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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 7TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 16 April 2026

Parliament met at 10.00 a.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: I want to welcome all of you to this morning's sitting. Yesterday, we stood over the consideration of the Ministerial Policy Statements, and agreed to start this morning at 10.00 a.m. so that we are able to finish the Ministerial Policy Statements.

As I said yesterday, next week we should be able to consider the Tax Bills. I hope the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development is handling the Tax Bills as of now.

Honourable members, on a rather sad note, our very good friend, the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most Reverend Dr Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu, lost his dear father, Mr Besweri Kaddu, and he will be laid to rest tomorrow. We condole with him and the entire family. We wish and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace. May we stand and observe a moment of silence.

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

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion was moved yesterday, and we will now go to the next committee. Yes? Matters of national importance will be discussed during Prime Minister's Time.

10.04

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise this matter. The Government is giving out money to the elderly through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

In Kalungu District, we have a very big challenge, which might also be in other districts. These elderly people are supposed to pick up money from the sub-county headquarters. The challenge we are facing is that some of them are too old. They cannot afford to move, and if they are to move, they spend almost half of what they would get.

I request the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to devise means - because their children and grandchildren are there; they have their national IDs and the details of their grandparents, but they have tried to ask to go and pick the money, but these parish chiefs have refused. Imagine a person of 85 years who is indisposed has to be taken to the sub-county headquarters to pick Shs 70,000.

Madam Speaker, I pray that the leadership in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development devises means of how these elderly can pick up their money, but forcing

them to go - Others have actually refused because they cannot manage. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: If I were you, I would have raised that issue while discussing the report from the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, when it comes. You are now pre-empting the debate.

MR SSEWUNGU: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes?

10.06

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In your communication about these Ministerial Policy Statements yesterday, you guided the committees and chairpersons of committees not to focus on unfunded priorities, and I needed clarification from you. Our role as Members of Parliament, during the perusal and scrutiny of these Ministerial Policy Statements is surely to do some part. Government has done some part and made its proposals.

Madam Speaker, we should be left with some liberty, as Parliament, to be able to change a few things but if it goes that whatever Government brings to this House is what goes through, this House is going to be left with no major responsibility in the budgeting process. Often time, we have prioritised –

THE SPEAKER: First, I want to refer you to Rule 156(2): *“The House shall consider the reports of the sectoral committees and refer approved recommendations to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation, and consolidation...”*

The Committee on Budget is going to look at the figures. For us, we are looking at Ministerial Policy Statements, not figures and the Committee on Budget is part of our committees. If you want any amendments on figures, go to the Committee on Budget and bring for us amended figures from the Committee on Budget. (*Hon. Oshabe rose*)

THE SPEAKER: I am just letting you know that we are looking at the Ministerial Policy Statements; so, go to the Committee on Budget, as per Rule 156(2). Yes?

MR SSEWUNGU: I pray we also go to the Committee on Budget –

THE SPEAKER: But honourable members, do you want us to start appropriating now?

MR SSEWUNGU: No.

THE SPEAKER: That is what the Committee on Budget is doing, and all of you can be members of the Committee on Budget.

MR SSEWUNGU: Madam Speaker, we are always given room to go there and we shall go there. What we have to push for, as Members in our sectoral committees, is to work with the ministry. Normally these unfunded priorities - how do they become priorities when they are unfunded?

THE SPEAKER: They become priorities in the next financial year.

MR SSEWUNGU: We should push hard to see that those, which are necessary, are not left out when we are there. Otherwise, it becomes funny to see key areas left out at the sectoral committee and being taken as unfunded priorities. Again that works between us in sectoral committees and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

THE SPEAKER: One thing you should know is that the budgeting process is not a one-off. It has been a consultative process; it started a long time ago. We have been consulting with the different sectors; the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has been consulting, the Government has been consulting. Government Chief Whip, do you have anything to say?

10.10

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Hamson Obua): Hon. Ssewungu and team must accept that they are still a

government-in-waiting, and as such, they are the shadows of the substantive Government.

Madam Speaker, on the question raised by the Member for the Pan-African Parliament, I wish to refer him to Article 155 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The headnote of Article 155 is Financial Year Estimates. (3) states, *“The estimates prepared under Clause 2 of this Article shall be laid before Parliament by the President under Clause 1 of this Article without revision, but with any recommendations that the Government may have on them.”* This is the dictate of the mother law of Uganda.

Therefore, whatever we do must be within the confines of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which dictates without revision, but with any recommendation. I beg to submit, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you are now debating what is not to be debated now. Let us receive the ministerial statement, and the harmonisation is not a revision. You just rearrange, but it is not that you cannot get money from somewhere and start adding it up. We have a law to that effect.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF
REPORTS OF SECTORAL COMMITTEES
ON THE MINISTERIAL POLICY
STATEMENTS AND BUDGET ESTIMATES
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

(1) THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE
ON GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Committee chairperson. Let us try to be brief in the reports.

10.13

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Agnes Kunihira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a report on the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development. I beg to lay, on the Table, the report and the minutes.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MS AGNES KUNIHIRA: Madam Speaker, the committee has looked at the Ministerial Policy Statement together with the Budget Framework Paper and we have come up with a report, which looks at the two Votes: Vote 018 for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Vote 124 for the Equal Opportunities Commission. I will not go through the methodology of Vote 018. I will go direct to the performance report which is on page eight, which Members will look at. Then I will go to page 12 on compliance of the relevant provisions of the law and the cross-cutting issues.

This section of the report looks at the compliance levels of the ministerial policy statement to the National Development Plan, the relevant laws and regulations in analysing the Ministerial Policy Statement. It is prudent to carry out due diligence on compliance with the requirements of the law as specified under Sections 12 and 15 of the PMFA Cap 178. As shown in the table below, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development provided the necessary information, thus enabling the committee to effectively assess their planned activities.

Table five highlights the checklist, and that is the list where they have complied and provided all the documents as required.

On page 14, their performance score is 96 per cent in the Financial Year 2025/2026.

On page 14, we are showing the budget estimates by programme from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Table six captures the budget by programme allocation, Vote function, department and projects. When you go to the total, it is Shs 533, 018,721 for the Financial Year 2026/2027 plus arrears. When excluding arrears, it is Shs 520,532,616,434, making a variation of Shs 91,212,383.

The draft annual budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027 for Vote 018 have reflected an overall increase compared to the approved

budget estimates for Financial Year 2025/2026, with the total budget having risen by Shs 91.212 billion, that is a 20 per cent variation. The ministry has verified areas amounting to Shs 402,287,000. Therefore, the total budget is Shs 533.01 billion.

The growth was largely driven by significant expansion in the non-wage recurrent budgetary component, majorly attributed to boosting and strengthening functionality of planning and budgeting services, support to UWESO, National Apprenticeship Programme, National Labour Employment and Productivity Reporting Programme and Child Disability Grant.

The development budget component, particularly under Programme 12 (Human Capital Development Programme). Notably, Vote function 04 (Labour and Employment Services) recorded the highest increase of 53.0 per cent mainly due to a substantial rise in external financing for the GROW project alongside a sharp increase in funding for labour and industrial relations.

However, this upward trend is not uniform across all Vote functions under the Human Capital Development Programme 12. Vote function 02 (Community mobilisation, Culture and Empowerment) experienced a decline of 20.9 per cent, largely attributed to a reduction of non-wage recurrent funding for Culture and Family Affairs.

Similarly, function 01 (Administration, Planning and Support Services) registered a reduction of 8.7 per cent reflecting reduced non-wage allocation, despite the modest increase in wage allocation. In contrast, Vote function 03 (Gender and Social Protection) showed steady growth of 9.2 per cent, supported by increased investment in social protection programmes, particularly for the elderly, youth and children.

Meanwhile, under programme 19 (Administration of Justice) allocations remained relatively small but stable with a slight 2.0 per cent increase in funding youth and children-related interventions.

Madam Speaker, table 7 highlights the cost drivers for the Financial Year 2026/2027 in billions. The list is highlighted. It has 29 items and the total is around Shs 300.3 billion.

Allow me to read the list of unfunded and underfunded activities, which are on table nine because there are key areas like Social Assistance for the Elderly (SAGE) that must be handled by the House and the Committee on Budget.

1. Renovation and rehabilitation of ministry institutions (youth and children institutions, including rehabilitation centres for persons with disability, which is unfunded and it requires around Shs 500 billion;
- 2.
3. There is also an issue of titling of ministry lands across the country, which requires Shs 2 billion, and the justification details are attached in Annex B which is on this list - you will see what those facilities look like currently. There is an audit query that requires that these structures be rehabilitated.
4. Lowering the age of eligibility for SAGE beneficiaries. There is a Cabinet Minute 309 (CT2025) which directed the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to adjust the budget up to Shs 252 billion, in addition to Shs 121 billion so that the age eligibility is adjusted to 65.

However, that money has not been provided. What we have now is still Shs 121 billion and we have made some proposals in our recommendations, which I will read through.

5. Appointment of the judges and establishment of regional industrial court centres and registries for labour disputes and court settlements. They have provided Shs 4.2 billion, but there is a shortfall of Shs 3.7 billion.

For the last two years, the Judiciary has been budgeting for three additional judges, but the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social

Development has not provided other required funds and we feel that if provided, the three judges for the Industrial Court will be appointed.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, doesn't this come under the Judiciary? This is because the judges are for the Judiciary, not for gender.

MS AGNES KUNIHIRA: The Industrial Court judges operate under the ministry for gender, but get subvention from - the salaries for judges are budgeted by the Judiciary, but all operational costs are handled by the gender ministry.

THE SPEAKER: So, it is not the appointment of judges, it is administrative costs.

MS AGNES KUNIHIRA: The administrative costs. They are not appointing because there is no budget for the operation.

6. National roll-out and empowering - this is *Jua Kali*. They have provided only Shs 3 billion, and we have made our recommendation that additional money should be provided because it ought to be rolled out to the whole country. For now, they have just piloted in a few districts.
7. The operationalisation of the Medical Arbitration Board. Only Shs 600 million has been provided, and yet the board requires around Shs 6 billion.
8. No money has been provided for the Labour Advisory Board and we have made a recommendation that some money be provided to operationalise the board.
9. The same applies to the operationalisation of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board. The details are in our recommendation, which I will read.
10. The system of Arbitration, Mediation and Settlement, including digital case systems dispute, which requires around Shs 10.5 billion.
11. To implement the Special Enterprise Grant for Older Persons (SEGOP), they required Shs 10 billion but it has been underfunded because only Shs 5 billion has been provided.

12. On the Green Jobs and Just Transition Programme, they require Shs 15.9 billion but only Shs 1 billion has been provided, so they have a shortfall of Shs 14.9 billion.

Madam Speaker, allow me to read through the committee observations and recommendations for Vote 018.

Renovation

I have already read through. I will just go to the recommendation.

The committee, therefore, recommends that ministry for finance avails funds worth Shs 5.00 billion in a phased manner to enable rehabilitation of dilapidated structures in remand homes, reception centres, and vocational rehabilitation centres. We have attached the details of those centres, and some land is already being encroached on because it is not even titled, and the structures are ramshackled.

Titling of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development land across the country

I will go to the recommendations of the committee:

- i) The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should prioritise processing land titles; and
- ii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide Shs 1 billion for processing land titles for this financial year, as a start, because the requirement is Shs 2 billion.

Lowering of age eligibility for SAGE beneficiaries

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has, since 2010, been implementing SAGE as a Government of Uganda flagship social cash transfer assistance intervention for older persons. The programme provides a monthly transfer of Shs 25,000 to older persons aged 80 years and above to support them in meeting basic consumption needs and to live a dignified life.

In November 2018, the Government announced the national roll-out grant to all districts in the country. The criterion was to begin with older persons who are 80 years and above (with a commitment of lowering the age to 65 years within three years) while keeping those who are already on the programme since 2010. The Cabinet sitting of September 2025, under Ref. CT (2025) 132, approved the proposal to lower the eligibility age under SAGE from the current 80 plus to 65 plus years.

The committee noted that whereas the Government was proposing lowering the eligibility age from 80 plus to 60 plus years with the numbers of beneficiaries totalling to 1,048,598, the amount required is estimated at Shs 373.36 billion. However, what is provided in the Financial Year 2026/2027 budget is Shs 121.22 billion, therefore, leaving the funding gap of Shs 252.14 billion.

As indicated below - the financial implication of achieving the lowering of age eligibility for SAGE - The table currently at 80 plus years with the required amount Shs 1.21 billion has already been provided in the budget. If we go to 65 plus years, we require the Shs 252.14 billion.

We are now making a proposal that they adjust to 70 plus years and they will be able to provide the money as we have made in our recommendation, to avail funds worth Shs 71.47 billion to enable implementation of an additional 75 plus years in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The ministries for finance and gender should subsequently provide funds for the implementation of SAGE in age eligibility from 60 plus years in the Financial Years 2027/2028 and 2028/2029 respectively. That is a proposal made by the committee, but the House will take a stand on it.

Appointment of Industrial Court judges – we have already talked about it and the committee has made a recommendation.

Special enterprise programme – I have already mentioned it.

On the national roll-out of empowering informal businesses into formal growth – the *Jua-Kali* Programme – the amount required was to roll it out to the whole country. However, only Shs 3.3 billion has been provided. We have made a recommendation that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 15 billion to enable the national roll-out of empowering informal businesses into formal growth – the *Jua-Kali* Programme. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide the balance of Shs 20.6 billion in the Financial Year 2027/2028.

Madam Speaker, I have already mentioned the Medical Arbitration Board. The committee recommends that an additional amount of Shs 6 billion be provided.

There is also the Labour Advisory Board. The committee has recommended that an additional Shs 5 billion be provided to enable the advisory board to effectively conduct its mandate.

There is also the national programme on the operationalisation of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board and Wages Councils. The Minimum Wage Advisory Board and Wages Council Act, Cap. 229 provides for the establishment of Minimum Wages Advisory Boards and Wages Councils and for the regulation of the remuneration and conditions of employment of employees.

During the high-level meeting with leaders of trade unions and employers held on 30 April 2025, His Excellency the President accepted requests from workers and employers organisations (National Organisation of Trade Unions, Central Organisation of Free Trade Unions and Federation of Uganda Employers) that, among other things to be set up, is the tripartite Minimum Wages Advisory Board and the Wages Councils to undertake a comprehensive study of the economy and feasibility of fixing the minimum wage in Uganda.

The committee was informed that on 1 May 2025, during the commemoration of

International Labour Day at Nakapiripirit District, His Excellency the President directed the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to take necessary steps to operationalise the tripartite statutory wage-setting institutions.

Section 3(1) of the Minimum Wages Advisory Boards and Wages Councils Act, Cap. 229 empowers the ministry to establish a board for any occupation or group of occupations to conduct inquiries and make recommendations on minimum wage and related conditions of employment. Similarly, section 7 provides for the establishment of wages councils, again by order of the minister, for specific sectors and occupations where wage regulation is necessary. In line with the above, the Minimum Wages Advisory Boards and Wages Councils are being constituted and planned to start work on the 1st of July.

The board has no provision, and it requires Shs 14.5 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 budget. Failure to allocate the necessary funding will not only impede the implementation of the presidential directive to establish the functional framework for wage determination, but also render the Minimum Wages Advisory Boards and Wage Councils non-operational.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development should provide Shs 14.5 billion for the operationalisation of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board and Wages Councils.

On green jobs, we are making a recommendation that we provide Shs 14.9 billion for the Green Jobs and Just Transition Programme.

Madam Speaker, I now proceed to Vote 124-Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). The details are on pages 33 and 34. Members can read through.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Abwooli, can you summarise and we go to appropriation?

MS AGNES KUNIHIRA: I am now on EOC. Table 13 shows the budget estimates for EOC.

The total amount, excluding arrears for this financial year, is going to be Shs 24.484439 billion and there is a variation of Shs 1.1 billion.

Madam Speaker, I can now go to the supply table, which is on page 43.

Recurrent and development estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development:

- i) The total recurrent is Shs 322,450,274,000.
- ii) The total development is Shs 205,974,467,000.
- iii) The overall total is Shs 528,424,741,000.

What is captured here is what we captured from what was submitted, but this has since changed. We shall harmonise with the Committee on Budget because this is what is in the Appropriation Bill, but it has since changed. The totals are different. I have put down the explanatory notes.

For Vote 124: Equal Opportunities Commission, the total recurrent is Shs 21,361,467,000 and the total development is Shs 790 million. The overall total is Shs 22,151,467,000. Here, it reads Shs 22,151,467,000 because that is what is in the Appropriation Bill.

We have made an observation that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, has a lower budgetary allocation compared to what is in the draft annual budget estimates for both the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Specifically, the allocation of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has a reduction of Shs 4,191,692,940, with the Bill providing Shs 528,424,741,000 against the draft annual budget estimates of Shs 532,616,434,000.

Similarly, the allocation to the EOC is lower by Shs 2,332,972,380 with the Appropriation Bill providing Shs 22,151,467,000 compared to what is in the draft annual budget estimates. These discrepancies indicate a downward adjustment in funding at the appropriation

stage, relative to what is proposed in the draft annual budget. We shall harmonise with the Committee on Budget.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the ministerial policy statement and the draft budget estimates for Vote 018 and Vote 127 for the Equal Opportunities Commission and the recommendation contained in the report be adopted. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Honourable members, you have heard the report from the chairperson. Government, there was an issue raised by Hon. Ssewungu. He heard it because he was here.

Government, there was an issue with the money paid to the elderly. The elderly are expected to go and sign themselves and some elders travel a long distance to get that money. In some areas, they allow a representative to go with their identification. In my area, they allow. Government Chief Whip?

10.42

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, the biggest issue with SAGE all over the country has been the question of age. Elders have always insisted that the age limit of 80 years is on the higher side, and Government is already progressing on reducing the age limit to 65 years.

On the question of the distance, that may need to be discussed by the Government because this is the first time a sitting Government has taken a decision to at least give a token to the elders. Hon. Ssewungu, you know how we used to move when we were growing up. That also talks about the mind set of our community. If there is an elder in a community and it is time for that elder to go and pick his or her money, don't we really have people who can volunteer to take this elder? What about the banking system?

Madam Speaker, a district like Alebtong does not have a single bank. If this money was to be picked from a bank, it would require that elder to travel from Alebtong up to Lira, where the majority of the banks are.

Madam Speaker, the Government may not be in a position to do all things; to decentralise it to the village or the parish. For now, let us allow the Government to work on the reduction of the age limit so that more elders can be enrolled into this programme.

