to 2,279.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: I wish to lay the semi-annual performance budget report for the Financial Year 2025/26, from pages 2,280 to 4,560.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I now lay the semi-annual budget performance report for the Financial Year 2025/2026, from pages 4,561 to 6,840.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MUSASIZI: This is the continuation of the semi-annual report budget performance for the Financial Year 2025/26, pages 6,841 to 9,122. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MUSASIZI: I beg to lay on the Table the semi-annual budget performance report for the Financial Year 2025/2026, from pages 9,123 to 11,400.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the semi-annual budget performance report, Financial Year 2025/2026, from pages 11,401 to 13,687.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the draft estimates are also accompanied by a report on the medium-term debt management strategy, highlighting the following:

- a) Plan for domestic financing of the annual budget;
- b) Plan for external financing, borrowing and grants;
- c) Government plan for debt and any other financial liabilities for the Financial Year 2026/2027; and

- d) Statement of risk associated with all the loans for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I beg to lay the report titled, "Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy for the Financial Year 2026/2027 to Financial Year 2029/2030." I beg to lay on the Table.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the draft estimates are also accompanied by the Report on Public Debt, Grants, Guarantees and Other Financial Liabilities as at the end of December 2025, highlighting both external and domestic debt. I beg to lay.

I have also accompanied the estimates with Treasury Memoranda. This defines measures taken to implement the recommendations of Parliament in respect of the Auditor-General's report for the preceding year, for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

This is the Treasury Memorandum on the report of the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) on the Auditor-General's report, for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024. It has Central Government votes, local government votes, and those of the state-owned enterprises. I beg to lay.

I also beg to lay on the Table:

1. A Report on the Recoveries of Money on the recommendations of the Auditor-General;
2. The Consolidated Disposal Plan by the Government for the year ended 30 June 2025. This covers Central Government, local government and missions abroad;
3. The Annual Report on Inflows, Outflows and Assets of the Petroleum Fund for the period ended 30 June 2025. For the tax Bills, I have already laid;
4. The Tax Expenditure Report for the period July 2025 to March 2026, for the Financial Year 2025/2026; and
5. The Macroeconomic Developments and Fiscal Prospects for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, I beg your indulgence, in three minutes, to summarise what I have laid.

The Budget that I have just laid has been prepared under the theme, “Full Monetisation of Uganda’s Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access.”

The projected total draft annual Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 84,294,163,572,986 only.

The Budget has been prepared in line with the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), the 10-fold growth strategy, and it will be the first budget to implement the next National Resistance Movement (NRM) Manifesto for the period 2026/2027 to 2030/2031.

The budget has, accordingly, prioritised investment in agro-industrialisation, tourism development, mineral-based industrial development, and science, technology, and innovations, including Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the creative arts industry and the enablers (ATMS).

Madam Speaker, under the ATMS, we have categorised the following in summary:

Under agro-industrialisation, our focus is on agricultural research, inputs, irrigation, extension, value addition, post-harvest management, storage and enforcing quality standards for market access.

On tourism development, we are aiming at promoting Uganda through branding, infrastructure upgrades, sanitation facilities, hospitality standards enforcement and investment in specialised facilities, including health tourism.

On mineral-based development, our priorities are quantification, strengthening the Uganda National Mining Company, transparent markets, and projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

On science, technology and innovations (STI), we propose to increase financing to support the commercialisation of STI products like the Kiira Motors Corporation, Dei BioPharma Ltd, coffee and banana; establishing a high-tech city, increasing research and development, affordable and reliable internet, digital government services and e-commerce, the promotion of business processing outsourcing, enforcing of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act to protect intellectual property and artistic works.

Madam Speaker, the enablers of these ATMS include:

- i) Peace, security, and rule of law;
- ii) Transport infrastructure, including roads, rail, air, and water transport;
- iii) Electricity;
- iv) Industrial-park development; and
- v) Human capital development – here we talk about education, health, water irrigation, environment, and wealth creation funds; that is, Parish Development Model, Uganda Development Bank (UDB), Uganda Development Corporation (UDC), and *Emyooga*.

The key expenditure drivers for the Financial Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget include increased investment in key NDP IV flagship projects such as the standard gauge railway, the meter gauge railway, the Kampala-Jinja Expressway, the construction and maintenance of critical roads, and electricity for industrial parks, among others.

The budget has also provided resources to support readiness activities for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 and enhancement of salaries for primary school teachers and Arts teachers in secondary schools and Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) institutions.

Madam Speaker, we have also proposed the tax policy measures amounting to Shs 1,741 billion to finance the budget.

Madam Speaker, I will expound more on the specific critical interventions and investment areas in the budget speech for Financial Year 2026/2027 that will be read on Thursday, 11 June 2026.

Madam Speaker, thank you for your patience. I beg to submit the budget for your consideration. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable minister. Yes, before you comment, I am referring all the Bills, with the attendant documents to the Committee on Budget for consideration.

3.39

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for beating the deadline, which falls today. You are always walking a very tight rope and keeping everybody on the edge with these deadlines.

Madam Speaker, here is a quick concern: You see, the Budget Framework Paper, which we received here not very long ago, indicates total expenditure estimates of Shs 78.2 trillion with tax projections of Shs 41.5 trillion.

The minister has now given us new figures a short while down the road. Total expenditure estimates being Shs 84.2 trillion, the tax projections being Shs 44.5 trillion.

I know that there can be alterations with budgeting and so on, but when we do this too much, we keep wondering what happened between a short while ago and now that you are moving up to Shs 6 trillion upwards. What happened?

My view points to fiscal indiscipline. That was why we needed to plan properly and be sure of what it is that we are doing. Every year, and I am hoping – I do not know who will be, anyway- we will get there.

Every year, we keep having supplementary – you know, there is always of course a corrigendum even before we go very far. Then before you know it, supplementary; we need

to plan properly so that we know how much we need for the entire fiscal year. Where are we going to find this money from? Whenever we keep moving these pieces, sometimes supplementary budgets are about salaries.

The Public Finance Management Act provides that supplementary budgets are supposed to be for unforeseeable. Salaries should be foreseeable; plan for these things.

I am raising this comment because I am seeing it now. The Budget Framework Paper talked about a different figure, Shs 78.2 trillion; now quickly, you have told us of Shs 84.2 trillion. I do not know what will happen along the way when you begin to come here for supplementaries over foreseeable salaries. For me, it is unacceptable that you do not plan for your staff, because you have them already within your system. That cannot be part of the unforeseeable. We need to plan better. That is my general clarion call because I am seeing it now.