MR SSEWUNGU: Honourable minister, thank you for your submission. Madam Speaker, why don't we adopt the system in Kenya? Some of these elders have telephone numbers. The Government can procure for them cheap telephones so that this money goes to their mobile account.

THE SPEAKER: How many elders are we talking about?

MR SSEWUNGU: Madam Speaker, it is very possible because the Government will still earn from them. When you send money to this elder through mobile money, the Government will tax this money and get Shs 1,000 from the withdraw. That is what is done in Kenya.

Madam Speaker, this is the simplest method of solving all these challenges since this elderly person is near a mobile booth somewhere. He takes his phone and he says, I want to withdraw my money. As he withdraws, the Government gets taxes. That is what Kenya is doing. It solves all problems and reduces on the corruption within the system of SAGE.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, that is food for thought. We should be able to plan on how best our elders should get their money. The Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development should actually plan, discuss and advise the Government on how best this money can be received with ease. Yes, Hon. John?

10.45

MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Government has taken a step towards managing finances at the parish level as evidenced by PDM. One of the proposals we can make is that we can start looking at these elderly people at the parish level and use the

parish office to reach out to them with ease for avoidance of movement. Imagine someone moving from Buyende where there is no bank to Kamuli! It is a very long distance.

I want to appreciate the fact that we have now taken a step towards the Parish Development Model. The same approach can be used to take care of these elderly people using the parish office. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, yesterday, when we had a debate here, we also complained about PDM. We said the parish officers are not doing a good job. They are removing – You were in Kyankwanzi when Hon. Nameere said that they deduct the money - is it Shs 500,000 and then just give the balance. There is still a problem with the use of the parish chiefs. I think we need to have an extensive discussion on how this can be done so we can come up with a viable solution. Meanwhile, Buyende needs a bank. Yes, Hon. Faith.

10.47

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Madam Speaker, it is disheartening to hear from the chairperson that there are judges deployed in the Industrial Courts but who cannot work and yet this category is well paid. It is not cost-effective to have judges who cannot work when we have a lot of cases in other courts.

THE SPEAKER: That is very true.

MS NAKUT: How about we recommend that those judges be deployed to support the other courts so that the value in them can be utilised. The country can benefit better.

THE SPEAKER: The Industrial Court judges are recruited specifically - In the Industrial Court, we need these judges, Hon. Faith. What we need to do, as Parliament and Government, is to ensure that we give the minister money for operational costs. That is something very small that should be done. Yes, Olympian.

10.48

MR ACON JULIUS (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the committee chairperson. I would like to also thank the Government -

THE SPEAKER: I am going to give 20 minutes per report. We have spent almost two hours on this one.

MR ACON: Madam Speaker, there are things that we have to appreciate this Government for. This Government came a long way. When you look at the many programmes that we are running - we are talking about the SAGE, and then we have a programme for the youth. I would like to emphasise that we should look at the age of people in order to achieve this goal.

Madam Speaker, on the issue of the age, we have been collecting so much data where you find 80 or 70 years old - I would like to request that we get all those that are 60 years old to also receive this SAGE money.

On the issue of bringing their payment nearest to their villages, that is quite difficult. In Northern Uganda, we are now talking about restocking. In the eastern, we are also talking about restocking. We shall complicate a lot of things yet as a country, we are really not very successful. Right now, we have challenges in finance since funds were cut from the Western world during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even when you look at the issue of gays - So, our country is really struggling.

Therefore, I ask, Madam Speaker, that we focus on the age of 65 years and above. The data should be collected so they can be paid. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I request you, honourable member, to discuss the next report? Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 156(2), the report is forwarded to the Committee on Budget for consolidation and reconciliation. Thank you very much.

Honourable minister, you need to take note of the issues that are being raised so that when

you go to Cabinet, you are able to discuss these issues.

10.51

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify one thing. For the last two years under the Parish Development Model (PDM), the Government has been paying an additional Shs 100,000 to all the parish chiefs in Uganda. This is meant to enhance whatever they have been receiving to enable them to move and connect, specifically under PDM. Therefore, no parish chief in Uganda is supposed to charge any beneficiary of PDM. That is the information I would like to give.

10.52

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Madam Speaker, we agree with the principle, but we must know the reality as well. That is what the Speaker was telling us. We all have to fight the vice. The fact is there but how do you fight the vice that people are charged Shs 500,000 as the Speaker stated? Let us all come around to fight that vice.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we have a challenge with PDM, but as leaders, we should be able to make sure that we correct that.

(II) THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
ON THE BUDGET ESTIMATES AND
MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT
FOR THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE
PROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2026/2027

THE SPEAKER: We will look at the challenges, recommendations and appropriation.

10.53

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Mr Tony Awany): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to present the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on

the Budget estimates and Ministerial Policy Statement for the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services Programme for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, before – (*Hon. Oshabe rose*)

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, I endured looking at that screen previously, yet I have an iPad here for the reports. Whoever is in charge of uploading those reports should help us and do it swiftly, so that we can follow on our iPads.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, have you heard? I am told it is uploaded.

Do you, Hon. Basil Bataringaya, have it? Hon. Oshabe, can you go and seek the assistance of the IT personnel?

You know these things are not easy to use. (*Laughter*)

MR AWANY: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, you will need to guide. When I left the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) - by the way you were also in FDC - and joined the People's Front for Freedom Party (PFF), I came here and I was advised that those changes will begin with the next Parliament. I see the Hon. Nsibambi, who is here, by the way still as FDC, putting on a yellow tie.

He has also left and joined the National Resistance Movement (NRM) yet your guidance was that the changes are only for purposes of election, so you remain in your political party. (*Applause*) That is the procedural issue I am raising to you, Madam Speaker, to guide Hon. Nsibambi on when the right time will be to go to sit on the other side.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, Hon. Nsibambi officially crossed to the NRM. I know you would have also loved to be on this side, and there is still room. (*Laughter*) You can see that there is so much space. If you are ready, the Government Chief Whip will give you space. Otherwise, legally, it has no

problem. You can cross within the one year. We are left with one month to go.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I am fearing that this Parliament will have two rulings on the same matter. This is because I came here and said I had left FDC, and I am now in PFF. The Attorney-General and the chairperson said it is only for purposes of election. You, therefore, cannot change affiliation until the term has ended. However, Madam Speaker, since it is your guidance, I will take it. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: There is no problem with Hon. Nsibambi putting on yellow. Yellow is a colour. It is a colour on the Ugandan flag, that is number one.

Number two, I have always said there is free sitting. It is you who has failed to come and sit on this side, yet when you sit on this side, you see better, or you can be seen better. Those are small things. You can see that he is even more healthy now. Congratulations, Hon. Nsibambi. *(Applause)*

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, before I present, allow me lay on the Table a copy of the report and the minutes that processed the report.

Madam Speaker, because of time constraints, allow me to also give an executive summary of the report.

The sectoral Committee on Physical Infrastructure examined the Budget estimates and Ministerial Policy Statement for the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services, that is ITIS Programme, under the Financial Year 2026/2027, in accordance with Articles 90 and 155(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Madam Speaker, the ITIS Programme aims at developing a seamless, safe, inclusive and sustainable multi-modal transport system to support Uganda's social-economic transformation.

Allow me draw the attention of Members to the key Vote allocations.

Vote 016: Ministry of Works and Transport

The total allocation to the Ministry of Works and Transport for Financial Year 2026/2027 amounts to approximately Shs 8.07 trillion, reflecting a 41.8 per cent increase from the previous financial year.

The development portfolio comprises 67 projects with a combined budget of Shs 7.08 billion, up from 4.9 trillion in the Financial Year 2025/2026.

The allocation across subsectors includes:

- 1) The road sub-sector, Shs 2.7 trillion for upgrading, rehabilitation, and maintenance of national roads;
- 2) The railway sub-sector, Shs 3.2 trillion, largely for capital-intensive investments such as the Standard Gauge Railway and rehabilitation of the meter gauge lines;
- 3) The bridges sub-sector, Shs 125.3 billion for the construction and upgrading of bridges;
- 4) The aviation sub-sector, which is Shs 141.7 billion for airport development and aviation infrastructure;
- 5) The maritime and inland water transport, Shs 7.0 billion for maritime infrastructure and safety improvements; and
- 6) The ferry services, Shs 23.2 billion for the expansion and maintenance of ferry services across water bodies.

Madam Speaker, the programme prioritises continued rehabilitation of damaged roads, strengthening railway infrastructure, expansion of air transport services, including developments at Entebbe and Kabalega International Airports, and improvement of inland water transport systems.

The committee observations and recommendations are as follows:

1. Outstanding arrears to contractors

Accumulation of arrears has remained a structural challenge within Uganda's road sector. The absorption of the former Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) and Uganda Road Fund (URF) into the Ministry of Works and Transport has further consolidated the arrears liability across previously separate institutional structures, creating a single and growing pool of outstanding debt.

The committee was informed that the Ministry of Works and Transport closed the Financial Year 2024/2025 with total arrears of Shs 1.4 trillion, comprising Shs 649 billion from the Ministry of Works and Transport, Shs 840 billion inherited from the former UNRA and Shs 0.5 billion from the former Uganda Road Fund.

Although Shs 541 billion have been paid so far in the Financial Year 2025/2026 through supplementary expenditure, the outstanding balance as at the time of the Ministerial Policy Statement submission stands at approximately Shs 948 billion.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes with concern that out of an approved arrears budget of Shs 218.4 billion for the Financial Year 2025/2026, no resources were released by the half year mark. This complete non-release directly caused the suspension of works on a number of national road projects and triggered additional interest charges.

The committee further notes that instead of restoring the arrears allocation, the proposed Financial Year 2026/2027 budget slashes it from Shs 218.4 billion to only Shs 39.6 billion, a reduction of 81.9 per cent despite the outstanding stock having grown. This is compounded by the absence of any fixed medium-term clearance schedule.

The committee, therefore, recommends and urges the Government to:

1. Restore the Financial Year 2026/2027 arrears allocation to a minimum of Shs 300 billion and commit to a legally binding three-year clearance schedule published to

Parliament by end of the first quarter of the Financial Year 2026/2027;

2. Ensure that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development releases both the arrears budget of Shs 218 billion for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the remaining balance of the approved supplementary budget of Shs 1.69 trillion; and
3. Cease approving arrears budget lines that are never released, as this creates a false impression of fiscal responsibility while contractors remain unpaid, works remain suspended and interest accrues.

Persistent delays in land acquisition and Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) compensation

The committee was informed that as at the time of the Ministerial Policy Statements (MPS) submission, a total of 7,767 PAPs (41 per cent), remain unpaid under the Government-funded projects;

- a) Bukasa Port;
- b) The Standard Gauge Railway;
- c) Tororo-Gulu Meter Gauge Railway; and
- d) Gulu Logistics Hub, representing outstanding compensation of Shs 533.2 billion.

Under donor-funded projects, 6,597 PAPs (18 per cent) remain unpaid Shs 320.1 billion. Land acquisition across 32 ongoing civil works contracts has progressed to only 209 of a required 711.5 hectares, a coverage rate of 29.4 per cent.

The committee notes a significant positive development where the land acquisition Project II (Project 1771), has received a significant budget increase from Shs 113.1 billion to Shs 689.5 billion. This signals a belated recognition that land acquisition has been the principal bottleneck to infrastructure delivery.

However, the committee cautions that a budget appropriation alone is insufficient. The history of approved but unspent counterpart allocations shows that appropriation does not guarantee release or utilisation.

The committee, therefore, recommends and urges the Government to:

1. Publish a project-by-project PAP clearance schedule with quarterly targets, ring-fence Shs 689.5 billion Land Acquisition II budget for immediate release in the first quarter of the Financial Year 2026/2027, and establish independent verification of disbursements to actual PAPs; and
2. Treat counterpart funding for land acquisition as a statutory first call on programme resources in line with the second BCC directive, ensuring it is released before any other discretionary expenditure in the first quarter.

Low releases and absorption of external financing

In respect to this, the committee notes with grave concern that while Shs 1.4 trillion, representing 34.4 per cent of the external budget was released to the vote, only Shs 193.3 billion was actually spent. This means that 86.2 per cent of the released external funds remained unabsorbed as at half year. Expressed against the original approval budget, only 4.7 per cent of Shs 4.0 trillion external budget was spent by mid-year.

This is not a funding shortage but a structural implementation failure rooted in the absence of counterpart resources for land acquisition and PAP compensation, making the large external budget envelope essentially inaccessible despite its formal approval.

The committee further notes that with the Financial Year 2026/2027 external financing budget rising to Shs 4.3 trillion, a continuation of 13.8 per cent absorption rate would imply only approximately Shs 606 billion in actual expenditure, leaving Shs 3.7 trillion unspent and generating additional commitment charges.

Madam Speaker, the committee, therefore, recommends:

- 1) Mandatory project readiness certification. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Works and Transport and the National Planning Authority (NPA), should institute a mandatory project readiness certification process for all externally financed projects before inclusion in the annual budget. No externally financed project should receive budget allocation unless it has;

- a) A completed feasibility study;
- b) Approved detailed engineering designs;
- c) Completed environmental social impact assessment;
- d) Confirmed land right-of-way availability of at least 80 per cent; and
- e) A signed and effective loan grant agreement.

Projects that do not meet these criteria should be removed from the budget estimates and placed in a pipeline category until readiness is established.

- 2) The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Works and Transport should negotiate and publish a synchronised annual disbursement calendar with each development partner financing projects under Vote 016.

This calendar should align the Government of Uganda counterpart releases with donor disbursement triggers, ensuring that Government of Uganda's quarterly cash budgeting framework does not create artificial delays in accessing externally financed resources.

7.1.4 The Standard Gauge Railway Financing Gaps and Implementation Risks

The Standard Gauge Railway from Malaba to Kampala is Uganda's single most capital-intensive infrastructure investment and a cornerstone of the NDPIV tenfold growth strategy. As a key component of the East African Railway Master Plan and the Northern Corridor Integrated Projects, the 272-kilometre Malaba-Kampala section, (phase I of a planned 1,700-kilometre network) will link Uganda's capital to the port of Mombasa, reducing

logistics costs, decongesting highways, and enabling the oil and gas sector.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes with concern the following:

- a) The Islamic Development Bank commitment of €410 million covers only 15 per cent of the €2.7 billion project cost, with over €2.2 billion unconfirmed, creating material risks to the November 2026 financial closure deadline;
- b) Shs 491.9 billion (60 per cent) in the project-affected person compensation remains unpaid, with 5,028 PAPs uncompensated, predominantly in the dense urban Buikwe-Mukono-Wakiso-Kampala corridor, directly threatening right-of-way clearance and lender conditionalities;
- c) Only 47 per cent of acquired land has been formally titled, exposing untitled parcels to legal encumbrance risks;
- d) There is no publicly disclosed revenue model or debt service schedule to demonstrate Standard Gauge Railway's fiscal viability against its €2.7 billion debt obligation; and
- e) Uganda already lost eight years (2015-2023). Between 2015 and January 2023, the Government of Uganda maintained a contractual arrangement with China Harbour Engineering Company for the construction of the Malaba-Kampala section. However, the contract was terminated in January 2023 after eight consecutive years of failure to execute, during which financing negotiations with Chinese lenders stalled due to the connectivity concerns with Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway.

Madam Speaker, the committee, therefore, recommends that the Government:

- i) Presents to Parliament by end of quarter one of the Financial Year 2026/2027, a comprehensive Standard Gauge Railway financing plan with confirmed lender commitments, co-financing structure for the remaining €2.2 billion, and a contingency strategy if November 2026 financial closure is not achieved;

- ii) Fast-tracks release of the outstanding Uganda Shs 491 billion PAP compensation with priority ring-fencing for the Buikwe-Mukono-Wakiso-Kampala corridor, and operationalise an independent grievance redress mechanism for contested valuations with clear timelines;
- iii) Directs the Uganda Land Commission to complete titling and transfer all 2,001 acquired Standard Gauge Railway acres within six months;
- iv) Tables a dedicated debt sustainability analysis for the Standard Gauge Railway before financial closure, incorporating revenue projections, freight tariff structures, and debt service schedules; and
- v) Submits quarterly Standard Gauge Railway progress reports to the physical infrastructure committee from April 2026 until financial closure and full construction commencement, covering financing, land acquisition, Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) works, local content compliance, and Uganda-Kenya coordination.

7.1.5 The Government Debtors to Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA)

A total of Shs 152.538 billion, representing 77 per cent of the total trade debtors and receivables. These funds related to unpaid for services, security, navigation services and rent. The accumulation of long outstanding Government debtors constrains Uganda Civil Aviation Authority's cash flow and exposes the authority to a heightened risk of revenue loss and impaired service delivery.

The committee was informed that delayed payment of these debts has constrained the timely expansion, harmonisation, and replacement of safety capital investments at Entebbe International Airport. I invite the Members to look through the table of debtors as at 31 March 2026.

In respect to that, the committee recommends that the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority/ Ministry of Works liaise with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to come up with a repayment schedule from the aforementioned MDAs where deductions can

be carried out at source quarterly. Further, the affected MDAs are also urged to incorporate within their budgets specified funds in order to enable them clear arrears accrued towards UCAA.

The committee was informed that in regards to funds owed by the UN to the Uganda Civil Aviation, there is an MOU that states that the UN will operate at Entebbe International Airport at no cost and that UCAA will be compensated for the foregone income.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Works liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Office of the Prime Minister to have the matter resolved and report back to Parliament in the medium term.

7.1.6 The relocation of NAGRIC from the airport

The committee was informed by the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority that it acquired 67.4 acres of land formerly owned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)/ National Animal Genetic Resources Centre (NAGRIC) to facilitate the expansion of Entebbe International Airport. In order to facilitate the acquisition, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority paid Shs 2.4 billion on 20 August 2019 to MAAIF, which would enable them to relocate to land measuring 76.5 acres in Kyanuma village, Busiro.

In respect to that, the committee noted that this issue was raised in the committee report of the Financial Year 2025/2026, urging MAAIF and NAGRIC to relocate and pave the way for the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority given that funds were received in lieu of the land by NAGRIC, but the status quo remains the same.

The committee recommends and urges the ministers for Works and Transport and Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister, to come up with an amicable solution to the land under dispute and report back to Parliament in the medium term.

7.1.7 Ferries and inland water transport safety

Ferry services in Uganda are primarily managed by Uganda National Roads Department in the Ministry of Works and Transport and private operators. They are critical infrastructure in connecting rural communities and bridging road networks across Lake Victoria, Kyoga, Albert, and the River Nile. These services significantly reduce travel times for people and cargo by serving key areas like Kalangala, Buvuma, and the Buyende-Kaberamaido route.

The committee noted that inland water transport has been neglected over time with concerns about limited connectivity, ferry breakdowns, and makeshift boat use, persisting with up to 5,000 deaths occurring annually on Lake Victoria alone due to boat accidents.

Madam Speaker, in respect to that, the committee takes into cognizance the ministry's efforts towards construction of the Search and Rescue (SAR) centres and recommends that SAR centres be evenly distributed, constructed across all major water bodies. Further, island communities should be regularly sensitised on safe water transport usage given that most accidents are due to human error, like overloading, and most boats being in poor mechanical conditions. Further emphasis should be placed on regular vessel inspections in order to ensure compliance with set standards.

7.1.8 Operationalisation of the Meter Gauge Railway (MGR) Project.

The committee noted that the Uganda Railways Corporation (URC) is in the process of rehabilitating and upgrading the aging MGR network, including Malaba-Kampala, Tororo-Gulu, and expanding the commuter passenger services in the greater Kampala Metropolitan area under their strategic plan for Financial Year 2025/2026-2029/2030.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted that in Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government has allocated Shs 161 billion to the Uganda Railways Corporation (URC) towards the

full operationalisation of the Tororo-Gulu line, including rehabilitation of 600 wagons, rehabilitation of locomotives, and wage support.

The committee recommends that the URC prioritises the full operationalisation of the meter-gauge railway, as this will go a long way in alleviating congestion in both cargo and passenger services on the already struggling road network.

Road Fund Management

The committee noted that while the Road Fund Management Department, formerly the Uganda Road Fund, is mandated to finance routine and periodic maintenance of public roads in Uganda, it is grossly underfunded. The Fund is supposed to raise monies independent of general Government taxation regimes and disperse those funds to repair and maintain roads based on an agreed work plan.

Madam Speaker, the agencies that repair and maintain Uganda's roads and therefore benefit from the monies accrued by the Road Fund Management include Kampala Capital City Authority and other designated agencies responsible for maintenance and repair of district, urban, and community-access roads.

Recommendations

- i) The committee recommends and urges the Government to fully operationalise the Road Fund to enable it to operate with the resources drawn from the second-generation fund, as resolved by Parliament;
- ii) Further, the committee recommends that road and drainage maintenance under the Uganda Road Fund be allocated additional resources to enable it to fully carry out its mandate; and
- iii) The committee also recommends that the Government come up with a programme specifically geared towards sensitising the populace on proper garbage disposal and enforcement of attendant penalties. This may help curb the poor culture towards garbage disposal.

Vote 122: Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)

The reduction in infrastructure budget allocation under Kampala Capital City Authority

The infrastructure budget for Kampala Capital City Authority is on a downward trajectory at a time when the city's road network and drainage systems require expanded investment. The reduction in the KCCA's budget under the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services (ITIS) programme undermines KCCA's capacity to address the growing urban mobility and infrastructural maintenance challenges confronting the capital city.

The committee was informed that KCCA's total allocation under the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services programme has decreased from Shs 621.8 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 529.7 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027; a reduction of Shs 92.1 billion – that is 14.8 per cent.

The committee notes that this reduction is principally driven by the removal of Shs 140 billion allocated for the commencement of the Kampala City Roads and Bridges Upgrading Project, funded by the UK Export Finance in the second Budget Call Circular.

In respect to that, the committee, therefore, recommends the reinstatement of the Shs 140 billion allocated for the Kampala City Roads and Bridges Upgrading Project (KCRBUP) in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to enable timely project commencement, given that the UK Export Finance facility is already secured and further delay risks lapsing of the credit arrangement.

Critically Low Absorption of External Financing Under KCCA's Infrastructure Budget

External financing constitutes the single largest component of KCCA's infrastructure budget, and its effective absorption is the primary determinant of whether the Capital City's Strategic Road Rehabilitation and Urban Development Programmes deliver tangible results.

Madam Speaker, the half-year performance data reveal a deeply concerning pattern of under-absorption that, if sustained, renders the expanded external financing envelope largely illusionary.

The committee was informed that as at the end of quarter two of the Financial Year 2025/2026, the overall absorption rate under KCCA stood at only 46.1 per cent, with Shs 138.7 billion spent out of the Shs 300.4 billion released. Externally-financed projects recorded particularly weak performance. The KCRRP spent only Shs 65.4 billion of Shs 199.0 billion, while the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area spent only Shs 7.3 billion of Shs 32.5 billion released.

The committee notes that although KCCA reports improved performance by March 2026, with overall Vote absorption rising to 73.5 per cent, external financing improved from 32.86 to 56.5 per cent.

In respect to that, the committee recommends and urges the Government to;

- i) Ensure that all prerequisite activities, including utility relocations, right-of-way acquisition, and donor approval processes, are completed before the start of Financial Year 2026/2027 so that construction can proceed unimpeded from quarter one' and
- ii) Engage development partners, the African Development Bank and the World Bank, proactively to streamline the no-objection approval processes and reduce approval turnaround times.

The persistent implementation delays under the Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project (KCRRP)

The KCRRP, valued at \$288 million – that is about Shs 1.0 trillion – funded by the African Development Bank, the Global Environmental Fund, and the Government of Uganda, is the single largest infrastructure investment in Kampala's road network. Its timely completion is critical, enhancing transport efficiency and expanding the stock of paved roads in the capital city.

However, the project has experienced significant implementation delays across multiple lots. I invite honourable colleagues to go through lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The committee, therefore, observes that the KCRRP commenced in the Financial Year 2021/2022 and has been under implementation for over four years, yet overall progress remains below two-thirds. Lots 2, 3, and 4, which together account for 61.6 kilometres – that is 66 per cent of the total KCRRP scope – are all significantly behind schedule.

Of particular concern is that the zero kilometre of paved road has been delivered under lot 2, despite over 50 per cent physical project progress, suggesting that completed works are concentrated in sub-base and drainage activities, with no finished road surface yet handed over.

The committee, therefore, recommends and urges the government to:

- i) Direct KCCA to present a revised lot-by-lot completion schedule with realistic milestones, including monthly paved kilometre targets, to the committee by the end of quarter one of the Financial Year 2026/2027; and
- ii) Ensure that the Financial Year 2026/2027 KCRRP allocation of Shs 122.3 billion is released in full and on time to prevent further construction stoppages; and
- iii) Investigate and report to the committee on the specific factors causing delayed progress on Kasubi, Northern Bypass Road, Queen's Way and Nsambya road/Hanlon Junction, with remedial action timelines.

The slow progress under the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Programme

The Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Programme valued at \$606 million and funded by the World Bank and the French Development Agency under a Programme-for-Results financing modality,

is the most significant urban development intervention in Kampala.

multi-year maintenance plan to Parliament by December 2026.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of time, the committee recommends and urges the Government to:

Critical Drainage Infrastructure Deficit and Flood Risk

The committee recommended and urged Government to:

- i) Direct KCCA to present a revised realistic completion schedule for the five GKMA-UDP road lots, with interim milestones and clear accountability mechanisms for each contractor;
- ii) Expedite right-of-way acquisition, particularly for Katalemwa Road and Muganzirwazza Road, through accelerated stakeholder engagement and where necessary, formal land acquisition process; and
- iii) Ensure that the Financial Year 2026/2027 GKMA-UDP allocation of Shs 196.9 billion is fully utilised and that KCCA meets the minimum conditions and performance benchmarks required to access Metropolitan Development Grants under the Programme-for-Results framework.

- i) Appropriate a dedicated drainage improvement allocation of at least Shs 50 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the immediate construction of the already designed 18.9 km of community drainage channels and the most critical box culverts;
- ii) To fast-track the completion of the Lubigi drainage channel (980 meters remaining) as a priority flood mitigation intervention; and
- iii) Develop and present to Parliament a comprehensive Kampala drainage master plan with a costed five-year phase investment program by December 2026.

Non-Release of Arrears and Budget under the KCCA

The Chronic Underfunding of Road and Drainage Maintenance Under KCCA

The committee recommends and urges the Government to:

Under that, Madam Speaker, the committee, therefore, recommended and urges Government to:

- i) Appropriate and release a minimum of Shs 39.5 billion for arrears clearance in the Financial Year 2026/2027; and
- ii) Cease the practice of budgeting for arrears without any intention of release, as this distorts the fiscal position.

- i) Increase the Uganda Road Fund allocation to KCCA to a minimum of Shs 55 billion in Financial Year 2026/2027, in line with the stated maintenance requirements and index future allocations to the road network length and conditions data;
- ii) Ring-fence the Uganda Road Fund allocation strictly for maintenance activities and ensure that is released in quarter one to allow timely procurement of materials and commencement of maintenance works; and
- iii) The committee in that respect recommended that KCCA provide a comprehensive road condition survey of all 2,104 km of the Kampala road network with a costed

Grossly inadequate street lighting and infrastructure

The committee recommends and urges the Government to:

- i) Increase the street lighting allocation progressively, targeting full coverage of all arterial and collector roads within three financial years;
- ii) Enforce penalties for vandalism of public infrastructure, including street lights, to deter destruction of Government property; and

- iii) Explore solar-powered and vandal-resistant lighting technologies to reduce both operational costs and the impact of vandalism.

Vote 609: Road maintenance grant: Operationalisation challenges under the local government.

Currently, the Government allocates a uniform Road Maintenance Grant of Shs 1 billion to each of the 176 local governments (135 districts, 10 cities, and 31 municipal councils), amounting to Shs 176 billion in the Financial Year 2024/2025 to support maintenance of the DUCAR road network. However, audit and field evidence show that the design and operationalisation of this grant have not translated into timely, efficient and quality road maintenance at the local level.

The committee recommends the following:

- i) The Ministry of Works and Transport should revise the road maintenance development grant guidelines to make preparation and annual updating of road inventories and condition surveys a precondition for work plan and funding approval, with targeted technical support to the five local governments with no inventories and the 22 with incomplete databases;
- ii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should strengthen performance-based aspects of the grant by linking allocations to agreed indicators (timely completion rates, percentage of network in fair or good condition, quality audit scores), while maintaining a minimum flow to avoid penalising the poorest local governments; and
- iii) The Government should also enforce strict timelines for procurement and implementation of works financed by the grant, with non-performing local governments subjected to corrective action plans and closer technical supervision.

Inadequate road equipment in the local government

According to the most recent Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) report, a review of road equipment in 148 sampled local governments revealed severe deficits in the availability and functionality of road machinery required to execute maintenance works and finance through the grant. 19 local governments had no road equipment units at all; 137 had inadequate equipment, such as motor graders, excavators, and bulldozers; and 119 local governments had non-functional machinery. As a result, most local governments experience significant delays in implementing maintenance works and, in many ways, are compelled to resort to expensive hiring of private equipment.

The committee recommends the following:

- i) The Ministry of Works and Transport in collaboration with Finance should fast-track the procurement and delivery of complete road equipment units, (motor grader, the wheel loader, the vibro roller, water bowsers, and two dump trucks) to all local governments that lack them, prioritising the 19 local governments with no equipment and the 14 new districts with incomplete units with a full package funded and delivered within a clearly defined timeline;
- ii) The Government should increase mechanical imprest allocations to local governments to enable regular servicing, preventive maintenance, and timely minor repairs of road equipment, reducing downtime and extending asset life;
- iii) The Ministry of Works and Transport should review and amend the current policy on centralised repairs during the warranty period by authorising local governments to undertake minor and routine repairs through certified local workshops, under clear guidelines and accountability arrangements;

- iv) The Ministry of Works and Transport should implement a structured capacity building program to train at least three mechanical technicians and two plant operators per local government, alongside equipping selected regional mechanical workshops to serve clusters of local governments; and
- v) The Ministry of Works and Transport, the Inspectorate of Government and the Uganda Police Force should institute strict monitoring and accountability mechanisms for road equipment, including mandatory GPS tracking on all machinery, annual physical verification and condition audits, and deterrent sanctions (including recovery of funds and disciplinary actions) for illegal hiring out or misuse.

Uniform allocation of the road maintenance grant

Under the current arrangement, every local government receives a flat road maintenance development grant of Uganda Shs 1 billion per year, irrespective of length, condition and traffic levels of its DUCAR network or its institutional performance. This “one-size-fits-all” approach does not reflect the wide disparities in network size, terrain, urbanisation, and maintenance needs among district cities and municipalities.

Larger and more urbanised local governments with extensive and heavily trafficked networks face acute funding shortfalls, which contribute to rapid deterioration and accumulation of maintenance backlogs, while smaller local governments with shorter networks may receive allocations that exceed their needs-based formula.

The committee recommends the following:

- i) Government should replace the uniform Shs 1 billion allocations with a transparent formula-based Road Maintenance Development Grant that incorporates at least the following parameters: length of the DUCAR network, network condition, (share poor/fair/good) road hierarchy and

traffic volumes, terrain and climatic factors, and historical absorption/performance;

- ii) A minimum base of Uganda Shillings allocation should be maintained for all local governments to ensure basic functionality, but incremental resources above this floor should be distributed based on objective needs and performance indicators, ensuring that not all local governments receive the same amount;

- iii) The Ministry of Works and Transport should ensure that complete and regularly updated road inventories and condition surveys form the backbone of the allocation formula, and that local governments which fail to submit credible data within agreed timelines receive only the base allocation until compliance is achieved;

- iv) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should consider gradually increasing the overall envelope for the road maintenance development grant while applying the new formula, so that better performing and higher needs local governments receive proportionately more resources; and

- v) The revised criteria and formula should be approved by the Cabinet and communicated publicly, and the Ministry of Works and Transport should publish the annual allocation tables and performance reports to strengthen transparency, parliamentary oversight and local accountability.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the committee adequately considered the Ministerial Policy Statement of the Integrated Transport Infrastructure Services Programme and recommends that the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 be adopted. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. What are the total allocations that have been given to you?

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, the total allocation to the Ministry of Works and Transport for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 8,074.8 billion.

THE SPEAKER: It is Shs 8 trillion?

MR AWANY: Yes, it is Shs 8 trillion.

THE SPEAKER: Do you know why I am asking about how much has been allocated? This is because even after that allocation, we do not find the roads being worked on. What did you say about the Kampala-Jinja Expressway?

As you look for that, we also need to synchronise the issue of the regional mechanical workshops. You find a district like Bundibugyo with a regional workshop in Fort Portal – It is in Mbarara, not even Fort Portal. You find the one servicing Soroti in Bugembe.

We are wondering what happened to the – because Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) used to be very organised. They had regional offices. What happened to those offices? What happened to the equipment that they had? Where are the regional labs? Before we start talking about the roads and whatever, how do we test the materials? Where are those labs or the regional mechanical workshops? Then, what happened to the UNRA roads?

Honourable chairperson, you may need to enlighten us on that because we are giving you a lot of money. Now, the fact that you have a lot of money, tell us which roads you are going to give us – when we are doing appropriation – which roads are we working on?

I told you about the road leading to Buhweju. You cannot even think of passing there. There is the road from Lira-Otuke-Abim up to Karenga; it is very bad.

When you look at Kachonga-Butaleja-Tororo-Namutumba road, it is terrible. Look at where Hon. Joan comes from, Madi-Okollo. That road of Madi-Okollo connecting to Arua - I can tell you all the roads now. Let us look at the critical roads and make sure that we use the

money effectively. With all this money that is being given, we must achieve what we need to achieve.

You find the roads in Kampala – like my road, somebody is working on McKinnon Road, but I have failed to pass there for a whole two weeks. Nothing is moving. I was wondering why they removed my little tarmac which was there; they should have left it the way it was. Therefore, honourable chairperson, there is a big problem in your sector.

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, in respect to the regional mechanical workshops, we had an extensive discussion on the subject matter with the ministry for works that currently, the regional mechanical workshops do not offer efficient services to the rest of the region.

For example, you find that in the Karamoja Subregion, we would expect to travel all the way to Gulu mechanical workshop. In West Nile, we will have to travel all the way to Gulu. Then, Hoima, Fort Portal, we will have to travel all the way to Mbarara. Therefore, we recommended the creation of subregional mechanical workshops born out of the stations that were formerly manned by UNRA.

THE SPEAKER: Exactly! What I have seen with UNRA is that they have only changed the logo, and yet they used to have very good workshops. What about districts like Ntungamo, Isingiro, Kasese, or Oyam that are too big, in terms of equipment? The President promised that they will be given additional equipment and additional Shs 1 billion for road maintenance.

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, the discrepancies in the allocation of the road equipment was indeed observed by the committee. Like you rightly noted, Rwenzori Subregion comes with attendant challenges of climate change issues – the terrain. We brought it to the attention of the ministry –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, you have not understood what I am saying. During the campaign, the President said

districts that are too big – districts like Isingiro, Kasee, Oyam, Yumbe – there are about six districts. He said they were going to give them additional equipment – that is number one.

Secondly, he also said they were going to give them additional Shs 1 billion for road maintenance. When we had a top political meeting on the budget, the President even emphasised to the PS/ST that this money must be provided. The equipment can be in a phased manner, but the money for road maintenance should start this financial year.

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, we ably mirrored your concerns to the minister and his team.

THE SPEAKER: Can you go and make a follow-up with the PS/ST on that and report back to me?

MR AWANY: Much obliged.

THE SPEAKER: This is because I was in that meeting, and those districts must get their money. Yes, Member for Oyam?

MS ALUM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are discussing a very critical area in this country and to my dismay, a lot of money has been given, but the work on the ground is really wanting. I am so surprised that we do not even have a single minister here to answer some of these queries that you and the Members are putting forward.

Madam Speaker, are we moving well to come and discuss such an important matter when the ministers are not here, not even a single one?

THE SPEAKER: You are talking about a single minister. What about Hon. Kafuuzi?

MS ALUM: Madam Speaker, I mean the ministers from the sector of roads, infrastructure and the like.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are not going to fail to work because people have failed to come. Hon. Kafuuzi is holding

fort and he is taking note of everything. Hon. Kafuuzi, as Parliament of Uganda, we are going to make a follow-up on this Vote.

We are not going to give the Ministry of Works and Transport all this money, and then the roads are not worked on. How can you have such roads in the country, for heaven's sake? At the end of the day, they say "the Government is not working", yet we are the ones who are failing. Yes, Hon. Joanne?

11.51

MS JOANNE ANIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank you for this opportunity. I also thank the committee for the report.