When you begin to move these pieces now and shift the figures, I am worried that along the way, we might have a similar problem. I hope we shall not.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Leader of the Opposition (LOP). When we pass the Budget Framework Paper, there are some items that committees recommend moving from unfunded to funded. That increases the value, and that is why you find that we have the second budget call circular. Anyway, you can hear from the – that is that. I used to be on that committee. My former chairman- *(Hon. Ssemujju rose)* – Yes, shadow minister?

3.42

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, and congratulate Hon. Musasizi, for meeting the minimum legal requirement of presenting this document. I have two concerns.

The first concern: All these documents bear the signature of Hon. Matia Kasaija, who was a

minister in 1980. That was the first time he got appointed. I think he will be 83 years old this year. Is it because of age that he must load this responsibility to Hon. Musasizi?

I sit on the Committee on Finance; we have been meeting Hon. Musasizi, and I sympathise with him. It is as if he took over the responsibility of Hon. Matia Kasaija. I only read in the papers that he briefed the National Resistance Movement (NRM) caucus. Is he avoiding Parliament deliberately? That is the first concern, that all the documents bear the signature of Hon. Matia Kasaija, but they are trafficked here by Hon. Musasizi all the time.

THE SPEAKER: They are not trafficked here. That is a wrong statement. These statements are brought in by the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

MR SSUMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I did not know that the word trafficking is negative. Okay, they were brought here, Madam Speaker. That is the first concern.

Usually, all the ministers of 80 years and above are no longer here. I do not want to go through their names. Did they take a decision in Cabinet that old people will no longer come to Parliament yet they remain ministers?

The final concern, Madam Speaker, I think when the Attorney-General and the Government are considering the constitutional reviews, it would be fair in the future to allow a new government to do the budget. The transition between one government to another – because Hon. Musasizi comfortably says, “This is to implement the NRM manifesto”. Certainly, there will be a day when the manifesto to be implemented will not be for NRM. I think in the future, we need to make a constitutional arrangement such that the budget for a year starting a term of office is done by those who are in office because those of us who are now handling the budget are exiting, yet people who will implement it are going to be sworn-in maybe in a month’s time. I am only asking the Attorney-General and the Government to consider that in future – because there will

certainly be a transition to another government – So, you come here and you have Musasizi’s Parish Development Model (PDM), which we may want to change but they have passed them in Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju. Maybe, LOP, the budgeting process is a consultative one – when we were consulting, we kept going back and forth. It was not cast in stone. That is why you find the figures keep on changing. Maybe on the other issue of the “honourable young Member of Parliament”, you know the other ministers are old, so for him, he is a young Member of Parliament – I want to refer you to Article 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, on the responsibility of a minister – collective responsibility - (*Hon. Ssenyonyi rose*) – Yes? But I was still responding to what was asked.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, I am not objectionable to alterations and I mentioned that in my remark.

THE SPEAKER: You gave advice.

MR SSENYONYI: Somebody disrupted the Speaker at that point. I did make that acknowledgement. Alterations can happen. You plan for A, by the end of the day, you are not able to meet it or maybe you have acquired some more money so you want to do it better. That can happen. I said, we generally shift these financial goalposts a lot. I dwell a great deal on supplementary. I hope that, honourable minister, in that Shs 84.2 trillion worth of budget, there will not be the kind of supplementaries we see here all the time that are not unforeseeable because the Act talks about unforeseeable. People normally bring supplementary budgets here, including for salaries. That is fiscal indiscipline. Plan for your staff and let the unforeseeable be; a disaster has happened in Bududa, in Kasese, in wherever –

THE SPEAKER: Or even in Nakawa.

MR SSENYONYI: Owino, Kiteezi, which is part of Kampala. Yes, there was a time we had

a fire and so on. Those are unforeseeable and they are understandable.

When you come here and you say that “Floods happened; we want to compensate people,” or “We want to take care of this,” that is understandable. However, please do not come here for salaries. No, that is not acceptable. What you are telling your staff is that you do not consider them serious at all, that is why you do not plan for them. I hope you have planned for them.

(II) REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO WRITE OFF NON-TAX REVENUE OWED BY KILEMBE MINES LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 33(1) of the Finance Management Act, 2015, permits the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to write off a loss or a deficiency in public resources, subject to the approval of Parliament. I now want to invite the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to table a request for a write-off of the non-tax revenue owed by Kilembe Mines Limited.

3.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay, on the Table a request to write off non-tax revenue owed by Kilembe Mines Limited. I beg to lay, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The request stands referred to the Committee of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for consideration.

(III) REQUEST FOR REALLOCATION OF BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 AND REVISION OF WORK PLANS FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY AND THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED BY RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE (RAPEX) REFORM

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, following the rationalisation process, the need has arisen to reallocate funds from the National Forestry Authority, which was mainstreamed into the Ministry of Water and Environment and pursuant to Section 19 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, I will invite the minister to table the request for reallocation. Honourable members, you remember NFA was rationalised into the Ministry of Water and Environment.

3.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Considering the urgency of this matter, with your guidance, can I move by way of a motion?

THE SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to authorise the reallocation of budget estimates for Financial Year 2025/2026 and revision of work plans for the National Forestry Authority and the Ministry of Water and Environment affected by the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditures (RAPEX) Reform. I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Obua, Hon. Bahati, Hon. Amos, Hon. Charity, Hon. Paul, Hon. Nekesa, Doc Professor, Hon. Kisa, Hon. Abeja, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Eric, by the whole side. Thank you. Would you want to justify your motion?

3.52

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 19 of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 56 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament – (*Interruption*) - No, it is 19. I want to refer you to Cap. 171, Section 19, which deals with reallocation of funds from a Vote. It is under this section that I am moving.

Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: If you do not have the Act, I can give it to you.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, in line with the Cabinet decision under Minute Extract 43CT/2021 on RAPEX, on 1 August 2025, His Excellency, the President, assented to the National Forestry and Tree Planting Bill, 2025, following the approval to mainstream the National Forestry Authority into the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Madam Speaker, to ensure uninterrupted service delivery, there is a need to transfer or reallocate the respective budgets of the National Forestry Authority to enable the Ministry of Water and Environment to take on the rationalised functions for the remaining three quarters of this financial year.

Madam Speaker, the approved budget for the National Forestry Authority is Shs 47.467 billion, as at the end of quarter one, an amount of Shs 11.317 billion had been released, leaving a balance of Shs 36.15 billion.

In quarter two of this financial year, Shs 12.757 billion was released, resulting into an actual balance of Shs 23.393 billion.