I have two issues. I would like to agree with them that the new districts that received only partial equipment should be equipped with the equipment that -

THE SPEAKER: The balance.

MS ANIKU: Yes, the balance of the equipment. That is very important.

I would like to thank the Government for the Shs 1 billion. You said there are some districts that are very large and that His Excellency had promised that they would receive an extra Shs 1 billion. I hope that this is "large in land size" and not necessarily "large in numbers". This is because, when you look at a district like Madi-Okollo, to reach some subcounties - Madi-Okollo is a land of many water bodies and, therefore, there is a need for many bridges.

To reach one of our subcounties, you have to go through four other districts. It is a subcounty called Ewanga. There is bridge called Kia Kia Bridge that was planned in 2021 – it was in the NDP III. The design was made, but, somehow, they stopped at the design.

Now, I am hearing about bridges which are set to be constructed and their designs are being planned. What about the design of Kia Kia Bridge, which is already in place but has not

been put in the plan? I would like to ask that the Ministry of Works and Transport considers that bridge.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, when we talk about “large districts”, I want somebody from Isingiro and Ntungamo to justify the size of – (*Hon. Timuzigu rose*) – Yes, honourable member?

11.52

MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On that issue of the “big districts”, when you look at Ntungamo, Isingiro and Kasese, we consider both the size of the district and the population, which increases the economic activities, of course, because the people are many.

When you look at Ntungamo, Isingiro, Kasese and other districts whose population is high, you find that when you work on the road, within just three months, you need to go back.

Then, there is the issue of the terrain. Isingiro, Kasese and Ntungamo districts are hilly. So, you find that even working on a bridge is very expensive. We have been finding it very difficult to manage our constituencies, because we manage them as sub-districts. The money we get from here, in allowances, we use it to work on our roads. We even hire private graders from Mbarara. We have people who have private graders.

One time, I worked on 40 kilometres. Another time, I worked on 60-something kilometres, because my constituency alone has more than 100 kilometres of district roads. That is the challenge.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, for encouraging us to make sure that we give those districts extra money first, and then the equipment can come later – because we borrow from the neighbouring districts.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, actually, a constituency in Ntungamo is the size of my district, Bukedea. Do you understand?

Why would Bukedea be given Shs 1 billion and a district like Ntungamo is also given Shs 1 billion? We should be looking at the size and the population. Yes, Member from Ntungamo?

11.54

MR BENJAMIN KAMUKAMA (NRM, Ruhaama East County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I represent Ruhaama East, which is -

THE SPEAKER: It is nothing personal, but I am looking at what is on the ground. We are here to represent the people. Yes?

MR BENJAMIN KAMUKAMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I represent Ruhaama East, which is one of the five constituencies in Ntungamo District.

Madam Speaker, what you are saying is right. My constituency of Ruhaama East is the size of Butambala District. Butambala District receives Shs 1 billion and Ntungamo District, which has five constituencies – and is five times the size of Butambala – receives Shs 1 billion, too.

We have been complaining over this issue and I remember that in March last year, we met the President. The President even called the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development over that issue – to provide more money to the bigger districts. I was in that meeting, in Ntungamo. He even put him on a loud speaker and we all listened.

I do not know why the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is not providing this money. We have suffered. Some of us lost elections because of that issue, Madam Speaker.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for following up on this matter.

THE SPEAKER: The Member for Kaberamaido has a road that is impassable.

11.56

MR ALFRED EDAKASI (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would have loved to hear the chairperson of the committee talk about Katine-Ochero Road, which this House passed, the Cabinet passed –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Edakasi?

MR EDAKASI: Yes, Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: You should first talk about at least having a single tarmac road in your district. Out of all the districts, I think you do not have even a single tarmac road.

MR EDAKASI: Madam Speaker, you are spot on. This particular road project – Katine-Ochero Road – has been riddled with corruption. Last year, twice, that road was supposed to be awarded to a contractor, and they said there was a whistleblower who came up. That issue was investigated but we never saw the report.

Around December last year, the same thing happened. Around March this year, the same thing happened. I would have loved to hear what that report is, and the dates for the contractor to be given the road.

Secondly, on the issue of ferries, we informed the process in the beginning that Kaberamaido has the largest number of people who would use that ferry to come to Busoga and Kampala.

The information available then suggested that the place where the workers should be staying would be in a place called Akampala, where the ferry docks, in Kaberamaido. However, up to now, there is no housing there. Instead, the housing was placed in Buyende, where the ferry starts from.

Recently, the minister acknowledged and accepted that they would construct new buildings on that side. I would have expected to see that in the budget for the next year.

As I speak, the ministry has started renting houses for workers to stay on the side of

Kaberamaido, which is a better step, but we would have loved to see, in the budget, figures showing that construction will take place on the other side, to enhance the usage of the ferry. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I also want you to remember that there are loans that we approved, as a House. There are loans that we approved for the construction of particular roads but to date, the roads have not been constructed. They have not even started the works, yet we are paying interest on those loans.

Honourable minister, how do we handle that? I am talking about the loans that we approved, but the road designs are not available and works have not started, yet we are paying interest on these loans.

11.59

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have listened attentively to the concerns of my colleagues. I would like time to consult and give a befitting answer, especially in reference to particular roads, so that I can give a status report and tell you, on this, we are -

THE SPEAKER: Yesterday, I passed on the road from Nakaseke to Ngoma. I do not know which construction company was awarded the contract to work on it, but the works are not moving. Even the works on Kampala-Fort Portal Road are not moving. On Hoima Road, nothing is moving. What could be happening? No, the releases were done.

MR KAFUUZI: Madam Speaker, I know that some money was paid out to some of the contractors. It may not have been fully paid, but some money was given to them, especially on the Mityana Road.

THE SPEAKER: To Fort Portal.

MR KAFUUZI: Yes, to Fort Portal. I need to get a proper status report and make a report to Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have a suggestion: we refer this report to the committee, but at the next sitting, we need to open debate with the Minister of Works and Transport. *(Applause)* Attorney-General, we want a debate on the issue of roads with the ministers of finance and works on Tuesday. Lay the document on the Table.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the observations of the Opposition to this very report so that it can also be incorporated. I pray that as they sit in that meeting, the issue of new districts not having tarmac roads - we, the new districts, however small we are -

Madam Speaker, in Kalungu, we have only one tarmac road that leads to the Reverend Sister's place and another that leads to a church. It was constructed by different people. There is no single tarmac in Kalungu District and Kassanda. Attorney-General, you have not talked about that, but let me table this. You will see it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It is unusual to discuss a report after it has gone to the Committee on Budget, but these matters are very important. Even after the harmonisation, we must have a debate on the issue of the roads to see the problem.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, we had the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, here. He made a presentation listing all the roads that needed to be done. If I recall, the money that we owe to contractors was more than Shs 5 trillion.

The committee's report says only Shs 2 trillion has been allocated in the budget, but we owe more than Shs 5 trillion to contractors, which is why they have abandoned sites.

The procedural issue I am raising is for you, Madam Speaker, to guide whether part of the problem does not start in this Parliament because a tarmac road cannot just be given. There must be a justification and return on investment.

If you read reports of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, the return on public investment in Uganda is 0.08, while the world average is 6 per cent. You cannot come and throw a road at each and every one, including those who are going to use it for grazing. Eight per cent of the vehicles in Uganda are in Kampala and metropolitan -

THE SPEAKER: Do you mean grazing is not an activity?

MR SSEMUJJU: I am on a point of procedure for you, Madam Speaker, to rule.

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MS ABEJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is it in order for Hon. Ssemujju, who knows very well that he is not the only one bringing economic activity to this Kampala, to stand here and say we from the village do not deserve to have tarmac roads? Madam Speaker, we, from the village also bring economic activity here. Is he in order?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is no place that does not bring economic activity. No district is unimportant. This is why you have all these representatives here. We will not start belittling other districts. In my district, I do not have tarmac, but I have economic activity. I have all the investments in that district but you cannot say places without return on investment should not bring - what return on investment are you looking at?

We are saying the Government should provide us with roads, whether tarmac or not, but good roads. People are dying in accidents because of these roads. You cannot say you only need roads in Kampala or Kira because you have economic activity. So what? Do you mean villages like Napak should not have roads?

Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 156(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I refer this report to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, reconciliation and consolidation. We are going to have a debate on infrastructure and have it on the Order Paper on Tuesday. Thank you. Next.

(III) SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRSxii) Shadow Minister of Justice and
Constitutional Affairs made a report.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I request that you review the overall observations, recommendations, and budget allocation. Chairperson?

In the interest of time, Madam Speaker, the report is uploaded. I will just go straight to the recommendations and observations of the committee, which, for those who have access to the report, is on page 28.

12.07

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Mr John Teira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to present the report of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on the ministerial policy statements under its scrutiny. I beg to lay on the Table the minutes and the duly signed report of the committee. I beg to lay.

The committee made the following observations and recommendations under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

Madam Speaker, the committee was informed that phase I of the construction of the Police headquarters and the parking deck of the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) House has reached practical completion, and partial occupation commenced in March 2026.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay. Thank you.

The ongoing and outstanding certified work under phase I, ongoing work under phase II, and completion of the parking deck cannot be funded within the Shs 16.63 billion, which was provided against the Shs 50 billion which was required.

MR TEIRA: The Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, in accordance with Article 155 of the Constitution and other antecedent laws, is mandated, among others, to examine the following ministerial policy statements and votes.

To ensure the timely completion of the entire project, the ministry requires an additional budget allocation of Shs 34 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027. The committee recommends that additional Shs 34 billion be provided for this financial year to enable the ministry to complete construction of the JLOS House. Honourable members, as you may have noticed, many of the offices have already shifted to Naguru, where they are located.

The committee considered the ministerial policy statements for:

- i) Vote 007: Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs(MoJCA);
- ii) Vote 133: Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP);
- iii) Vote 102: Electoral Commission (EC);
- iv) Vote 105: Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC);
- v) Vote 104: Parliamentary Commission (PC);
- vi) Vote 101: The Judiciary;
- vii) Vote 148: Judicial Service Commission (JSC);
- viii) Vote 109: Law Development Centre (LDC);
- ix) Vote 106: Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- x) Vote 103: Inspectorate of Government (IGG);
- xi) Vote 119: Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB); and

Under motor vehicles, the committee was informed that the ministry currently has a fleet of 86 vehicles of which 68 are over 5 years, of which 68 are over 5 years old and 37 have been in use for over 10 years. Relatedly, the Auditor-General has already raised a query over the use of old vehicles that should have been disposed of.

The ministry needs transport equipment of at least 48 motor vehicles over the next two financial years to support its operations of regional offices, court attendance, supporting the functions of administration of estates

of deceased persons, and inspection of law chambers, as its mandate.

The committee recommends that an additional Shs 7.2 billion be provided to the development budget of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for the coming financial year to procure 24 vehicles to improve the dispensation of justice and access to justice in various areas.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted that state attorneys in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), do related work. However, those from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs are taxed, while those in DPP are not. We note that to remove this discrimination, there is need for a tax waiver for state attorneys in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as well. The committee strongly recommends this.

Construction and facilitation of regional offices

The committee was informed that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has continued to face challenges in delivering effective services due to inadequate infrastructure, and limited tools and equipment. With only seven regional offices serving an average of 25 districts each, workloads and case backlogs remain high, and access to justice, especially for vulnerable groups such as orphans and widows, is constrained by long-travel distances of up to even 400 kilometres.

Effective Financial Year 2025/2026, the ministry established five more regional offices in Iganga, Masaka, Hoima, Kabale, and Lira. These offices are currently in rented premises. There is a need to construct a permanent regional office over the five-year period, and this would require at least Shs 8 billion.

The committee recommends that Shs 8 billion be considered for the phased construction of these offices over a period of 5 years, to enable the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to execute its mandate across the entire country.

Madam Speaker, the construction of offices for the African Humanitarian Agency

In 2024, the Government of Uganda bid and won to host the Secretariat for the African Humanitarian Agency. However, the condition was that the hosting country construct offices and residences within two years.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development signed the commitment on behalf of the Government. This included providing office and residential accommodation as the construction takes place. This, altogether, required Shs 360 billion over a period of two years.

However, the ministry requires Shs 200 billion for the first year to commence the construction of the African Humanitarian Agency offices. Presently, no funding has been allocated.

The committee observes that the failure to provide these funds for the construction of the headquarters means that the country loses the opportunity to host this very strategic agency.

We, therefore, recommend that Shs 200 billion be provided in this Financial Year 2026/2027, to enable the ministry to start construction of the office project to fulfil the commitment made by our Government.

Under Vote 101, which is the Judiciary, the committee noted a need to fund the timely disposal of cases both civil and criminal, facilitation of court sessions, daily hearings and daily court operations in the 269 operational courts, management of election petitions, facilitation of court-summoned witnesses who are at least not less than 60,000 in total, conduct of locus visits at various court levels to facilitate the minimum of at least 55,112 visits and facilitation for court assessors, at least three per judge.

To achieve timely disposal of cases, the Judiciary requires an additional Shs 48.57 billion, and the committee makes a recommendation that these funds be made available to enable the mandate to be achieved.

Madam Speaker, we still grapple with the backlog of cases in this country. The Judiciary plans to increase the case disposal rate from 58 per cent in Financial Year 2024/2025 to 60.6 per cent in Financial Year 2026/2027.

This will reduce the backlog from 24.2 per cent to 22.2 per cent and dispose of 291,544 cases by the end of 2026, hence the need for an additional Shs 20.12 billion in case backlog reduction strategies, such as special court sessions.

The committee, however, noted that a significant number of cases committed to the High Court remained unheard for years alongside infrequent court appearances and extended intervals between hearings. Additionally, the committee is concerned that the Judiciary's projected plan to reduce the backlog is not satisfactory due to the minimal percentage.

The committee has recommended that the funding requested by the Judiciary to tackle the issue of case backlog be deferred temporarily until a comprehensive plan is provided.

Implementation of the legal representation at the expense of the state in capital offences in line with the Judiciary Legal Representation at the Expense of the State

The committee noted that Article 28(3) of the Constitution requires that every person who is charged with a criminal offence that carries a sentence of death or imprisonment for life is entitled to legal representation at the expense of the state. Similarly, the Judicature (Legal Representation at the Expense of the State) Rules, 2022 have revised the rates upwards for facilitation of advocates on state briefs. To be able to fulfil this mandate, the Judiciary requires an additional Shs 31.97 billion.

The committee recommends that Shs 31.97 billion be provided to the Judiciary to facilitate advocates to hold these cases on a State brief.

Automation of courts to eliminate delays in the management of cases

The committee was informed that the Judiciary plans to roll out the Electronic Case Management System, ECMIS, to an additional 20 court stations, which include, among others:

- i) Masaka High Court;
- ii) Masaka Chief Magistrate's Court;
- iii) Kalangala Chief Magistrate's Court;
- iv) Sembabule Chief Magistrate's Court;
- v) Kalungu/Lukaya Grade One Court;
- vi) Mpigi High Court;
- vii) Mpigi Chief Magistrate's Court;
- viii) Gomba Chief Magistrate's Court;
- ix) Butambala Chief Magistrate's Court;
- x) Nsangi Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xi) Masindi High Court;
- xii) Masindi Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xiii) Kiryandongo Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xiv) Buliisa Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xv) Kigumba Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xvi) Mubende High Court;
- xvii) Mubende Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xviii) Mityana Chief Magistrate's Court;
- xix) Kassanda Chief Magistrate's Court; and
- xx) Kyegegwa Chief Magistrate's Court.

Madam Speaker, I have read all of them to show the balanced nature throughout the country.

The committee recommends that Shs 13.739 billion be provided during the Financial Year 2026/2027 to enable the Judiciary to automate case management business processes, thereby quickening adjudication and reducing person-to-person interactions, thereby mitigating corruption incidents.

Budget increase and misalignment

The Judiciary's proposed budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 stands at Shs 633.97 billion, representing a 43.7 per cent increase from the Financial Year 2025/2026 approved budget of Shs 44.223 billion.

The committee noted a 103.5 per cent increase in the travel budget of the Judiciary from Shs 43.79 billion to Shs 89.154 billion, with the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) showing extensive travel inland provisions totalling Shs 77.0 billion and travel abroad to Shs 12.2

billion, representing 14.1 per cent of its total proposed budget.

Notwithstanding this increment in the Judiciary budget, the case backlog continues to increase, and key activities are underfunded within the budget.

The committee notes that the increased travel budget be retained only to the extent that it directly supports judicial work, especially locus in quo visits, estimated at Shs 20.95 billion, out-of-station court sessions, and plea-bargaining proceedings that facilitate case disposal.

The committee observes with concern that pre-trial and trial detention remains a systemic challenge within the judicial system, as evidenced by a high proportion of inmates on remand, which is 48.4 per cent. This situation points to a persistent case backlog, yet this matter is not addressed within the budget provisions.

In addition, the committee observes that whereas the Judiciary budget has been growing over the years, the same key mandate areas, like the timely disposal of cases, have not attracted substantial funding, hence causing a backlog.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the Judiciary budget be realigned and Shs 10 billion be removed from the proposed travel budget of the Judiciary, reducing it to Shs 89.154 billion to Shs 79.154 billion, and the money be reallocated for case backlog reduction and a progress report be shared forthwith.

Vote 102: Electoral Commission

Following the Presidential directive, the Commission has since January 2023 temporarily relocated its headquarters to the National Housing and Construction Company Limited premises at plot 1-3/5, 7th Street Industrial Area on a rental basis.

The construction of the headquarters at Lubowa, Wakiso, is supposed to be implemented by the National Housing and Construction

Corporation, which will provide land, design, construct and furnish the Electoral Commission centre at Lubowa within a period of 18 months.

The project is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency, institutional capacity, cost savings in the long term and electoral preparedness for the upcoming electoral activities.

Failure to provide the required Shs 62 billion in this Financial Year risks stalling the project and undermining the commission's preparedness for the upcoming critical electoral milestones.

It is the recommendation of the committee that the Government prioritises and allocates Shs 62 billion in this financial year to support the construction of the Electoral Commission headquarters at Lubowa.

Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)

The URSB plans to construct an archival centre, which is essential for preserving historical records. The centre is expected to streamline information management, enhance accessibility, promote collaboration and ensure the long-term preservation of documents.

The project requires Shs 12.5 billion. The committee recommends that the Shs 12.5 billion be provided - honourable colleagues, you remember that these have shifted from rented premises to their home, which they did in record time.

Establishment and implementation of the Directorate of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights

The URSB plans to establish and implement a Directorate of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights, which aims at protecting intellectual property, fostering creativity and ensuring compliance with national and international copyrights. The Directorate would serve as a cornerstone for a thriving creative economy, promoting fairness, innovation, and sustainable development. URSB requires Shs 2.759 billion to establish and implement the directorate.

Madam Speaker, we have just passed an amendment on the copyright law. We strongly recommend that this money be provided to open up this facility.

Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)

Madam Speaker, despite the recent recruitment of 125 state attorneys for which the department is grateful, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions staffing stands at 759 against the approved 1,734, which represents 43 per cent staffing level. There is still a critical need for recruitment of both legal prosecutors and administrative staff to expand the scope of reach of criminal prosecution services. The office of the DPP requires an additional funding of Shs 10 billion for the recruitment of both legal prosecutors and administration.

The committee notes that with the improved staffing, state attorneys will reduce the current workload and improve the perusal of case files.

The committee finds this requirement critical and recommends an additional Shs 20 billion, instead of Shs 10 billion requested for, be provided to the Office of the DPP during the Financial Year 2026/2027 to facilitate the recruitment of staff to close the prosecutor-case ratio and increase the scope of criminal prosecution services across the country.

Honourable colleagues, there is a need for a prosecutor for every magistrate at the district courts. This is because you find one prosecutor serving three magistrates. Therefore, you cannot have the proceedings continue unless this prosecutor has moved from this court to another, hence, the justification for an increase from the requested Shs 10 billion to Shs 20 billion.

Establishment and operationalisation of offices in 32 districts

The Office of the DPP is not present in 32 districts and more than 100 outer courts with Grade 1 Magistrates. This has affected the delivery of prosecution services. In order

to establish and operationalise a Resident State Attorney station, the Office of the DPP requires an additional Shs 8 billion to establish a Resident State Attorney Station in each of these districts at a unit cost of Shs 250 million.

The committee deems this requirement very important and, therefore, recommends that the Office of the DPP be provided with Shs 8 billion to implement the construction of these stations.

Construction of offices and residential premises in hard-to-reach and hard-to-stay areas

As part of strengthening criminal prosecution service delivery, the Office of the DPP has established 148 offices, both at the regional and district levels. However, officers fail to find decent offices and residences for accommodation in some of these areas. The Office of the DPP requires Shs 20 billion for the construction of offices and residential premises to attract officers to serve in the hard-to-reach and hard-to-stay areas.

The committee makes a recommendation that Shs 20 billion be provided for the development budget of the Office of the DPP during this financial year to construct their own up-country offices and residential premises.

Transport Equipment

The committee observed that the Office of the DPP requires Shs 18 billion for the procurement of 72 vehicles to support the movement of officers to and from courts to avoid sharing public transport facilities with suspects, relatives and their accomplices while in prosecution of case files and other sensitive documents.

Officers who serve hard-to-reach and stay areas of Bukwo, Yumbe, Pakwach, Maracha, Kalangala, Kotido, Koboko, Bwera, among others; including supervision by management.

The committee recommends that Shs 18 billion be provided to the Office of the DPP during this financial year to provide transport equipment for those areas.

Security

The Office of the DPP also requires security at all its field offices to guard against unauthorised intrusion in the protection of both persons and property. Staff also handle high-profile and sensitive cases and often have been exposed to security personnel threats and their families. This affects the delivery of prosecution services.

This therefore requires additional funding worth Shs 8 billion for security at all Offices of the director of public prosecution offices.

The committee recommends that this money be provided during this financial year to cater for security and all its field offices.

Vote 103: Inspectorate of Government (IG)

Equipment for investigations

To strengthen corruption investigations and prosecution, the Inspectorate of Government requires modern surveillance, secure communication, digital forensics, and field investigation equipment. Priority items include covert surveillance tools, encrypted communication systems, digital forensics and data analytics tools, and portable evidence documentation kits. This will enhance intelligence gathering, improve the quality of evidence, and increase conviction rates, particularly in complex corruption cases.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provided only Shs 600 million against the requirement of Shs 5 billion. This will not be sufficient as the Inspectorate of Government continues to receive requests to investigate these cases urgently. It is estimated that investigating a high-profile case to conclusion costs approximately Shs 20 million, while a normal case costs between Shs 3.5 million and Shs 5 million.

The committee notes that corruption has persisted, and this equipment will help in tackling the corruption problem.

The committee recommends that an additional Shs 4.4 billion be provided in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to the Inspectorate of Government to facilitate the acquisition of modern investigation equipment.

Vehicles for Inspectorate of Government office

The Inspectorate of Government relies heavily on vehicles for field investigations and information gathering. Currently, 78 per cent of its fleet is overdue for disposal, including 34 vehicles exceeding 240,000 kilometres and 92 vehicles over five years old. While six vehicles lost in the 2021 bomb blast remain unreplaced.

Maintaining the ageing fleet costs approximately Shs 1.5 billion annually, and vehicles assigned to the Inspectorate of Government, Deputy IGG, and regional offices are frequently breaking down. For the last 10 years, no funds have been allocated to the IG for the procurement of vehicles.

To ensure safe and efficient operations, the Inspectorate of Government requires Shs 4.2 billion to acquire new vehicles for all regional offices and the head office.

The committee recommends that an additional Shs 4.2 billion be allocated to the inspectorate this financial year to procure vehicles.

Recruitment of staff and reduction of backlog cases

The Inspectorate of Government currently has 407 staff and an approved establishment of 596, which is 68 per cent staffing level. Meanwhile, complaints reported to the Inspectorate of Government have increased significantly from 1,529 in Financial Year 2021/2022 to 2,942 in Financial Year 2024/2025, largely due to rising corruption and greater public awareness. Without a corresponding increase in investigative staff, this has led to a backlog of over 2,000 cases.

To strengthen investigations, support verification of leaders' declarations, and effectively address corruption cases, particularly those

related to priority government programmes such as the Parish Development Model and the ATMs under the tenfold growth strategy, the Inspectorate of Government requires Shs 15.6 billion to recruit 100 additional technical staff, covering both wage and non-wage costs.

The committee recommends that Shs 15.6 billion be provided in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to the Inspectorate of Government to cover both wage and non-wage components.

Specialised training for investigations and prosecutions

To enhance effectiveness in handling complex corruption cases, the Inspectorate of Government requires specialised training in investigations, prosecutions, digital forensics, asset tracing, and other technical areas. This capacity building will strengthen staff skills, improve case quality, reduce investigation timelines, and increase conviction rates, particularly for high-profile and technically complex cases. The Inspectorate of Government requires additional Shs 1.52 billion for specialised staffing training.

The committee recommends that Shs 1.52 billion be provided in this financial year to facilitate specialised training in investigations.

Vote 104: Parliamentary Commission

Article 79 of the Constitution gives powers to Parliament to carry out oversight legislation and representation functions. The Parliamentary Commission experiences a budgetary shortfall of Shs 18.77 billion meant for legislative oversight and representation functions. If not addressed, this will impede timely and responsive oversight, legislative, and representation functions. Only 4 per cent of the total budget of Parliament, which further impedes their effective oversight functions.

The committee therefore, recommends that an additional amount of Shs 18.77 billion in this financial year be provided to cater for the non-wage recurrent shortfall and Shs 12 billion for the support roles of committees.

Medical insurance

The Parliamentary Commission requires an additional Shs 5.636 billion to cater for both medical treatment abroad for Members of Parliament, and the increased medical insurance premium for the Members of Parliament under the medical insurance scheme. Members subscribe to various medical insurance service providers. However, the annual premium has increased because of the need to cover Members beyond the 70 years of age, as opposed to the current 65 years.

The committee recommends that the additional Shs 5.63 billion to enhance the medical insurance for Members be provided.

Honourable colleagues, in a special way, I want to extend appreciation to the leadership of Parliament and the technical team for effectively discussing this budget, being a statutory budget with the executive and having it covered to that tune.

Uganda Human Rights Commission

Conducting capacity building to the newly elected local council leaders on human rights-based approach.

The newly elected local council leaders play a critical role in planning, service delivery, community mobilisation, and oversight at grassroots level. However, many of them assume office without adequate knowledge and practical skills in the human rights-based approach, which is essential for inclusive, accountable, and people-centred governance.

The requested funds will support a nationwide capacity-building programme aimed at equipping local council leaders with knowledge, skills, and tools to integrate human rights principles. The Uganda Human Rights Commission requires Shs 1.5 billion for capacity building of the newly elected local council leaders.

The committee recommends that Shs 1.5 billion be provided during this financial year

to the Uganda Human Rights Commission to facilitate training of newly elected district local council leaders on the human rights-based approach.

Upgrading of Moyo field office to regional office

The commission intends to upgrade the Moyo field office to a regional office in order to enhance delivery of human rights services within the Northwest Nile region.

The committee recommends that Shs 500 million be provided to the development budget of the Uganda Human Rights Commission for this financial year to upgrade this field office to a regional office.

Law Development Centre

Completion of construction of old LDC multi-storied building of Shs 64.7 billion

Due to limitation of physical facilities, especially firms, rooms for training students, the Law Development Centre embarked on the construction of a multi-storied building to reduce the ratio of students to classroom space. The building will house 20 firm rooms. Currently, phase II has been completed.

However, with the current development ceiling, LDC is not able to embark on phase III due to insufficient funds. Completion of the building has been delayed due to inadequate funding. LDC therefore, requires Shs 22.147 billion to resume and sustain project activities, safeguard previous investments, and ensure the timely delivery of the required infrastructure as per the development commitment approved schedule to support legal education and training in Uganda.

The committee recommends that the Government provides Shs 22.147 billion during this financial year to enable the Law Development Centre resume and sustain project activities as highlighted above.

Procurement of transport equipment

The committee was informed that the current fleet age profile indicates that nearly half of LDC's vehicles have exceeded their optimal operational lifespan and are due for disposal, emphasising the need for a phased replacement strategy to maintain effective service delivery. This situation has significantly constrained the implementation of upcountry activities, particularly the transportation of teaching staff from Kampala campus to regional campuses, as well as the facilitation of legal aid services, including the movement of staff to courts, prisons, and remand homes across regional and satellite clinics. This requires Shs 0.8 billion. The committee recommends the availability of these funds to enable the LDC to procure the vehicles.

Acquisition of ICT Equipment

LDC plans to acquire networking equipment, servers, enterprise storage equipment, data centre power bank solutions, firm room interactive displays, modern computers and printers, biometric solutions, VOIP solutions, CCTV systems, among others. This requires Shs 4.75 billion. The committee recommends that this money be provided.

Vote 148: Judicial Service Commission

The committee observed that the current budget structure for the Judicial Service Commission is heavily skewed towards general administration and support services, which are largely fixed or semi-fixed costs. They include things like rent, retainers, and so on. While these are necessary for institutional functioning, they do not directly generate justice sector outcomes such as complaint resolution, disciplinary action, or improved recruitment quality.

The Commission noted that whereas the Constitution confers a wide mandate, it fully appreciates that the resource envelope cannot support total focus on all the responsibilities envisaged by the Constitution. It is thus guided by the fact that limited resources demand that it prioritises aspects of its mandate which no

other Government agency can execute, and thus work with a priority scale which will rank needs by importance and urgency to guide focus on the resource allocation.

It is reported in its strategic direction that complaints handling, disciplinary control, and recruitment of Judicial officers and administrative and other staff of the Judiciary be considered key priority areas in the next financial year, and thus the funds allocated under capital development should be revised and scaled down to allow for more funds to be allocated to the key priority areas.

The committee recommends that the main Ministerial Policy Statement of the Commission be amended and funds be allocated for training, procurement of technology and vehicles, legal education, training barazas, public engagements, radio talk shows, and rent, be repurposed towards the restructuring of legal staff and strengthening, in particular the departments of complaints handling system, recruitment, research, and law reporting.

Case backlog and disciplinary targets

The committee also raised concerns about very high numbers of case backlog files and inquired about the concrete strategies put in place to curb this issue by the Commission.

To achieve the targets for disciplinary cases concluded and the percentage backlog disposal rate, the number of investigation trips and disciplinary committee sittings and retreats to handle the disciplinary case backlog, must all be increased.

In addition, the current staff establishment must be increased in order to reduce staff workload under the disciplinary control. The Commission reported 136 case files that are backlogged and 220 registered complaints awaiting consideration.

These demand full participation and involvement of the Commission at all stages for quality, and they are also highly capital and human resource intensive, which requires 96

committee sittings and 200 cases investigated on the spot to increase the backlog disposal rate and improve the turnaround time for concluding a registered complaint.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Commission be given an additional Shs 1.6 billion to effectively dispose of the cases and complaints filed at the Judicial Service Commission.

Formalise Inter-MDA Collaboration Frameworks

The Commission reported that several MDAs already operate functional systems and programs that overlap with the Judicial Service Commission mandate, such as ECCMIS, EDRMS, among others. They noted that developing parallel systems could be fiscally inefficient and contradict Government policy on shared services.

The committee notes that this allocation would leverage some costs already incurred by other MDAs, achieve economies of scale, and reduce the unit cost of service delivery. This also mitigates the risk of underutilised or failed systems, a recurring problem in public sector ICT investments.

The committee recommends that the Commission be supported in building such collaborations to enable faster digitisation at lower cost, improved data sharing and case tracking, plus stronger inter-institutional coherence in the Justice sector.

Madam Speaker, I beg to present and invite the House to consider the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Ministerial Policy Statements (MPSs). Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Committee Chairperson. Hon. Baka, do you have anything to add or take away?

MR BAKA: Madam Speaker, on page 14, I have a small correction to make so that the recommendation aligns with the body of the paragraph. The Judicial Service Commission

asked the committee to recommend that their Ministerial Policy Statement be realigned to channel funds to key priority areas, including training, recruitment, and complaints handling.

The recommendation at the extreme end of page 44 is that, “the committee recommends that the Ministerial Policy Statement of the Commission be amended and funds that are allocated for training, procurement of technology and vehicles, legal education, training, barazas, public engagements and radio talk shows and rent be repurposed towards the restructuring of Commission legal staff and strengthening in particular the departments of complaints-handling, recruitment, research and law reporting.”

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Professor?

12.46

PROF. ELIJAH MUSHEMEZA (Independent, Sheema County South, Sheema): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank my brother Hon. Teira for that good report.

I want to begin with a general observation that cuts across the reports presented so far. I have not heard a reference to income. In this context, I mean the ceilings provided by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - the resource envelope. Without reference to income, we are likely to end up with wish lists, and the Budget Committee will find it challenging to harmonise wish lists.

I am raising this because some time back, when I was on the Budget Committee, the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, and the Committee on Education and Sports, their reports and what they needed to be done could consume the entire budget of the Republic of Uganda, just two committees. Without referring to the income, the resource envelope we have, the recommendations will be wish lists. That is my observation. Let me support two areas, hopefully they will not fall in the context of a wish list.

Madam Speaker, in most cases, foreign policy reflects domestic policies and how they are

implemented. Uganda won the bid to host the Secretariat of the African Humanitarian Agency because of the way we have been handling refugees and internally displaced persons. This is an important area where we can improve our global rating.

I strongly support the committee’s recommendation to establish this Secretariat. We already have good practices. People have been coming here to benchmark how we handle refugees and internally displaced persons. This is an area of interest that would even attract Hon. Oryem to support very strongly.

My second and last observation and support is the area of the Electoral Commission. Those of you who have visited the Electoral Commission, the first inconvenience you get is parking. You have nowhere to park the vehicle. You go inside, the room that provides photocopies is too small for a national and independent Electoral Commission. We urgently need better housing with a spacious place that can house the Electoral Commission, so that when we go there, we can be served well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Professor. You are moving faster than the House. When you talk about income, we do not discuss income sector by sector. We have a resource envelope and that will be under rules 157 and 159 where we have one resource envelope that we are going to distribute sector by sector. Hon. Isaac?

12.49

MR ISAAC OTINGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and the committee chairperson, for a good presentation. Most of the money we allocate to these areas ends up in development, as administrative costs.

Therefore, we find that the money going there is actually being used on administrative costs and little is going to developmental purposes, and that is why we are finding that most of these judicial offices and courts, are depleted across the country or even non-existent in most cases. As a result, we are getting a lot of delays.

Underfunding of most of our areas within the Judiciary is causing a lot of backlog in cases, and this is alarming for our country. You find that there is no money; a case is simply delayed because there is no money to transport the witnesses to court and have them give their testimonies. And as a result, we have people behind bars for over two years because of simple issues of logistics on this matter.

For that matter, for many citizens, especially the poor, you find that access to justice is limited or delayed. This reduces trust in our Judiciary. So, I do welcome the little that we are putting in for development purposes. I do hope that it can be increased as we move on through the next financial years.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Andrew?

12.51

MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the chairperson of the committee. Over a decade ago, the Government came up with a strategy for rationalising ICT services, in which they consolidated services such as licensing, internet, and data centre services to save money. The committee has requested Shs 4 billion, and yet they want to set up data centres. I want to know how they are liaising with the National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U) to save on costs for the Government.

Secondly, I agree and thank the committee for proposing the reduction in the ratio between the prosecutors and the magistrates' courts. Three years ago, the Government opened the magistrates court in Omoro District, but people have to travel 48 kilometres to go and meet a prosecutor and that has caused so many delays and challenged ease of access to justice. I agree with the committee that we allocate the money so as to reduce the ratio between the prosecutors and the magistrates' courts.

THE SPEAKER: Do you have something to say?

12.52

MR GEOFFREY FETA (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity and the committee for a good report. The committee recommended that the Government find Shs 60 billion for the headquarters of the Electoral Commission. We are in a democracy that is not about to go away, and therefore, we need the Electoral Commission to be stable.

The whole country has only one regional headquarters, which is in West Nile, and they have been looking for money to spend on rent in offices in every district. It will be important that we prioritise giving the Electoral Commission this Shs 60 billion, so that they construct befitting headquarters, but eventually, I appeal to this House to continue to give the Electoral Commission money so that they can construct regional offices. You have been consuming those services. You go there as an honourable Member of Parliament, but you are going to a squeezed place where many other people are coming.

I appeal to this House to continue supporting the Commission so that it can have a befitting facility first of all, at the national level, but eventually at the regional level. We will be glad to see a regional office in Lira, Karamoja, Mbale, Tororo, Soroti, Masaka, Fort Portal, Hoima and so on because the democracy we have is not about to go away. As you all know, the NRM has come to stay, and many other political parties are going to be there. Therefore, we need a stable and befitting facility. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ibanda, Hon. Ssemujju and Hon. Ssewungu.