Madam Speaker, you will note that there is no savings on wage from the above rationalised institution in Financial Year 2025/2026 because most of the staff to be mainstreamed are scientists who are earning less than the approved science salary structure.

Madam Speaker, the anticipated saving of Shs 1.391 billion arising from boards, committees and council allowances, social security contributions, employee gratuity, medical expenses and rent, et cetera.

Taking into consideration the above savings transferred from Vote 157: Uganda Forestry Authority to Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment, the receiving entity is to guarantee seamless service delivery and a smooth transition, as I detailed in the submissions I made to you. The terminal benefits of Shs 2.246 billion for the affected staff have been provided for under the budget for the Ministry of Water and Environment for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, this is a very urgent issue, and it has a timing effect if not considered. I, therefore, appeal to colleagues to consider this motion and pass it to enable the necessary steps to settle the employees and also mainstream the functions to move forward. I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. This is a straightforward transfer arising out of rationalisation.

3.57

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the contrary, it is not straightforward because when the sectoral committee sits to process the ministerial policy statement and the budget, there is a set of accompanying documents that are examined and the minister is required to clarify them. If we proceed by the approach the minister is taking, I wonder at what point we are going to examine him and ask questions as if we are seated in a committee.

Unless the House is going to constitute itself into a committee of the whole House and then these documents can be made available to each one of us who are seated here to look at the work plan which is being reallocated, the staff that are going to be affected, the procurement plan and all that.

These documents have not been made available to us. I implore that the urgency cannot take away the right of the committee responsible for the sector to examine at the shortest possible period. It can be done. So, -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kateshumbwa?

3.58

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am in support of the motion presented by the minister. This should have come a long time ago because the question is: Did the functions move? The answer is: Yes.

The motion should have come earlier and, therefore, I do not see how the function moved under the section of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) we are talking about; the money should have gone to the entity where the functions have moved, and that should have been done earlier. We need to clean it up so that we do not enter into a financial year with another budgeting process with this backlog.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Were the documents provided during the rationalisation? Yes, Hon. Ekanya?

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, I would like to move a motion but before I do that, I seek guidance through you, from the Attorney-General. When we did the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX), we repealed most of the Acts, including the National Forestry Authority (NFA) Act, that created that Vote. Do we still have that Vote in place? Don't you think that when we repealed and merged, the Vote automatically moved to the ministry? It was automatically mainstreamed. I seek guidance before I move the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Does the Vote move or the money moves?

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, the guidance is; if the Act was repealed, it ceases to exist and everything was merged. However, I would like to benefit from the guidance and then move a motion for us to proceed.

4.00

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): The Vote is like a number plate of a car. The car can get burnt, and you remain with the number plate – the car is not there. NFA was there, and its number plate was this Vote; so, we removed the Vote.

However, the money was in Parliament's control through appropriation. So, the money and housing are there. Now, Parliament must move it from one point to another and, therefore, the Vote does not necessarily close. The only person who can close and move a Vote is Parliament through its specific resolution.

THE SPEAKER: What the minister is asking for is to move the money, not the Vote. Yes, motion?

4.01

MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo): Madam Speaker, based on that wise guidance from the Attorney-General, through you, I beg to move the motion, therefore, that the question be put. This is a very simple matter.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Mpindi, Hon. Aisha, Hon. Steven, Hon. Omara, Hon. Isaac and Hon. Noah and by the whole House.

I put the question that this House approves the minister's request to reallocate budget estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and revision of work plans for the National Forest Authority and the Ministry of Water and Environment affected by Rationalisation of the Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) Reform.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, by the resolution, the minister is authorised to effect the transfer of the money to Vote 019. Next item.

(IV) THE BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Article 231(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, requires the Inspector General of Government (IGG) to submit to Parliament at least once in every six months a report on the performance of its function, making such recommendations such as consideration of necessary actions to be approved by Parliament.

I now invite Commissioner Emeritus to lay the report on the Table for the 53rd and 54th.

4.04

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obuga): Madam Speaker, in conformity with our Rules of Procedure, I beg to lay on the Table the bi-annual performance report of the Inspectorate of Government covering the period July to December 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR OBUGA: In the same vein, I beg to lay on the Table the bi-annual performance report of the Inspectorate of Government covering the period January to June 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay. Thank you. The reports are referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration. Yes?

4.05

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank you and Parliament in regard to the matter of the IGG. However, there is something I would like to draw to your attention: There are many Government entities outside that are renting premises, costing the

taxpayers a lot of money. I commend this Parliament for having come out to say that Government entities should have their own homes and also funded the construction of the IGG building. However, last time when we were in the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, they clearly made a point that whereas we had budgeted - and this comes back to Hon. Musasizi.

Whereas we had budgeted for the construction of the premises, we did not budget for the furnishing of the building, and I remember you noted that and said, "How could it be possible that you budget for the construction of the building and not the furniture itself?" So, you find that the Government premises are complete buildings without furniture.

Madam Speaker, I call upon your indulgence in this matter that we have a holistic approach in budgeting so that we are not rubberstamped all the time. You raised it the other time and said, "You cannot come here with piecemeal budgets where you have one of the construction of premises without a budget, leading to delays."

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Budgeting is a function of the Executive. The Executive should come to the House with a budget. Yes, Hon. Patrick?

4.07

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. When Hon. Musasizi was laying the tax Bills, I was standing up, but thank you for the opportunity. I have one concern: When we lay these tax proposals here, what happens is that the public picks this information and the tax collectors immediately adjust the taxes and start charging before the 1st of July.

I would like to request that Hon. Musasizi makes a public *—(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MS PACUTO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I heard Hon. Patrick Oshabe well, he stated

that immediately the tax Bills are laid, the tax collector – which in this case is Uganda Revenue Authority – adjusts the taxes. Hon. Oshabe could be mistaking a tax collector for a taxpayer.

It is true that some of our businessmen and women are not prudent enough, that a slight shift in economic policies or even the environment – I will give you a case like the current war in Iran: Oil prices have gone up but before, some of our oil traders – if I may call them –

THE SPEAKER: You are deviating from what Hon. Oshabe is saying.

MS PACUTO: Is he in order to say that immediately tax Bills are laid here, the tax collector adjusts the taxes and starts billing the taxpayer? Instead, it is the other way round. The taxpayer is the one who increases the prices, not the tax collector. Is Hon. Oshabe in order, therefore, Madam Speaker, to infer that URA is not doing its work?

THE SPEAKER: I do not want to debate this in anticipation. We are only speculating because I have not seen it. Hon. Oshabe?