12.52

MR RWEMULIKYA IBANDA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I add my voice to thanking the chairperson and the committee for the good report. I have two issues, one is to support the recruitment of staff, especially State Attorneys because these prosecutors, as you will find in

Ntoroko, we do not have any State Attorneys. You have to travel to Bundibugyo and when you get there, they will tell you that we do not have staff, so you must come to Bundibugyo.

Another issue is about the offices. I thank the committee for recommending Shs 8 billion for the new stations, especially for the Resident State Attorneys. It is so disturbing that we have elderly and poor people who have to travel because they are saying that 32 districts lack stations, and Ntoroko is one of them, because people have to travel to Bundibugyo and get these services. Those who cannot travel to Bundibugyo due to transport costs do not get services. I add my voice to the recommendation of the committee, that Shs 20 billion for recruitment and Shs 8 billion for the new stations, including Ntoroko.

12.56

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am concerned with the independence of the Judiciary. I have been going to court these days because of the case of Dr Kiiza Besigye. Sometimes you wonder whether you are in a military court or in the normal Judiciary. They no longer grant bail. Sometimes they act as if they are part of the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), and that is how people who fought for the freedom that all of you are enjoying sacrificed their lives, like Dr Besigye, who has been in prison for now a year and a half.

As we recommend for more funding, there must be a value to the public - and it is not only Dr Besigye who is in prison. The other day, you had Kenyans arrested. The Judiciary issued an order. Later on, the President said they were in a "Fridge." We have Sam Mugumya, who was a candidate in my party. He was kidnapped from Mbarara, and to date, we do not know where he is. There are hundreds of other young people arrested during elections. They go to the Judiciary over small matters.

I have been arrested many times, but I have never been denied bail. This time, almost everything, whether it is public nuisance - I

was once charged with public nuisance - they are not releasing. The Judiciary seems to have been captured by the Executive, and I do not know whether Hon. Kafuuzi is here as the Leader of Government Business, or if he is trying to find out in which capacity, but it should concern you. It should concern you that there is an erosion of the independence of the Judiciary and an attempt to replace it with the military because the moment you lose the Judiciary, you are in trouble. Disputes are now being arbitrated by politicians.

So, as we ask about the backlog, the quality of judgments, and the denial of rights by the Judiciary, it appears to me and to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs that there is cause for concern - because you will never know when you are going to be there, and it does not matter whether you are NRM or not.

Recently, I remember three NRM Members of Parliament were arrested, and they were treated the way we are being treated. I saw Hon. Akamba being beaten like a chicken thief. So, when talking about the independence of the Judiciary, we are talking about your own right, and it does not matter your affiliation.

So, it should concern every Member of Parliament. As we ask for more money for the Judiciary, Madam Speaker, the Judiciary needs to be more accountable. They need to stop being partisan. I have seen Dr Besigye appearing before a judge, and it is as if he has committed a crime against that particular judge - the anger!

These cadre judges that you, Hon. Kafuuzi, and others are appointing, one day you will appear before them - we have a colleague -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ibrahim, the Hon. Kafuuzi does not appoint any judge. It is the Judicial Service Commission that interviews and recommends judges. Hon. Kafuuzi does not have a hand in the appointment of any judge. And an action of any judge should not be put on anybody. It should not.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I am choosing my words advisedly. I attended the funeral of a former Member of Parliament, Patrick Kiggundu. His wife, who is a judge - Justice Jane, thanked the President for appointing her to help pay school fees for Kiggundu's children - publicly. So, what you are saying is what is provided for in the law -

THE SPEAKER: Is he President Museveni? The appointing authority in this country is President Museveni -

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, because you are a Speaker, I fear to engage you. *(Laughter)*. So, that is why I am using Hon. Kafuuzi -

THE SPEAKER: Let us discuss the ministerial statements.

MR SEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, therefore -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ibrahim -

MR SSEMUJJU: Can I conclude?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ibrahim.

MR SSEMUJJU: The committee should not be concerned only with the quantitative performance of the Judiciary because if you look at the functions of Members of Parliament, if you read the Articles of the Constitution that established this Parliament, one of them, apart from making laws, is that "we must protect the Constitution". That is what it says. So, beyond registration, we have a duty to protect the Constitution. Therefore, if the rights that are enshrined in it - I was shocked Dr Kiiza Besigye had spent the mandatory days for him to qualify for bail, and then the - I am not going to use the name, Hon. Kafuuzi, Madam Speaker, but the handlers changed it, and a judge said he was not aware that Besigye was before the court martial.

Therefore, his counting of the days started - so, really, this judicial engineering is causing us trouble because everything else will become irrelevant, whether it is the Electoral Commission, etcetera.

Now, since we have a duty to protect the Constitution, the committee should be concerned with the quality of judgment, not just the quantity, to clear the backlog.

THE SPEAKER: I think that we have very good judges, and the President should be credited for having very good judges.

1.03

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson and his committee for this report. However, my interest is on page 36, about the Resident State Attorneys.

Through you, Madam Speaker, to the minister, whether you like it or not, the money you are spending on feeding prisoners now, who could be given bail through having Resident State Attorneys in the grade one magistrate courts, would be less than what you need here.

You are spending over Shs 8 billion on people who can be bailed out but because there are no Resident State Attorneys - in districts like Kalungu District, we have a Resident State Attorney in charge of Masaka, Bukomansimbi -

THE SPEAKER: I think that point has been taken.

MR SSEWUNGU: I was just on the issue of the money required so that they give it adequate attention. Then, at the Law Development Centre (LDC) there is good performance, and we are giving them money but you need to do checks on them. As we talk, Madam Speaker, you are likely to get a petition from the students there.

They recruited over 3000 students and about 1500 students are discontinued, and they are complaining on how it happens. That is an abnormal curve in education that you are discontinuing 1500 students who have failed some papers. Madam Speaker, take an interest in the checks and balances.

As I conclude, you discussed the chief magisterial areas that will be funded. This instrument was passed, meaning that all cases from Kalungu District, for example, being handled in Masaka are under the wrong jurisdiction.

THE SPEAKER: After the amendment of the law.

MR SSEWUNGU: If you created a Chief Magistrate Area for Kalungu District, why do we still have matters going to Masaka? And as a result, you have a case backlog because you have refused to create the chief magisterial area in the created districts. Kindly give it attention.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, firstly, we need a headquarters for the Electoral Commission (EC). We need that office to be built.

For the first time, I saw a very organised place; I thought it had buildings, and yet, it only had tents. So, we need to support the EC and have that place constructed.

I was reading a message from Hon. Enos Asiimwe, who supports the increment of money for medical expenses for Parliament because he is one of the beneficiaries. It is that money that has saved him.

Learn to appreciate where needed. (*Applause*). It is out of that money for medical that all the Members of Parliament, ministers, etc., can afford to go for treatment outside the country.

In some cases, even when we see that it is an emergency, because of the bureaucracy in getting referrals from the Medical Board, we end up sending our Members like how Hon. Enos was. We had to make a decision to save a life. Hon. Cheptoris was in a very bad condition but because we had to save a life, we said, "No, we must do this," and sent him for treatment.

So, when you see that money in the medical board, it is for all of us here; it is for all of us. And we want to thank the President for giving us the money, anyway. Yes, honourable chairperson -

MR TEIRA: And also increasing the age from 65 to 70, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to rule 156(2), I am referring the report to the committee for consolidation, harmonisation, and reconciliation to the budget committee. Do you have something to say about your taxes, Attorney-General?

MR KAFUZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to amplify one issue that was presented in the committee's report.

First, I would like to thank the committee, but there is one issue that has been disturbing us at the ministry. Madam Speaker, judicial officers do not pay taxes. They are exempted.

State Attorneys under the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) do not pay taxes – they are exempted. However, State Attorneys under the Attorney-General's Chambers pay taxes. The two – those under the DPP and those under the Attorney-General's Chambers – appear before the same judicial officers.

It has been a bit discomfiting for our State Attorneys. I am glad that the report has highlighted it –

THE SPEAKER: Those under DPP do not pay?

MR KAFUZI: They are not paying. Judges are also not paying taxes.

THE SPEAKER: Judges are not paying?

MR KAFUZI: Judges are not paying, but our State Attorneys are paying.

THE SPEAKER: Members of Parliament?

MR KAFUZI: They pay. Madam Speaker, my prayer is that since the two State Attorneys appear before the same judicial officers, it would be good if we could put them at par.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is just for harmonisation.

MR KAFUUZI: Yes. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: That should be done. However, you know how the DPP got it. Get it through the same way. Okay? You and I know how they got it. As Parliament, we are not going to say “don’t pay”, but you know how to get it. If we are to say “don’t pay”, we will start with ourselves. Next item.

(IV) COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, kindly give us the general observations, recommendations and the budget. Hon. Ariko, have you heard? I am giving you 10 minutes and then I go to the finance committee because they must go for the tax Bills.

1.12

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Mr Herbert Ariko): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on the Ministerial Policy Statement and the budget for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, I note with very much reverence the necessity for the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development to come in just after us. I beg that you give us sufficient audience so that this committee, which has a report to do with two very big sectors, gets an opportunity for your listening.

Madam Speaker, I wish to lay on the Table a copy of the original report, together with minutes of the committee’s meetings in lieu of the consideration of the Ministerial Policy Statement.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, in accordance with Article 155(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 149 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the

Ministerial Policy Statements for the Financial Year 2026/2027 were presented before Parliament. In light of the above, I now present, for your consideration and adoption, a report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in respect of the policy statement and draft budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027, covering the following Votes:

Vote 017: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development;

Vote 139: Petroleum Authority of Uganda;

Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment; and

Vote 150: National Environment Management Authority.

We also cover the following subventions:

- i) National Water and Sewerage Corporation;
- ii) Atomic Energy Council; and
- iii) Uganda Electricity Credit Capitalisation Company.

Madam Speaker, the committee considered the implementation trends, funding gaps, staffing constraints, external financing dependencies and the extent to which planned investments align to the national priorities under the current growth agenda and the relevant National Development Plan IV programmes.

Madam Speaker, the votes under the committee’s jurisdiction are strategically important to Uganda’s economic transformation because they directly affect electricity access, industrial power supply, extractives governance, water access, irrigation, sanitation, climate resilience, forestry management, wetland protection and environmental compliance.

The committee notes that the policy statements for Financial Year 2026/2027 contain a broad array of projects whose successful implementation would have immediate political and developmental significance in the communities across the country, including the oil host districts in the Albertine Graben, electricity transmission corridors in central and western Uganda, industrial parks in places such as Tororo, Mbale, Nakaseke,

Luwero, Nakasongola as well as water supply schemes in districts such as Terego, Moyo, Lamwo, Zombo, Agago, Pader, Namutumba, Mayuge, Ssembabule, Mityana, Isingiro, Kazo, Kyenjojo, Bukedea, Kanungu, Moroto, Kakumiro and Abim, among others.

Colleagues, I can see that some of you are trying to keep pace. I jumped into the executive summary, which is on page, Page 3.

However, the committee also notes material implementation constraints, particularly funding gaps, delayed counterpart funding, stalled contractor obligations, weak operation and maintenance financing, land acquisition delays, environmental compliance burdens, and institutional capacity limitations, which, if not addressed, will undermine the political credibility of the budget.

Madam Speaker, the context of this report is that sectors and Votes under the committee's purview are central to the Government's broader economic growth for various reasons.

First, energy powers production and industry, while the extractives are expected to create fiscal space and employment. On the other hand, water supports life and production, while environmental management protects the natural resource base on which the growth ultimately depends.

The committee notes that the significance of these Votes is not abstract. In many constituencies, the Government is judged by whether power reaches the households, trading centres and industrial parks; whether piped water reaches institutions, towns and villages; whether boreholes and small schemes remain functional; whether the first oil is obtained and is properly regulated; and whether wetlands, forests and the fragile landscapes are actually protected for the benefit of all.

This means that the budget scrutiny in these sectors must go beyond the aggregate figures and focus squarely on whether planned projects are financed, implemented, and sustained in actual locations where Ugandans live and work.

Madam Speaker, I will go straight to Item 7.0: Programme budget allocations for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Analysis of Vote 017

Vote 017: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development contributes to the sustainable energy development programme and a sustainable extractives industry development programme of the National Development Plan IV (NDPIV), with policy priorities covering electricity generation, transmission, distribution, clean cooking, petroleum infrastructure, minerals development, geothermal development, and strategic industrial energy investments.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes, from the updated submissions of the budget estimates, that the total budget allocation for vote 017 rises from Shs 1.844 billion, in the Financial Year 2025/2026, to Shs 2.282 billion, in Financial Year 2026/2027, representing an increase of Shs 438.11 billion.

Table two thereby gives you, colleagues, an overview of how these resources have been allocated. The committee further notes that the ministry's functional allocation reflects a major emphasis on transmission, distribution, petroleum, and administration-related land acquisition and institutional costs, alongside continued support to generation, minerals, and clean cooking. Colleagues, table 4 gives us an allocation of resources by major functional areas.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes that the ministry has identified substantial project outlay for Financial Year 2026/2027, and the medium term, and many of these projects are location-specific and visible.

Colleagues, the major planned projects under Vote 017 represent the following, which I believe is a point of critical concern to most of us here.

There is a project of Mutundwe-Buloba-Kabulasoke-Masaka and Kabulasoke-Nkongge-

Rugonjo-Nkenda, 132 KV rehabilitation. It is aimed at upgrading the aged 132 KV wooden pole lines to higher-capacity steel pole lines because most of these lines are now breaking down.

The locations that will be covered are provided for under the third column, and they include Wakiso, Gomba, Butambala, Bukomansimbi, Sembabule, Masaka, Lwengo, Kyotera, Rakai, Kalungu, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, Kagadi, Hoima, and Kasese.

Madam Speaker, when we appear before most of the honourable members and in the budget committee, they usually ask this specific committee to report on where power projects, water projects, and mineral beneficiation projects are going to be located. It is the reason the committee laboured this time to report in this format, so that people here know that if Government is placing money, we are placing it for this specific project. I beg to request, Madam Speaker, that we be given time.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, has anybody stopped you?

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, the microphone had been turned off, and because I am a disciplined person, I request time.

THE SPEAKER: Do you now imagine that my work is to turn off?

MR ARIKO: That is why I requested the Speaker, who is the custodian of this House.

THE SPEAKER: Please just move on.

MR ARIKO: Thank you. Madam Speaker, on the project on Industrial Parks Electrification Phase II, the intended project is to construct substations and power lines to supply power to industrial parks. This will include the Sukulu Hills in Tororo, Mbale Industrial Park, Kapeeka Park in Nakaseke, the Wobulenzi Park in Luwero, and Nakasongola-Kaweweta Defense Industrial Park, amongst others.

Under the Kampala Metropolitan Transmission System Improvement Project, we intend to have an upgrade of the Kawaala, Mutundwe, Mukono, and Buloba-related infrastructure. Madam Speaker, the planned area of benefit is Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono environs.

Madam Speaker, there is the ORIO Mini Hydro and Rural Electrification Project. The ministry intends to undertake construction of the mini hydro infrastructure, 288-kilometre distribution network, and 71,081 last-mile connections, particularly intended for areas in Hoima, Nchweera, Igassa, and Nsongya. Forgive my pronunciation due to cultural challenges.

On the Kiba Hydropower Project, the ministry is undertaking a feasibility study, the environmental sustainability impact assessment, and access works and stakeholder engagement for this mini project, which is intended to be constructed in Nwoya and Kiryandongo districts.

The Oriang Hydropower Project is still the same, and it is intended to be located in Nwoya and Oyam districts.

On the Ayago Hydropower Project, preparatory studies are to be undertaken, as well as stakeholder management activities. The same is in Nwoya and Kiryandongo areas.

Under the Buyende Nuclear Power Plant site evaluation is going to be undertaken, including meteorological tower installation, seismic and groundwater monitoring, and a resettlement action plan finalisation. This project will be located in Buyanja Subcounty in Buyende District.

Madam Speaker, on the geothermal development, there is an intention to undertake deep exploration and drilling, as well as undertake surface studies. This project will be in Kibiro in Hoima, in Panyimur in Pakwach, in Okidi in Amuru, Karungu in Rubanda, Ihimbo in Rukungiri, and Kabuga in Kasese.

The electricity access scale-up project

This project intends to ensure the connection of 1,073,500 new connections of people to the electricity grid. The distribution is as follows: Central Region, 497,106; Eastern Region, 216,616; Northern, 140,337; and Western Uganda, 219,441 new connections, all amounting to 1,073,500 new connections.

Under the mineral exploration and beneficiation projects, there is exploration and support for the mineral value chains. This is to improve the value of the minerals that are being obtained by the various artisanal as well as developed miners. This is planned for in Ssembabule, Buhweju, Iganga, Luweero, Kyenjojo, Ntungamo, Kazo, Kiboga, Kassanda, Mubende, Nakasongola, Mityana, and Nakaseke districts.

On the Kilembe redevelopment and mineral value addition, the Government intends to support mining, processing, and mineral value addition under the Kilembe project. This will be located in Kilembe, which is in Kasese. There will also be Busia, Mbarara, Iganga, Jinja, Tororo, Rubanda, Kampala, and other mineral processing points in the country.

Observations on Vote 017

The committee welcomes -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Herbert Ariko, some interruptions - I have my guests who may wish to leave.

In the public gallery, I introduce the teachers and pupils from Mardith Junior School, which is in Nakawa Division, Kampala. You are most welcome. Thank you very much for coming. They are here to observe the proceedings. Those are the future leaders of this country.

Also in the public gallery, we have students and teachers of Dalton Secondary School from Bbaale County, Kayunga District. They are represented by Hon. Charles Tebandeke and Hon. Idah Nantaba. You are most welcome.

The school from Nakawa is represented by the Lord Mayor-elect, Hon. Ronald Balimwezo, and Hon. Betty Naluyima. Thank you very

much. You are most welcome. Join me in welcoming them.

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, the committee welcomes the modest increase in the funding for Vote 017, especially in domestic development and non-wage allocations, because the energy sector remains one of the clearest enablers of industrialisation and constituency-level economic activity.

However, the committee is concerned that the ministry still carries major unfunded obligations, including Shs 300 billion required to settle and complete the inherited Rural Electrification Agency projects, Shs 22 billion for land acquisition along the electricity access scale-up project corridor, Shs 50 billion for the liquefied petroleum gas regional storage infrastructure, Shs 177 billion for Buyende Nuclear RAPs, and further gaps in geothermal drilling and Kiba feasibility works, as well as mineral market establishment.