MR OSHABE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I wish my honourable colleague listened. I know URA and I know that many people collect taxes on behalf of URA. I chose my words correctly. Next time, my honourable colleague should listen and probably argue better.

I request Hon. Musasizi to issue a statement that protects our people. Whenever it goes out that these taxes are going to be increased, these tax collectors increase the taxes, yet these taxes are applicable only when we pass them; and the new financial year begins on the 1st of July.

You can imagine we are in March yet some people are collecting those taxes which will never be reflected within our financial statements. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Ignorance of the law is no defence. *(Laughter)*
Thank you. Next item?

BILLS SECOND READING

THE FORENSIC AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYTICAL SERVICES BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025, is a Government Bill that was reintroduced for the First Reading on 29 July 2025. Earlier in February, 2025, the Bill had been withdrawn to enable broadening of its scope.

Pursuant to Rule 136(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I will invite the Minister of Internal Affairs to move a motion to this effect for the Second Reading.

In the meantime, I can introduce my visitors. In the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have the Member of Parliament-elect for Bukedea County; Hon. David Beecham Okwere. Join me in welcoming my MP. *(Applause)* You are most welcome, Hon. Beecham.

Honourable minister?

4.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure of this Parliament, I beg to move that the Bill entitled “The Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025” be read the second time. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? *(Members rose_)* It is seconded by Hon. Wilson, Hon. Baka, Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Aisha Sekindi, Member for Buhweju West, Hon. Kania, Hon. Acora, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho, Hon. Eric Musana, Member from Nwoya, Hon. Ezama, Member for Gomba West, Hon. Moses Aleper, Hon. Tom Bright, Member from Kaabong,

Hon. Ochwa, and Hon. Nekesa. Would you like to speak to your motion?

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, the justification for this motion is that the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill establishes a comprehensive framework to regulate forensic and scientific analytical services in the country.

Additionally, the Bill provides for the designation of the Department of Inspection and Legal Services at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as the regulator of forensics and scientific analytical services.

It also outlines procedures for the collection, handling and use of samples for investigative purposes, and also designates the Government Analytical Laboratory as the National Poison Information and Control Centre.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite the chairman of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs to present the report on the Bill.

4.15

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye): Madam Speaker, first, I would like to lay on the Table the original signed report, and the record of proceedings, meetings, and engagements with stakeholders, as the committee processed the Bill. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR KAJWENGYE: I now proceed to present the report. I will be brief on the introduction. On Tuesday, 29 July 2025, the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025, was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs for scrutiny and reporting, under Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The committee has since considered the Bill, in consultation with various stakeholders, and now presents its report. The report provides an overview and analysis of the Bill, including its objectives, provisions, implications, and committee recommendations.

Objectives of the Bill

The object of the Bill is to:

1. Provide for the regulation of forensic and scientific analytical services;
2. Establish the Government Analytical Laboratory;
3. Designate the Government Analytical Laboratory as the national centre for forensic and analytical services;
4. Designate the Department of Inspection and Legal Services in the Ministry of Internal Affairs as the regulator of forensic and scientific analytical services;
5. Provide for the collection, taking and use of bodily samples for investigative purposes;
6. Designate the Government Analytical Laboratory as the National Poison Information Centre; and
7. Provide for related matters.

Defects in the existing law

Madam Speaker, the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025, seeks to establish a legal framework for regulating forensic and scientific analytical services in Uganda. Currently, there is neither comprehensive legislation governing the sector, nor is there a national poison information centre responsible for handling and disseminating information on poisoning incidents.

Although the Government Analytical Laboratory has been the primary provider for forensic and scientific analytical services, it has not been formally designated as the national referral institution for such services. The absence of a dedicated regulatory framework has limited effective oversight, standard setting, quality control and the systematic development of forensic and scientific analytical services in the country.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to address these gaps by establishing a structured regulatory regime.

Methodology

Madam Speaker, we held meetings. The committee met with and received written memoranda from the following stakeholders;

- i. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- ii. Ministry of Health;
- iii. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- iv. Dr Sylvester Onzivua, a retired pathologist who is revered in this country;
- v. Mr Rogers Mwesigwa, the Director, Nikao Engineering and General Services Ltd.

The committee also received written submissions from;

- i. The Attorney-General
- ii. Uganda Law Society
- iii. Uganda Medical Association

We also did document review. In conducting analysis, the committee referred to the following documents;

- i. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995
- ii. The Evidence Act, Cap. 8
- iii. The Police Act, Cap. 324
- iv. The Public Health Act, Cap. 310
- v. The Inquest Act, Cap. 13
- vi. Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. 300
- vii. The Allied Health Professionals Act, Cap. 145
- viii. The National Environment Act, Cap. 181

Salient Observations on the Bill

The committee reviewed the Bill with particular focus on the clarity of its scope, the consistency of its definitions and the strength of its regulatory framework. In addition, the committee examined the legal basis for licensing analytical laboratories and assessed whether information enforcement mechanisms, including inspections and licensing revocation, provide adequate safeguards against arbitrary action.

The committee also analysed the procedures governing the forensic and scientific analysis and analytical reports, and considered the need for transitional provisions to validate prior forensic work conducted before the commencement of this proposed Act. The committee's observations are presented under the following thematic areas:

The need for clear definitions and interpretation

The Bill seeks to regulate forensic and scientific analytical services by designating the Government Analytical Laboratory as the national referral for forensic and scientific analytical services and the Department of Inspection and Legal Services as the regulatory authority, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

However, the committee observed that certain key terms, including "Forensic practitioner", "Forensic analysis" and "Forensic science" were not clearly defined in the Bill. The absence or the limited precise definitions could create ambiguity, confusion, and potential overlap with the medico-legal functions already regulated under existing laws, particularly in relation to evidence under the Evidence Act, Cap. 8, and post-mortems under the Inquest Act, Cap. 13.

The committee notes that several statutes already govern aspects of medico-legal practice within the health and justice sectors – (*Hon. Naluyima rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Shadow Minister of Local Government?

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the time available and the fact that we have been with this report for some time, wouldn't it be procedurally right that he highlights for us, briefly, the observations and recommendations, and we move to the committee stage?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Please, go ahead.

MR KAJWENGYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will do as guided.

We looked at the scope and application of the proposed Act as well as the administration and institutional arrangements of the Bill, particularly clauses 2–10 (Part II of the Bill). We looked at the Department of Inspection and Legal Services and the Government Analytical Laboratory.

We also looked at forensic and scientific analysis as well as management of the forensic and scientific database, which is Part IV (clauses 2-24 of the Bill). We considered submissions from the Uganda Law Society and the guidance from the learned Attorney-General to that effect. We also looked at revocation and suspension of licences under that part.

We went on to see the “unfit” and “improper” person, as considered in the Bill. We also looked at the laboratory and analytical reports. Under that, we looked at the certificate of analysis – whether it is covered under other legislations.

We looked at the National Poison Information Centre, which is Part V – particularly, clause 30 of the Bill. We also looked at what the World Health Organisation defines “poison” to be. We were guided by the learned Attorney-General on what the National Poison Information Centre is supposed to be.

We also looked at the saving provisions of the Bill.

Our conclusion, Madam Speaker, was that the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025, seeks to create a regulatory framework for forensic, scientific and analytical services in Uganda. While the Bill strengthens forensic, scientific and analytical services, certain provisions require clarification for consistency and alignment with the current laws.

In light of the foregoing observations, the committee recommends that the Bill be considered for the Second Reading, subject to the proposed amendments attached hereto and any other modifications this House may propose and approve.

I beg to report. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Honourable members, I put the question that the Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025, be read the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

THE FORENSIC AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYTICAL SERVICES BILL, 2025

New Clause

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee Chairperson?

3.27

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye): Madam Chairperson, proposed amendments to the Forensic Scientific and Analytical Services Bill, 2025:

Insertion of a new clause

Insert a new clause immediately before clause 1 as follows:

1. Application of Act

- (1) This Act shall apply to analytical laboratories registered under this Act.
- (2) This Act shall not apply to analytical laboratories registered or regulated under any other law.

The justification is to provide for the general application of the Act and exclude analytical laboratories already registered or regulated under any other law. I beg to submit.

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, we are creating this to provide an applicable general law, and I thought we were creating a superior law. So, committee chairperson, the other laws would be subjected to this one.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Not quite. Actually, this provision that the committee is proposing to bring into the application clause in Clause 1 already exists in clause 12 of the Bill. Therefore, what the committee is doing is moving clause 12 to the beginning of the Bill. Why it is important is that some laboratories do scientific – like clinics. The work they do on us could also fall into that space but that one is managed by all medical laboratories that are licensed.

What this provision is saying is that whatever analytical laboratory in the country, like forensic, or any analytical laboratory of any nature, must be licensed. Therefore, if it is not licensed or provided for under any other law, then it brings it under this law.

We were very careful not to disrupt the entire system, especially the medical area because the definitions spread into the medical space. That was the intention. What the committee has done is to move clause 12 and bring it to clause 1 for clarity and emphasis.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Honourable minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I agree with the relocation of that clause by the committee.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the proposed new clause stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

New clause, agreed to.

Clause 1

THE CHAIRPERSON: Clause 1 is interpretation.

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, interpretation. Clause 1 is amended-

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson, we can stand over that. We will come back to it.

Clause 2

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 2 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4, agreed to.

Clause 5

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, is functions of departments. Clause 5 is amended- (a) by substituting for paragraph (b), the following:

“(b) monitor compliance with the code of practice for forensic practitioners”;

(b) In paragraph (e), by inserting the words “and scientific” immediately after the word “forensic”.

Justification

- i) To provide for the monitoring of the code of practice for forensic practitioners as opposed to monitoring of forensic ethical and privacy matters, which cannot be ascertained.
- ii) The insertion of the words “and scientific” is to provide consistency in the Bill.

I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: We have no objection to the proposed amendment.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 5, be amended, as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6, agreed to.

Clause 7, agreed to.

Clause 8, agreed to.

Clause 9, agreed to.

Clause 10, agreed to.

Clause 11

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, clause 11 is on forensic and scientific analytical services.

Clause 11 is amended by inserting a new clause immediately after subclause (2) as follows:

“An analytical laboratory shall, in the performance of the services under subsection (1), act independently and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person, including the department.”

The justification is to grant an analytical laboratory the independence to carry out its functions without the interference of any person.

I submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Ekanya?

MR EKANYA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We always have this misinterpretation of independence. Independence should not mean “Non-accountability.” That clarity needs to be made. The independence is in regard to scientific work, not administrative or financial. This clarity needs to be made very clear because some of these institutions want to hide under the clause of “independence”.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think the committee did consider that and limited this independence to the functions that are set out in clause 11(1).

The rest of the Bill says the independence of the analytical laboratory is in respect to the items that are set out in clause 11(1). It is a good addition to the Bill.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 11 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12

MR KAJWENGYE: Clause 12 deals with registration of analytical laboratories. Clause 12 is amended:

(a) In subclause (1)(a), by inserting the word “analytical” immediately before the word, “laboratory”.

(b) by deleting subclause (6); and

(c) by substituting for subclause (7) the following:

“(7) Subject to section 1, a person shall not provide forensic services without a licence issued under this Act.

Justification

i) The insertion of the word, “analytical” is to provide consistency with the term “laboratory”.

ii) The deletion of subclause (6) is consequential arising from the proposed application Clause 1.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur for consistency.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I have no objection to that amendment.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 12, be amended, as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13, agreed to.

Clause 14, agreed to.

Clause 15, agreed to.

Clause 16, agreed to.

Clause 17, agreed to.

Clause 18, agreed to.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Can't you even say, "Aye"?

Clause 19

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, clause 19 is about revocation or suspension of a licence.

Clause 19 is amended:

- a) In subclause (2) by deleting paragraph (f)
- b) By deleting subclause (3)

Justification

- i) The deletion of paragraph (f) is to avoid abuse that would arise in the determination of an unfit and improper person to hold a license since there is no set criteria.
- ii) To provide an independent provision for cancellation of a certificate of registration.

Insertion of a new clause

Insert a new clause immediately after Clause 19 as follows-

Cancellation of the certificate of registration

The department shall –

- (a) Before cancelling the certificate of registration of an analytical laboratory, give the owner of the analytical laboratory

an opportunity to show cause why the certificate should not be cancelled.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Have we passed Clause 19 before you get to the insertion of a new clause?

MR KAJWENGYE: It will be one clause.

THE CHAIRPERSON: They are not.

MR KAJWENGYE: Okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Those are two different clauses. The new clause comes after clause 19.

MR KAJWENGYE: Okay. I stand with your guidance.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I want to differ with the committee's proposal respectfully because the proposal as is, is necessary to enable the licensing authority to act, where the licensee becomes unsuitable and is in breach of the licence.