The committee also expresses grave concern over the protracted delay in compensating and relocating the project-affected persons associated with the Karuma Hydropower Project. It has been over 10 years since the construction commenced. The affected land is located in Karuma and Awo villages, which are in Mutunda sub-county in Kiryandongo, and the Akurida and Nora villages in Kamdini.

This impacts a total of 414 households. While the Government owes the PAPs approximately 70 billion, the budget for the financial year 2026/27 has allocated only Shs 10 billion, leaving the majority unaddressed, and these vulnerable communities remain unattended.

There is a need for the Government to be more intentional and increase the money to settle these PAPs, especially in light of the report that this committee presented before this House in Gulu, where the Government undertook that by October 2024, money would have been found to settle the PAPs in Karuma.

Madam Speaker, the unfunded projects are provided for under that table 6. I will go

straight to Vote 139: The Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU).

PAU remains central to Uganda's transition into the production phase of the petroleum sector, particularly with respect to the independent measurement, regulation, local content monitoring, production oversight, and economic monitoring, as well as environmental coordination. The allocation reviewed by the committee places Vote 139 at Shs 106.87 billion for the next financial year.

Madam Speaker, I will invite colleagues to look at the subsequent tables regarding PAU. I would like to request that I go straight and look at the committee comment.

The committee notes that additional funding of Shs 28.24 billion was provided to support the establishment of the real-time monitoring centre, and this significantly strengthens our preparedness for the production phase of the oil, which is expected to commence on the 31st July this year.

Under the national content and employment, the committee further notes that PAU reports 2,626 companies on the national supplier database, of which 2,257 are Ugandan, and 369 are non-Ugandan, and that over 360 tier-one contracts have been awarded to Ugandan companies in reserved and ring-fenced categories.

As of December 2025, the sector employed 21,072 personnel, of whom 18,137 are Ugandan nationals, and 6,631 are from host communities in particular.

The committee notes that PAU currently has 222 staff against an approved structure of 278, and it still has 51 positions without wage funding, with a further unfunded recruitment requirement of Shs 11.09 billion.

Honourable colleagues, if we are to go into the production phase of the oil, it is important that our Authority, which is responsible for supervising this for us, is strengthened so that it is able to be up to speed.

I would like to invite you to go to the section on water and environment, which is Vote 019.

Madam Speaker, Vote 019 remains the most politically exposed vote under the committee's jurisdiction because the citizens encounter the State most directly through access to clean water, functionality of boreholes, performance of piped schemes, sanitation in institutions, irrigation investments, climate information, and visible action against environmental degradation.

The committee notes that the total budget allocation for vote 019 in 2026/27 is Shs 1.8 trillion compared to Shs 1.5 trillion in 2025/26, representing an increase of Shs 318 billion.

The ministry further reports that its strategic requirement for the financial year 2026/27 is Shs 2.185 trillion, leaving a funding gap of Shs 361.9 billion.

Honourable colleagues, I invite you to look at table 9 by yourselves.

Table 10 is an additional allocation of resources after the first one.

Projects under Vote 019

I think this may be interesting for colleagues for us to go through. The committee commends the ministry for providing a more detailed implementation geography for the Financial Year 2026/27, as always requested by colleagues. This has enabled the committee to identify where the Government intends to undertake actual works and where oversight should be concentrated.

Table 11 provides us with projects that are intended to be undertaken in the northern region.

The Ala-Ora piped water scheme to 100 per cent completion. This will serve Terego, Yumbe, Madi-Okollo and Nebbi district areas.

The refugee settlement and rural growth centres water supply and sanitation project, which is

intended for Laropi and Lefori in Moyo, Akoro and Pangila, and Padibe West in Lamwo.

The institutional water supply and sanitation project

This one is intended to supply the Arocha prison in Apac and the Iceme health centre and surrounding areas in Oyam.

The rural growth centre schemes in Ewanga in Madi-Okollo, Edrayo in Terego, Rodo and Nyori in Yumbe.

The gravity and piped water schemes are intended for Ambe GFS in Zombo, the Ogili water supply and sanitation scheme in Agago, as well as Pader.

The solar-powered schemes for Achukudu solar RGC in Napak.

Colleagues, I am sure that the Hon Faith Nakut is now going to give me a bit-

Table 12, in the Eastern region.

There are rural growth centre piped water projects that are intended for Bulange in Namutumba, Nango in Mayuge, Bubugo-Itanda in Jinja, and Kagumba in Kamuli.

Additional rural growth centre schemes, one intended for Oyama RGC in Kaberamaido.

The institutional water supply and sanitation schemes in Ivukula prisons and the surrounding areas in Namutumba.

The public sanitation facilities are intended for Mulatsi S.S. in Mbale and Lubani SSS in Jinja.

The urban and small town water system schemes under the Water and Sanitation Development Facility East. In Manafwa, Bulangira, Bukumi, Kaproron, Kadungulu, Iyolwa, Mukura, Atutur and Mbale Industrial Park.

Central region

The ministry intends to undertake piped water schemes in Nankondo in Ssembabule, Moone in Nakasongola and Bulera in Mityana.

The institutional water and sanitation schemes - Masaka Army Barracks.

The solar-powered water schemes in Kyegegwa, Rakai, Namayingo and Buvuma districts.

Then the other additional schemes and extensions are intended for Ngoma, Nyanseke, Busaale, Lunya, Kapeeka Industrial Park extension and Kikuube.

In Western and Southwestern regions

The major towns and cluster water systems.

In Nyakashaka and Rubaya in Buhweju and Mbarara, Mabira, Bukiro, and Nyabisirira, Ntungamo Industrial Park, among others.

The integrated water management and development schemes Kaliro-Namungalwe and Kyegegwa-Mpara-Ruyonza-Kabagore. This is the learned DAGs area.

Isingiro water and sanitation scheme

That is for the Isingiro District. Institutional water schemes in Butanda Secondary School in Kabale, Rugazi Health Centre IV in Rubirizi, and Ishekye School of the Handicapped in Sheema.

The rural growth schemes

Kyampangara and Nyamushojwa in Kazo, Kasaba in Kyenjojo, Rwentuha in Kyegegwa and Buhanda in Mubende.

The solar-powered scheme

Bikone and Isule-Katebenyangorongongo in Kasese; Kagunga Iremera 1, Iremera 2 in Kisoro; and the Rubanda extension scheme.

The gravity-piped water schemes are intended for Mbunga-Nyakazinga and Bughema in Kasese, and Mpunga in Kanungu.

The climate-span smart wash clusters for Rwere in Kateretere, Bugarama-Karweru and Kagarama-Bushura-Kibuzigye in Rubanda, Kabale and Kisoro areas.

Karamoja region schemes

Under the institutional water schemes, Nadunget SS in Moroto, Amita Prisons in Abim.

Public sanitation facilities

There shall be two institutions in Karenga and one in Ngora.

Additional water schemes in Kalapata, Lorengedwat, Tokora, Kathile listed under the broader solar and service expansion.

The committee notes that the ministry's water for production portfolio is particularly important in the drought-prone and livestock-dependent areas for expanding irrigation agriculture.

Colleagues, we have selected water for production projects, which you will all see. I want to allow you to see them by yourselves. Under table 16, in Isingiro, Kanungu, and then those in Karamoja. Another area that will be covered is Agule in Kalaki, Soroti District, Bulusambu in Mbale, Biduku in Nakaseke, Kiryandongo, Masaka, Oyam, Gulu, Nwoya, among others.

There will be solar-powered irrigation water systems also cited in the numerous areas across Central, Eastern, Northern, Karamoja, and Southwestern regions.

Colleagues, the other aspects are those that I believe we will go through. I just would like to invite you to the aspect of the unfunded priority under Vote 019.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes that under the project 2041- this is 7.6 colleagues: 100 per

cent Service Coverage Acceleration project, (SCAP 100, Umbrellas Phase II), the Ministry of Water and Environment has identified critical financing gaps for targeted investments in water pipeline extensions, power extensions to pump stations, off-grid solar installations, and pump stations and drilling of production wells in small towns, rural growth centers, and the six umbrella and water and sanitation projects countrywide. Colleagues, in totality, the SCAP 100 project was in response to His Excellency, the President's promise that every village in Uganda should have at least one clean water source.

So, SCAP 100 was intended to ensure that water sources are placed in districts and in administrative units such as sub-counties, so as to distribute water using piped water systems. So SCAP 100 is crucial because it responds to the Government's undertaking to the citizens.

Here, the committee identified a funding gap of Shs 35.85 billion for Financial Year 26/27, which would support the undertaking of rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation skip schemes, as well as extend 5,000 kilometers of pipeline water to provide for 5,000 new water connections in the various communities of the country.

The committee further notes an unfunded requirement under the water and sanitation development facilities that are responsible for the design, construction, and setting up of infrastructure for rural water supply.

Colleagues, the unfunded priorities under Vote 019 are provided for under table 18.

Madam Speaker, permit me to conclude with National Water and Sewerage Corporation. National Water and Sewerage Corporation remains central to urban water service delivery and to several other sectors, most visible investments in towns and municipalities.

The committee notes that National Water and Sewerage Corporation medium-term financial and investment plan covers five projects currently supported by government

and development partners, namely SCAP 100, Kampala Water-Lake Victoria and Sanitation Project, the Southwestern Cluster, the Integrated Water Management and Development Project, and the Wakiso West Water Sanitation Project.

The National Water and Sewerage Corporation funding gap in the Financial Year 26/27 is provided for under Table 19.

In particular, you note that there is a funding gap of Shs 62 billion for SCAP 100, 45 in the seven towns water project between Karuma and Gulu. As you might know, a multi-million thirty million cubic water supply project was set up at Karuma to supply Oyam, Gulu, and the neighbouring districts of Northern Uganda. Therefore, this money is necessary for the distribution of this water.

There is need to undertake urgent but critical water projects in Nakawuka, in Kakumiro, and in Bukedea, which remains one of the only districts in Teso currently not covered sufficiently by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation. These provide us with a requirement of about Shs 50 billion, to be specific.

Madam Speaker, the committee remains deeply concerned about the continued accumulation of the government water arrears owed to National Water and Sewerage Corporation because this undermines the corporation's cash flow, weakens its creditworthiness, and constrains its capacity to sustain service delivery and finance new infrastructure investments. The updated arrears information submitted to the committee shows that as at the end of March 2026, the outstanding arrears stood at approximately Shs 75.37 billion.

The committee notes that a significant portion of the verified water areas owed by the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to National Water was accumulated over two Financial years and amounted to Shs 24.42 billion as of February 2025.

Madam Speaker, you might note that with your

leadership and with the work of this Parliament, the Government provided money to clear the outstanding arrears that were owed to National Water by the MDAs. I wish to note here that the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, in particular, and the Uganda Police Force -

THE SPEAKER: Hajjat is around.

MR ARIKO: ...have not been able to remit money that was voted and released to them to address this problem.

THE SPEAKER: It actually came in a supplementary. It was ring-fenced, it was sent to these ministries but instead of these ministries sending the money to National Water, they diverted the money, which is unethical.

MR ARIKO: I thank you, Madam Speaker, that you have provided a rider to one of the most critical concerns of the committee. In fact, this is tantamount to a mischarge because the money was specific for that purpose.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, on Tuesday, give us a report on that mischarge, whether it was approved by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), and what could have happened. Give us a report on that, and then Internal Affairs too; we need to know.

1.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Veteran Affairs): (Ms Huda Oleru): Madam Speaker, most obliged. We will come with the report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can you summarise?

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, I just wish to summarise. The arrears as of to date stand as follows:

- i) Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Shs 40.3 billion;
- ii) Uganda Police Force, Shs 9.7 billion;
- iii) Uganda Prisons, Shs 5.7 billion;

- iv) Jinja Hospital, Shs 43 billion;
- v) Mulago Hospital, Shs 4.3 billion;
- vi) Kyambogo University, Shs 3.4 billion;
- vii) Gulu Hospital, Shs 1.3 billion;
- viii) Nebbi Hospital, Shs 963 million;
- ix) Soroti Hospital, Shs 819 million; and
- x) Entebbe Hospital, Shs 530 Million.

- vii) The Ministry prioritises delivery in named localities already committed to its prioritised delivery in named localities, especially those mentioned in its policy submissions, like the industrial parks, the transmission corridors, where economic and political expectations are high.

I conclude by raising the observations and recommendations

Recommendations under the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU)

Vote 017

- i) The committee recommends that the Government provide an additional Shs 300 billion for the Financial Year 26/27 to clear priority inherited rural electrification obligations and restore visible implementation under the last mile service delivery;
- ii) The Government should reconsider the decision to restructure the Rural Electrification Agency and reinstate a rural electrification agency or any other institution that is dedicated to providing rural electrification in a non-traditional ministry format, especially in light of the low progress since the rationalisation of the previous institution; *(Applause)*
- iii) We should strengthen the anti-vandalism enforcement and accelerate reform in scrap market regulation and protect, and protect critical infrastructure;
- iv) Government allocates Shs 10 billion to establish a formal mineral market and buying centre;
- v) Government prioritises the full compensation and relocation of the 414 affected households in Karuma and Awo villages by allocating the outstanding 60 billion;
- vi) The ministry submits to Parliament a district-by-district implementation matrix of electricity transmission, distribution, and industrial parks electrification projects, showing the financing, the contractor status, the completion timelines, and the expected beneficiaries. This is because for many times, colleagues are asking the Ministry of Energy about electrification projects without clear responses; and

- viii) The committee recommends that sustained financing for the real-time monitoring centre, the primary data centre, and the disaster recovery infrastructure, cross-border monitoring, and remaining staff gaps be provided for before Uganda enters into full petroleum production;
- ix) PAU, through the minister responsible for petroleum, should make quarterly reports to Parliament on first oil readiness, production monitoring capability, national content performance, employment outcomes, and coordination with the Uganda Revenue Authority, the Auditor-General, Uganda National Oil Company, and the Uganda National Environment Authority; and
- x) Additional budget consideration should be given to unfunded recruitment and technical monitoring tools required for the production of the first oil.

Recommendations under Vote 019

- i) The Government should increase predictable domestic financing for the operation and maintenance of rural water facilities, small pipe schemes, and rehabilitation of non-functional systems. Colleagues, this will help to remove the burden of repair of boreholes, spring wells, and small water schemes from members of Parliament; and
- ii) Counterpart funding for strategic towns and other schemes for water production should be protected from disruption during the financial year. Additional resources should be mobilised to narrow the Shs 361 billion financing gap, which threatens universal safe water, climate-resilient, and ecosystem targets.

Recommendations under the National Water and Sewerage Corporation

- i) The Government should prioritise the additional Shs 86 billion required under the Government of Uganda component of the National Water 26/27 capital program;
- ii) The responsible MDAs should immediately remit the outstanding water areas owed to National Water, and persistent non-remission should attract budgetary sanctions;
- iii) Parliament should use its appropriation power to reallocate part of the recurrent budgets of votes that persistently default on water payments to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation; and
- iv) Priority counterpart financing should be directed towards the Nakaoka, Kakumiro, Bukedea, and Karuma Gulu transmission mains and south-western cluster obligations because these affect highly visible public water projects.

Vote 150: National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)

- i) The budget of the National Environment Management Authority for inspections, field mobility, laboratory services, digital monitoring systems, and specialised oversight in oil, gas, mining, and urban pollution hotspots should be enhanced;
- ii) The minister responsible for the environment should and should make quarterly reports on NEMA's processing of national, environmental, and social impact assessments, compliance inspections, restoration orders, extractives monitoring, and coordination with sector ministries and local governments; and
- iii) The Government should support the filling of critical staffing gaps to bring the authority closer to its approved establishment.

The Summary of Budget Estimates for the next Financial Year

The committee proposes that the following budget estimates be allocated to the various votes under its mandate

Vote 017: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

Recurrent expenditure
The committee proposes Shs 205,740,000,000.

Development expenditure
The committee proposes Shs 2,077,050,000,000.
The total is Shs 2,282,790,000,000.

Vote 139: Petroleum Authority of Uganda

Under recurrent expenditure, the committee proposes Shs 61,380,000,000.

Development expenditure - Shs 44,840,000,000.
Total of Shs 160,870,000,000 -

THE SPEAKER: 106, not 60.

MR ARIKO: 106, I am sorry. I beg your pardon. The total for Petroleum Authority of Uganda is Shs 106,870,000,000.

Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment

Recurrent expenditure - Shs 90,590,000,000.
Development expenditure - Shs 1,732,490,000,000 giving a total of Shs 1,823,080,000,000.

Vote 150: National Environment Management Authority

Under recurrent expenditure - Shs 37,770,000,000.
Development expenditure - Shs 80,130,000,000 giving us a total of Shs 45,910,000,000.

In conclusion, the committee's review of the Ministerial Policy Statements and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 shows that the Votes under its jurisdiction carry some of the most politically consequential responsibilities.

The committee finds that the proposed interventions are substantial and, in many cases, well-targeted geographically, but the credibility of the Budget will ultimately depend on whether implementation reaches the

districts, towns, industrial parks, institutions, and the host communities already identified in the official submissions.

The committee, therefore, urges the House to support stronger financing for frontline delivery, closer tracking of implementation by location and sharper accountability for agencies and Votes whose budget commitments affect electricity, water, environment, and petroleum governance across the country. Madam Speaker, I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. This is a direct report. Honourable minister - Rural Electrification Agency (REA). The problem we have is that when our people realise that the management is not doing well, they decide to kill the institution. You would rather remove and replace the management. REA used to be good but now - Honourable minister?

2.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Madam Speaker, I take note of the wish to reinstate REA, but I wish to point out the following: Electrification of this country requires huge sums of money. When I sit down to calculate, I need \$4 trillion to electrify this country fully.

Secondly, we actually depend on donors to electrify this country. Most of the money which we are using for rural electrification is donor-given money, and donors come with conditionalities. For example, the World Bank will come with compensation for wherever we take electricity; whether we cut a tree, or even putting it on somebody's land. Unless we amend that requirement, whatever we do will be difficult to implement.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can I ask something? Do we have a department that carries forward the work that REA used to do?

MR OKAASAI: Yes, Madam Speaker. We have a department which is fully committed to rural electrification in the ministry and by the way, all the staff of -

THE SPEAKER: In your own analysis, has it been more efficient than the previous REA?