However, also, Madam Chairperson, the vocabulary of "fit and proper person" is a best-practice's phrase and if you remove it, you would water down the regulatory powers of the regulator.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I agree with the honourable minister because "fit and proper test" has now been used and is now totally established. As in fit – meaning you are physically and mentally fit, whilst in proper test, you have good character and do not have any serious issues or crime history.

Therefore, when they say you are going to use the "fit and proper test", it is not out of the ordinary. However, if you say that "A person who has become unfit and improper to hold the licence should be allowed to continue analysing

laboratory works” – I pray that the amendment to clause 19(2)(f) be rejected by the House and that clause 19(2)(f) do remain and stand part of the Bill. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Is the whole clause standing part of the Bill – as it is in the Bill?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Chairperson, the committee made two proposals in respect to Clause 19. One, is to delete Clause 19(2)(f) which is related to “fit and proper test”. That is what we have been submitting on and requesting that the House does keep that as part of the Bill.

However, the committee proposed that clause 19(3) be deleted from this provision and be given a standalone provision. So, we accept that clause 19(3) be deleted from the Bill but clause 19(2)(b) do stand part of the Bill. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that clause 19 be amended as proposed by the minister and further amended by the Attorney-General.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

New Clause

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, now we insert a new clause. And certainly, this is a consequential amendment.

Insert a new clause immediately after clause 19 as follows –

Cancellation of the certificate of registration

The department shall;

- a) Before cancelling the certificate of registration of an analytical laboratory, give the owner of the analytical laboratory an opportunity to show cause why the certificate should not be cancelled;
- b) After cancelling the certificate of registration of an analytical laboratory, the

Government shall publish the cancellation in the Gazette.

The justification is that this is a consequential amendment. I beg to submit and the numbering can be rectified later.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I agree, Madam Chairperson. It is in the spirit of due process.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No objection to the proposal by the committee.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Isaac?

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wonder whether a timeframe is necessary in this case for the person whose licence is going to be terminated to prove – because by the time you suspect that they want to take away your certificate, then they should not leave you a lot of time to continue operating. So, I was thinking –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Dr Lumu?

DR LUMU: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I want to make an inquiry: there are two entities, which we are talking about in regards to the licence. A licence can be of the laboratory – I think that is the consequential inclusion that you are bringing in.

However, the previous Article was referring to an individual – licence to the individual. How do we separate these within this law? This is because you can either revoke a licence from a practitioner within the laboratory or revoke the licence of the laboratory itself. So, I see two licences here and they do not seem to be separated within clause 19 and the subsequent inclusion.

MR KAJWENGYE: Well, honourable colleague, we are talking about the cancellation of a certificate of registration for an analytical laboratory. Yes, a laboratory.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I want to refer you to clause 19(3)(a) which says, “Before cancellation of the certificate of registration of the laboratory under this section, give the owner of the laboratory an opportunity to show cause why the certificate should not be cancelled.”

So, this is a process.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I think what the honourable member is referring to is why do we say – and I think he is referring to a clause which we have closed, but I can just explain it – where you say “A person is not fit and proper.” When we define a person, it can be a legal or a natural person. So, whenever we find a clause, instead of saying “Whether a person or a company or an entity...”, we use a “person” which gives us –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Attorney-General, just tell him who a “person” is in law, not medics.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Yes. When we define a person, we are trying to give the law the breadth to find a natural person; an unnatural person, or an incorporated person in whatever form – whether it is a partnership, a limited liability company – limited by guarantee, we use a “person”.

So, when we say “a person has been found unfit and improper,” then we can look at the person who is running the entity, or we can look at the entity itself. All those can be covered in that. It is just giving it a wide interpretation.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. The timing?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Chairperson, we propose that we address the timelines for these labs in the regulations because there are different labs, and they have different effects. For example, if the problem is with the central lab, the way we address that problem is different from how we address the supporting labs.

If you have a problem with the lower lab, you can take your material to the main lab for

confirmation. Therefore, we propose that the timelines, even the conditions, and how they will show cause be done in the regulations. I beg your pardon.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Hassan?

MR KIRUMIRA: Madam Chairperson, the clarity to a layperson in Katikamu South would be on whether this licence is on an individual or the laboratory itself. When we talk about someone being capable, and a laboratory not meeting the requirements, those are totally different things. Therefore, maybe the Attorney-General can clarify on whether this licence is on the individual running the laboratory or the laboratory itself.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: It may seem like it is confusing, but it is not. The laboratory is definitely going to be run by people. When we give the licence and say “This analytical lab has been licensed,” indeed, that lab is not going to walk to the ministry to get the licence; someone is responsible. There is a natural person behind that lab; so, when we do this, we do not want the natural person to get out or the unnatural person to get out. For clarity purposes, we can say a “person” or we can include – we were very clear in our drafting, but for purposes, like he said, of the layman following, we will clarify that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Hon. Aisha?

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am in support of honourable – Is he Nathan? About the inclusion of time because the time –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Isaac.

MS AISHA KABANDA: Hon. Isaac. The time is for the revocation of the licence. It is not about the procedures in laboratories, but to a person who needs to show cause why his licence should not be revoked. I think it is proper for us to put in time because a person can be given two days or three days. The law should be clear about that. Maybe within two months, a person should show cause why his

licence should not be cancelled. I think it is right.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: The challenge with that, Madam Chairperson, is that if, for example, a lab has gone into the business of selling wrong reports in respect to say, DNA, for argument's sake. Whereas there could be someone who is giving reports that are wrong to people who are dying, if you say that I will give these people the same amount of time, that will be a problem. The regulations will be able – there are so many different –

Clause 11 shows you the number of the kind of tests. There are those labs that will be doing toxicology. There are those who will be doing biology. There are those who will be dealing with illicit trade, and all of them have different natures of parameters.

We are thinking that you allow the technical people to know how they will be regulating because when getting a licence, they give you a licence to do certain things. The higher the expectation from you, the greater the scrutiny. It may be best placed under regulation, but I agree that the time within which to show cause and address this must be set.

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, there is agreement that time should – *(Interruption)*

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, just a small one. The committee chairperson has allowed it. Thank you.

Attorney-General, I need clarification on the issue of the person or the entity. There is a scientist who is a person: He has been licensed and that scientist is given a job in a particular lab A, and it is this scientist that has messed up and the particular lab A chooses to chase this scientist away. Now, you are according punishment to both the laboratory and the person. We are not providing for the two. The scientist and the entity should be separated in this law.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Clause 19 gives you the reasons why a licence can be revoked. What you are discussing is if a person has been found unfit and improper. If the regulations require you to have a lab expert in toxicology, and that expert in toxicology has been found to be a person who is not fit and proper, why would the lab continue to have a licence to do toxicology when it does not have an expert in toxicology? *(Interjections)* – No, if you get another expert, then you meet the requirement.

It is like saying, let us keep the clinic open because the doctor has run mad and can no longer treat the patients. Let us keep the clinic open until we get another doctor. No. You first close the clinic, get a doctor, and then license the clinic to operate because the clinic does not operate without a doctor.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I put the question that the proposed new clause stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

New clause, agreed to.

Clause 20, agreed to.

Clause 21

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, Clause 21 is a request for analysis. Clause 21 is amended in subclause (3) by inserting the words “or substance” immediately after the word “chemical”.

The justification is to achieve consistency and clarity on the request for an analysis of a chemical or substance. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I concur, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that Clause 21 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22, agreed to.

Clause 23

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, Clause 23 deals with the Certificate of Analysis. Clause 23 is amended:

- a) By substituting for the headnote, the following: “Laboratory Analytical Report”.
- b) In subclause (1), by substituting for the words “Certificate of Analysis or Report” the words “Laboratory Analytical Report” and wherever the words appear in the clause.

The justification for the substitution of “the Certificate of Analysis” is to provide for a Laboratory Analytical Report, which is more elaborate and includes the Certificate of Analysis.

I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I agree, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: We agree and we thank the committee for it.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 23 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24, agreed to.

Clause 25, agreed to.

Clause 26, agreed to.

Clause 27, agreed to.

Clause 28, agreed to.

Clause 29, agreed to.

Clause 30, agreed to.

Clause 31, agreed to.

Clause 32

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, clause 32 deals with record keeping. Clause 32 is amended by inserting the word “analytical” immediately after the word “registered”.

The justification is for consistency with the term “analytical laboratory” as is used in the Bill. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No objection, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that Clause 32 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 32, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 33

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR KAJWENGYE: Clause 33 is about reporting. Clause 33 is amended in subclause (1) by inserting the word “analytical” immediately after the word “registered”.

The justification is for consistency, still with the term “analytical laboratory” as is used in the Bill. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: I agree with the committee.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No objection, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 33 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 33, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 34, agreed to.

Clause 35, agreed to.

Clause 36

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, clause 36 is about offences and penalties. Clause 36 is amended,

- (a) In sub-clause (3) by substituting the words “analytical report,” with the words, “laboratory analytical report”.
- (b) By inserting a new paragraph as follows; “A person who uses a DNA profile or accesses a DNA profile and information

without authorisation of the Government Analytical Laboratory.”

(c) By deleting the subclause (7).

Justification

- i) The substitution of the term “analytical report” is to provide for a broader document of analysis since the laboratory analytical report includes a certificate of analysis,
- ii) The insertion of the new paragraph is to provide clarity on subclause (7), and
- iii) The deletion of subclause (7) is a consequential amendment.

I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Patrick?

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, I have a problem here. In this insertion, the committee chairperson wants to make the Government Analytical Laboratory the regulator. The new insertion talks about a person who uses DNA profile or accesses a DNA profile without the authorisation of the Government Analytical Laboratory yet in the object of the Bill, the Government Analytical Laboratory is established as one of the service providers. There is a regulatory body provided as the Department of Inspection and Legal Services at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

When we make one of the laboratories – the Government laboratory – the regulator, it will be a conflict of interest.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I would like to refer you to the object of the Bill. It says, “To designate the Government Analytical Laboratory as the national referral for forensic and analytical services.”

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, the referral is for higher consultation, not for regulation.

MSAISHAKABANDA: Madam Chairperson, I would like to support the chairperson of the committee because this is about accessing information of the analytical laboratory, not regulation.

I do not know how you can access it without the permission of the people in the laboratory. I do not seem to understand the clause that the committee chairperson brings to mean regulation. I do not understand it that way, unless otherwise.

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, the word is “authorisation”, which implies that other laboratories or an individual must first seek permission from the –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Authorisation is having authority. It is a national referral; it has authority.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I would like to understand the Member: How should people access the profile? Should we just allow people to access other people’s DNA? We understood the committee to say that there is certain material that if it is not yours, you should not access it without Government permission. Would you rather that the person who authorises is the department?

MR OSHABE: Who is the regulator under this system?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I think the principle here is a person who uses a DNA profile. This was a recommendation from the committee but when we received it, we actually welcomed it. It was saying that a person who uses a DNA profile or accesses it or information without the authorisation commits an offence. We are asking, “authorisation by who?” The wisdom of the committee was that if you want to access my DNA, go to the Government Analytical Laboratory and get authorisation.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Patrick, I hope you are not thinking like somebody in my village, thinking of that laboratory in my village school. *(Laughter)*

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, we have provided for private services under these circumstances, private laboratories. Somebody in a private care facility can have a DNA profile, which is not in the Government Analytical

Laboratory. We need a regulator who is the one who should be doing the authorisation.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Feta?

MR FETA: Madam Chairperson, forensic services have one key challenge – the credibility of the results. I would like to know, Attorney-General, how we are going to address the issue of the credibility of the results. Do the Government analytical services conclusively address the issue of the –?

THE CHAIRPERSON: You have gone to policies. Honourable member, let us look at the law. Do you get it?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Chairperson, I think what Hon. Oshabe is saying is exactly what I thought the committee was trying to cure – to say that we are going to license people everywhere to do these things. We are telling these people that you, who are being licensed, do not release Hon. Oshabe’s DNA material to anyone other than him without authorisation *-(Interjections)* - The question that we are discussing is who authorises, and that is what the committee proposed that it should be the Government Analytical Laboratory. You are proposing that it should be the department.

DR LULUME: I think even the department should not be authorised. I should authorise, or if at all I am absent and you want it to access results of DNA or whatever it is, it should be a court.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I think the issue that the committee was trying to address – and I think the committee will speak to it – is a person who uses this profile without authorisation is what they are refusing. So – *(Interjections)* - No, you see the thing is that, for example, if you enter the DNA profile as a criminal, that profile becomes available to the Government to compare with other profiles. If you have been checked and you say it is a murder case and they are investigating it, and they get your DNA and they find you a murderer, that data becomes Government data.

However, for anyone to access that data and use it, even for the criminal, it must be authorised.

Insert a new clause immediately after Clause 37 as follows-

MR OSHABE: Madam Chairperson, I worry about having people we are in competition with, when you say that we are competing – I will use an example of hospital A and hospital B – Government Analytical Laboratory is a lab and other laboratories are labs. When you tell me that it is this laboratory that is supposed to give authorisation, you are subjecting me wrongly. At least take me to court, to seek permission to get my data, not that laboratory.

Saving Provision

“Any examination, analysis, report, certificate, opinion or any other work undertaken or issued by the Government Analytical Laboratory which is prior to the commencement of this Act, shall remain valid and admissible for all legal and other purposes as if the examination, analysis, report, certificate, opinion, or other work had been undertaken or issued under this Act.”

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

Justification

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Chairperson, when you say that the Criminal Investigations and Intelligence Department (CIID) must go to court to get data of someone who is already in the database of –

This is to ensure that the documentation and the work conducted by the Government Analytical Laboratory is not rendered invalid.

THE CHAIRPERSON: National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA).

I submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: ...of NIRA, then we have a problem. The issue here is that whoever gets access to this information must be authorised to get it. We can do it by the directorate and say, “If I find my data in the wrong hands, you Government, are responsible.” That is, I think, what we are saying here. For example, our National Identification DNA now, our fingerprints, are in Government hands. We can say the Government will become liable should they find the person’s material in the wrong hands.

GEN. MUHOOZI: I agree with this saving provision, Madam Chairperson, so that we protect the integrity of the previous works of Government Analytical Laboratory before the formulation of this Bill.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 36 be amended as proposed.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: We have no objection. It is a good addition to the Bill.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that the proposed new clause stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 36, as amended, agreed to.

New clause, agreed to.

Clause 37, agreed to.

Clause 1

New clause

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, Clause 1: Interpretation

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Chairperson, the insertion of a new clause.

Clause 1 is amended –

- a. in the definition of the word “forensic analysis” by substituting for the word “forensic analysis”, the words “forensic and scientific analysis”;
- b. by substituting for the word “forensic analyst”, the following-
“Forensic practitioner” means a professional who uses scientific, technical, or any other scientific expertise to examine and analyse evidence in legal proceedings”;
- c. by substituting the definition of forensic science, the following-

“Forensic science” means the systematic application of scientific methods, techniques, and principles to the collection, preservation, investigation, analysis, presentation and interpretation of evidence for the purposes of law enforcement or legal proceedings”.

Justification

- i) The substitution of the word “forensic analysis” for the word “scientific and forensic analysis”, is to provide consistency in the Bill.
- ii) The substitution of the word “forensic analyst” with the word “forensic practitioner” is to provide for a broader term that encompasses the different categories of professionals who utilise forensic science.
- iii) Substitution of the definition of “forensic science” is to broaden the scope of the definition.

I beg to submit.

GEN. MUHOOZI: I concur, Madam Chairperson.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No objection, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 1 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

First Schedule

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the First Schedule be part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The First Schedule, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

5.15

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House do report thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

5.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill entitled, “Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025” and passed.

THE SPEAKER: The Bill has been considered and passed with amendments.

GEN. MUHOOZI: With amendments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the motion for adoption of the report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted by this august House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS
THIRD READING

THE FORENSIC AND SCIENTIFIC
ANALYTICAL SERVICES BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled “The Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025” be read for the third time and be passed.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the “Forensic and Scientific Analytical Services Bill, 2025” be read for the third time and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED
“THE FORENSIC AND SCIENTIFIC
ANALYTICAL SERVICES ACT, 2026”

THE SPEAKER: Title settled and Bill passed.

MR KAJWENGYE: Madam Speaker, I take the grand opportunity to thank you, the learned Attorney-General, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the members of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, and the whole House for having processed this very

important Bill, an integral component in our criminal justice system, as it touches the body of evidence. I thank you so much. May God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister?

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for your time and effort in having this very important Bill passed and with the attendant effect we think it will have on our justice system. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Members of Parliament, the Attorney-General, the whole front bench and the committee members, including the Leader of the Opposition and this side. Thank you for passing the Bill.

MOTION THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVES
ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
TO CONSIDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, following our earlier decision to authorise re-allocation of Shs 22.002 billion from Vote 157: National Forestry Authority (NFA), to Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment, we are duly bound to supply the budget that has been reallocated from the NFA to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Pursuant to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I will invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion for supply. Honourable minister?

5.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move a motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to

consider the Supplementary Schedule 4 for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Seconded by Hon. Obua, Hon. Omara, Professor, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Kania, Hon. Dionisia Cissy Namujju representing Lwengo District, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Nekesa, Hon. Oshabe, Hon. Aisha, Hon. Zaman, Hon. Mamawi and the whole side. Thank you.

Would you like to speak to it?

5.21

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, briefly, following the approval of the National Forestry and Tree Planting (Amendment) Act, 2025 under RAPEX, there is need for the budget reallocation for the National Forestry Authority totaling to Shs 22.002 billion to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Madam Speaker, to effect this, we are required to pass a supplementary budget in order to increase the Vote under Ministry of Water and Environment. We propose to disaggregate it as follows: Under recurrent, we propose an expenditure of Shs 11,707,685,848, and under development, we propose to move Shs 10,294,324,328.

Madam Speaker, the source of financing for this supplementary is the reallocated funds from the rationalised institution, the National Forestry Authority. I beg to move.

Maybe for emphasis, I can also quote the Votes. The source of funding is the movement of funds from Vote 157: National Forestry Authority, amounting to Shs 22.002 billion to Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment, amounting to Shs 22.002 billion, out of which Shs 11.707 billion is recurrent, and Shs 10.294 billion is development.

I submit for your consideration, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, this is what we had approved before; it is just a debit and a credit. We are crediting one side and debiting the other Vote.

I put the question that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the sum of Shs 11,707,685,848 be approved as a supplementary recurrent expenditure for Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a sum of Shs 10,294,324,328 be approved as a supplementary development expenditure for Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 22,002,010,176 be approved as a total supplementary expenditure for Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

Report adopted.

5.21

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

5.28

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Supplementary Schedule No.4 of Financial Year 2025/2026 amounting to Shs 22.002 billion and passed it without amendments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.29

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report from the committee of supply be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the House adopts the report of the Committee of Supply.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable members, for the day. Honourable members, the NRM party has invited the NRM Members of Parliament for a retreat from the 7th to the 14th by the mighty chairman of the party, who is none other than His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. I invite the Members to travel to Kyankwanzi. Transport will be available, and the Opposition Members can remain and have fun.

We are adjourning the House to 15 April 2026. Chairpersons of committees must report on the 15th of April and I want you in Kyankwanzi.

(Laughter)

House adjourned.

(The House rose at 5.31 p.m. and adjourned until 15 April 2026, at 2.00 p.m.)