MR OKAASAI: There are things which I must point out. It is working except that the funding is very poor. It has taken a long time for us to start attracting donors. I pointed out that most of the money we use for rural electrification is donor-given money.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore, the donors were only giving at the time of REA? Because at the time of REA, we did not have those complaints. The complaints we had were about management but power was everywhere. I can assure you, people had power everywhere. Did they stop funding because REA stopped?

MR OKAASAI: It was only a coincidence. I will tell you, Karamoja, Gulu and West Nile did not have electricity. Therefore, when we say we had electricity everywhere, it is not true. If anything, it is now the department - because of our insistence on equity - that is taking electricity to those areas which are underserved. What we require is money. REA never came here to tell you that by district, I am going to give this electricity.

The department came and actually talked about what is required to deliver electricity to the various parts of this country. Going backwards, it has taken us four years to enable rural electrification to settle. Going back to REA, I assure you we shall take another five years without distributing electricity. We are gaining trust from the development partners, money is coming back, and that will enable us to deliver electricity.

The most important thing is equity of distribution. If I brought you a map - When I went to the ministry, I said, I want to go to the moon and look down at Uganda. You will actually find that there are completely dark areas -

THE SPEAKER: There is a clarification from Hon. Omara.

MR OMARA: Madam Speaker, I have been in this Parliament for five years.

THE SPEAKER: Only?

MR OMARA: Yes, and we participated during the rationalisation. By the time we moved REA to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, we moved it with money; over Shs 600 billion -

THE SPEAKER: We did not move; this Parliament did not move REA to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. They moved.

MR OMARA: Ever since that time, they have come to my constituency to survey mileage for rural electrification and ever since that time, nothing has been on the ground, and there are no electric poles. Can the ministry clarify what they did with over Shs 600 billion, which we transferred to them and the consequent monies that we have been appropriating to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development?

THE SPEAKER: Actually, some people have ended up using the electric poles that were left lying there as firewood.

MR OMARA: Exactly. This is shambolic, this is incompetence. If the people cannot perform, they must change the leadership. The country cannot continue to live in darkness -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we are not saying you are not the one performing. There are technical people in that department.

MR OKASAAI: It might be them as well - *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, chairman -

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, for the sake of the record, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) was not a subject of rationalisation. REA was dissolved by a repeal of the statutory instrument before the RAPEX came into force.

THE SPEAKER: That is why I said it was not by us.

MR ARIKO: So, it was something that was done to cure a governance problem by killing the child. Madam Speaker, the issue regarding rural electrification is not only an issue of money. It is an issue of non-performance. This is what is persuading the committee to come up with this recommendation.

Madam Speaker, if you recall, last year -

THE SPEAKER: It is an issue of performance.

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, last year, there was a funding gap to clear outstanding arrears under rural electrification. Whereas the ministry was asking for Shs 300 billion, at least this House was able to find Shs 150 billion of this.

Madam Speaker, if your requirement to perform or to cultivate is two gardens and they give you one, but after one year, you cannot show us what you can produce in one garden - the issue is not about the money. The issue is, with whatever little money you have, what is it that you can do?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, are you with your chairman? Have you heard what your chairman -

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, on the issue - May I just say this then I will give you the chance to give information.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we want value for money.

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, from the understanding of the committee, why we believe it is a performance issue is because the people in REA, their weaknesses notwithstanding, had the confidence and the will of development partners so that where this Government was not able to find resources, they were able to sit down and write project proposals and attract money which was being used.

What are the people in the ministry doing to supplement Government allocations through the writing of projects? (*Applause*) Madam Speaker, I would like to take information from my senior colleague.

MR OSHABE: Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. Madam Speaker, the information I want to give to the chairperson of this committee is that we were members of the Natural Resources Committee in 2018 when REA was doing everything possible to extend power lines.

Members of Parliament would go to REA and at least somebody's line would be surveyed and work could go on. We passed a supplementary for the ministry in 2023 for the backlog and in 2024, we also passed billions of monies.

However, in Kassanda where I come from, they told me they got a contractor but two years down the road, the contractor has not been seen on the ground. Lines were left, and I know it is not only in Kassanda. It must be everywhere in the country.

Madam Speaker, this ministry will not manage. We are going to continue - even if you give them all the money they are talking about. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I used to be in the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE), which REA used to report to. The only problem that REA had was with governance and management but all the other things were so perfect. Even when the management would quarrel amongst themselves, the lines would be fixed, and power would be there.

Therefore, all that you ought to have done was to remove those top guys who were fighting and leave the institution because it had very competent people.

On another note, what did the money that was transferred from REA to the ministry do? Can we have accountability for what has been done over time? Honourable minister, before you

come, let me have Members from Nakasongola and Bushenyi.

2.12

MR NOAH MUTEBI (NRM, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am happy that we are discussing this critical issue because this is a national problem. The ministry for energy came to Nakasongola five years ago and carried out a survey in a number of areas in my constituency.

However, what happened during campaign time is that the minister came and excited the public, created anxiety, and then nothing took place. You cannot go to Nakasongola and talk about the ministry for energy, and people clap - they cannot.

They say, "No, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is telling lies". Madam Speaker, we want the minister to explain to this august House what happened to the money we approved here. I want to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member from Bushenyi -

2.13

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Ten years ago, REA installed electric poles in most of the parts of this country, but up to now, they have never been connected to the grid.

During our campaign trails, it was a pertinent question. As I talk, in those areas, as Members of Parliament, we have failed to legislate. When you go there, they will talk about those electric poles. Last year, during this time, we unanimously agreed, as Members of Parliament, to allocate money for the connection of those electric poles but up to now, nothing has been done, and yet we are coming to the end of the financial year. Madam Speaker, in those places, people are threatening to vandalise those electric poles. We are going to lose money when people have not accessed electricity.

Therefore, I would like to be brought up to speed as to when the electric poles will be connected.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, take note of what the Members are raising. Hon. William, followed by Hon. Rose.

2.15

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Madam Speaker. When we talk about power, it is a matter of life. In fact, it is good that the minister is always a polite person but this is a very serious matter. During the campaigns, we went through serious problems in our constituencies.

In 2023, the minister himself came on the Floor and told us about the money that was available. There was a list that came out listing the districts that would benefit from the programme that was World Bank money. We were all happy and took the message to our people.

THE SPEAKER: We approved the loan.

MR CHEMONGES: They sent the surveyors because the money was already there. We have letters in districts introducing consultants and contractors, but up to today, there is nothing.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Rose then Hon. Grania.

2.16

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. The ministry has money for refugee-hosting districts but people have been bruised. On the Floor of Parliament, we promised that we were going to start with Obongi and the committee was to go there. Unfortunately, up to now, they have not gone to Obongi, and the constituency has remained without poles. The two MPs have been removed, and if you go to Terego, they told us they were starting in March.

We have money specifically for refugee-hosting districts - If you go to Madi-Okollo, we are fed up. Something drastic should be done

in that ministry. Tables should be turned so that they know that this country cannot only talk, but it can bite. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Grania –

2.17

MS HOPE GRANIA NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I also want to join the other Members to thank the committee chairperson and the members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Madam Speaker, I will not over-emphasise the issue of connectivity to the grid but I want to speak to the issue of vandalism. In Mubende, we have a number of lines that were vandalised. Whenever we talk to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and they come, if so many metres of the line have been vandalised, they only bring one or two.

Also, intelligence has it that the people who vandalise these lines come from the ministry and their service providers. Let them prevail over these people.

THE SPEAKER: Let us not say that.

MS NAKAZIBWE: Madam Speaker, I take that message, but it is upon them -

THE SPEAKER: We do not have evidence to that effect; it is just an allegation. Let us not say that they come from the ministry.

MS NAKAZIBWE: Madam Speaker, I can say it is an allegation, but when they do not take action to get these people or to monitor -

THE SPEAKER: As a leader, that should not come from you, *Nnalongo*.

MS NAKAZIBWE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that guidance, but I want to plead with them to ensure that whenever they pledge to reconnect, they actually do. In Mubende District, there is a point where we lost a very long line of connection and this has taken more than a year and a half - the Government is

losing a lot of money because people are not consuming the power, yet there was investment done in that area. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: One time, my transformer blew and the person who was to reconnect asked for money. Honourable minister, I remember I called you and asked you whether we pay money for – Yes, Hon. Faith.

2.19

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Madam Speaker, I wish to correct the record of what the minister said that during the time of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Karamoja did not get power and now, in his time -

THE SPEAKER: Did not have.

MR NAKUT: Did not have power, and now in his time it has. That is a lie. The connections we got were at the time of REA. The minister is aware of the times the Karamoja Parliamentary Group has engaged him on the issue of connections. All our engagements with him have not yielded even one pole. No connection for all these four years. It is only today that I have heard him saying the ministry was settling down. For four years?

Madam Speaker, there is something more serious regarding this matter of connections. You know that our Government envisions a ten-fold growth strategy. Without connections, that is impossible. Therefore, we consider this ministry a saboteur. This ministry is not aligned with the vision of the Government and that must be corrected.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I happened to have been one of those who moved throughout this country during the campaign. When I moved throughout the whole country, I found out the things that people are crying for that are sabotaging the Government.

The first was electricity and the second was infrastructure; the roads and then water. You would find everybody saying that this Government would be good if it had A,B,C,D.

Why don't you people help the Government to run because we give you money? We do give you money, but you do not give us accountability for the money we give you.

Hon. Stella? Let me first get another person from Karamoja because they said Karamoja did not -

2.21

MS STELLA ATYANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Moroto): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the minister for the responses that he has given, but we all know that electrification is the driver to economic growth. REA was put purposely to ensure that there is power across the country -

THE SPEAKER: In the rural areas.

MS ATYANG: Across the country in the rural areas, which it did. Of course, it also had its own challenges. It took power and lines to the communities but it did not enable the communities to tap this power. In Karamoja, where REA actually worked, we have lines running but the *wanainchi* are not able to tap power because of the lack of transformers in most of the locations.

I have been informing the minister in this House about the need for transformers in my district and of course in other parts of the country to enable the communities to tap power. He has been giving us hope most of the times. It reached an extent where he informed me that even the transformers have been procured. However, three years down the road, the transformers that he said were procured have not reached the community.

THE SPEAKER: They are still settling.

MS ATYANG: I do not know whether they were procured or not. In fact, he has also been sending surveyors to the community and I wonder what reports they have been giving him. I would also plead because it is like the surveyors have been going all over the country in places where the demand of electricity was.

I request that the minister actually puts together all the reports across the country about the limitations or the challenges that are faced by the people of this country in relation to electricity, and he shares with us what was found and what the ministry is planning.

THE SPEAKER: Can we agree that on top of the discussion on infrastructure, we also discuss electricity? *(Applause)* Give us a report of the places you have connected, accountability from the time REA left to date. Can we agree to have that on Tuesday? Is that okay with the Members? We are going to continue speaking, and we will not be able to get answers, so let us have that response. Whoever has something to be included in the report should get in touch with the minister. Minister, we need that report. *(Applause)*

MR OKAASAI: Yes, so many questions have been asked and I have taken note of them, but just like you pointed out, it is not only energy. It is the infrastructure ministries – the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development -

THE SPEAKER: You handle what is yours. No, handle what is yours.

MR OKAASAI: I am going to provide you the report as you have asked because we shall account for even the areas, which we connected during this time. We shall be able to give you -

THE SPEAKER: Exactly. *Mzee*, handle what is yours. Leave what is for roads to roads.

Honourable members, pursuant to rule 156(2), I refer the report to the Budget Committee for reconciliation, harmonisation and consolidation. Honourable members, we will have a debate. I want us to have an extensive debate on electricity. *(Applause)* From the time of REA to date, we want accountability. Next.

(V) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Finance_

2.26

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Amos Kankunda): Madam Speaker, Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament mandates the sectoral committees to perform the following functions, among others:

- i) Examine and comment on the policy matters affecting Ministries, Departments and Agencies under their jurisdiction; and
- ii) Examine, critically, the Government's recurrent and capital budget estimates and make recommendations for general debate in the House.

In accordance with Section 12(13) of the PFMA, Cap. 171, the minister responsible for finance submitted the Ministerial Policy Statement to Parliament on the 15th of March. The committee considered the Ministerial Policy Statement and now reports.

Madam Speaker, allow me to lay on the Table the report and minutes that were put together during our interactions. I, hereby, lay them.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR KANKUNDA: Madam Speaker, I beg that you allow me to give the House just the highlights.

The committee used very good methodology and the documents that were revised are here attached. This report covers 11 Votes under our purview. They are:

- i) Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
- ii) Vote 108: National Planning Authority;
- iii) Vote 123: National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board;

- iv) Vote 129: Financial Intelligence Authority;
- v) Vote 130: Treasury Operations;
- vi) Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General;
- vii) Vote 138: Uganda Investment Authority;
- viii) Vote 141: Uganda Revenue Authority;
- ix) Vote 143: Uganda Bureau of Statistics;
- x) Vote 153: Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority; and
- xi) Vote 163: Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority.

The macroeconomic development and outlook is hereby specified and laid down – the exchange rate, inflation, interest rates, and economic outlook.

The proposed budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027

The total budget is projected to increase from Shs 72.376 trillion in Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 84.294 trillion in Financial Year 2026/2027, representing an increase of Shs 11.917 trillion.

The increase is mainly on account of high domestic revenue mobilisation, additional inflows from Petroleum Fund and the increased domestic borrowing, partly offset by low external budget support.

Madam Speaker, we looked at the revenue and financing sources, which are domestic revenues, Petroleum Fund, budget support, domestic refinancing – call it rollover – and local revenue, as here submitted.

I would like to submit that the discretionary resource envelope – if I may read it verbatim. After deducting statutory and prior obligations, including wages, external debt amortisation, project support, domestic refinancing, domestic areas, appropriation-in-aid, local revenue, interest payments and Bank of Uganda debt payment, the net Government of Uganda discretionary resource will increase from Shs 32.48 trillion in this Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 39.56 trillion in the next financial year, an increase of Shs 7.08 trillion. The details are in the table.

Allow me to confirm that this analysis scrutinised the compliance of gender and equity requirements and the details are here below.

Madam Speaker, the half-year budget performance is elaborated here but allow me to go straight to the budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The proposed budget for the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 3.011 trillion, representing a nominal increase of Shs 214 billion from the approved budget of Shs 2.796 trillion in this running financial year. I refer you to Annex 2.

A significant proportion of this budget, approximately 80 per cent, is earmarked for private sector development financing, including PDM, wealth creation programmes, capitalisation of development finance institutions such as UDB and the other government-owned institutions, the agricultural credit finance facility and Uganda Agricultural Insurance Scheme as well as the INVITE and GROW projects.

The increase in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development's budget is mainly driven by these cost centres:

- i) Wage: An increase of Shs 4.6 billion, from Shs 12.08 billion to Shs 16.7 billion, largely to cater for salary enhancement for Assistant Commissioners and principal officers;
- ii) Non-wage recurrent: An increase of Shs 213.9 billion, from Shs 2.192 trillion to Shs 2.406 trillion, to finance interventions in consumer protection, including credit reference services, financial inclusion and enterprise development (*okusevinga*), continued capitalisation of UDB, climate financing interventions or initiatives and financial inclusion pillars of the PDM; and

- iii) Government of Uganda development: An increase of Shs 101.34 billion, from Shs 176.86 billion to Shs 278.2 billion. This is mainly attributed to the new and scaled-up development projects, including the PIM Plus project, which, alone, accounts for approximately Shs 89 billion of the increase.
- ii) Shs 4.8 billion on the non-wage recurrent expenditure;
- iii) An additional Shs 19.8 billion on Government of Uganda development; and
- iv) An addition of Shs 29.7 billion on external financing.

These increases are partly offset by reductions in:

- i) External financing: A reduction of Shs 145.4 billion, from Shs 402.02 billion to Shs 256.5 billion, mainly due to lower anticipated disbursements and reduced donor commitments for the INVITE and GROW projects, as well as additional external financing under the Resource Enhancement and Accountability Programme (REAP); and
- ii) Overall development budget: A net reduction of Shs 44 billion in total development resources, once the decline in the external financing is taken into account against the increase of Government of Uganda-financed development.

Overall, while the ministry's budget is expanding in nominal terms, the composition is shifting further towards domestically-financed private sector development and financial sector strengthening, with reduced external financing.

Vote 108: National Planning Authority

The proposed budget for National Planning Authority, Madam Speaker, is Shs 168.79 billion, representing a 52.3 per cent increase from Shs 110.86 billion in Financial Year 2025/2026. The increase reflects a deliberate effort to strengthen the national planning, coordination and monitoring functions in line with the National Development Plan IV (NDPIV).

The increment is composed of:

- i) An additional Shs 3.5 billion on the wage component;

The development budget will mainly support the construction and equipping of the National Planning House, which is expected to enhance National Planning Authority (NPA's) institutional capacity and provide a permanent home for core planning, population, and physical planning functions. In addition, the NPA anticipates an off-budget support amounting to Shs 2 billion from development partners, which will complement the on-budget resource referred to in Annex 2.

Vote 123: National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board

The proposed budget, Madam Speaker, for Vote 123 for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 27.2 billion, up from Shs 17.93 billion in this running Financial Year 2025/2026.

The budget comprises of Shs 8.8 billion for wage, Shs 15.4 billion for non-wage recurrent, and Shs 2.6 billion for Government of Uganda development, referred to in Annex 2. The board projects to collect Shs 450 billion in gaming revenue during the year. The increased budget is to cater for staffing and operationalisation of their regional offices, largely.

Vote 129: Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)

The proposed budget for FIA in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 56.1 billion, an increase of Shs 9.8 billion from Shs 46.2 billion in this running Financial Year 2025/2026. The rise is driven by the recurrent budget with Shs 3 billion additional wage and Shs 6.8 billion additional non-wage. The Financial Year 2026/2027 budget comprises Shs 15.3 billion for wage, Shs 39.2 billion for non-wage recurrent and Shs 1.46 billion for Government development, referred to in Annex 2.

Vote 130: Treasury Operations

The proposed budget for Treasury Operations in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 33.6 trillion, up from Shs 27.807 trillion in Financial Year 2025/2026. The entire Treasury Operations budget is classified as recurrent (non-wage), reflecting its primary role in meeting Government's statutory obligations including public debt service, redemption, court awards, and other central Government commitments. Refer for details in Annex 2.

The increase is largely driven by:

- i) Higher interest payments on treasury bonds, which are projected to rise about 33 per cent due to the large stock of domestic debt and a shift towards long-term instruments; and
- ii) Increased domestic securities redemptions, expected to grow by approximately 39 per cent, reflecting maturing obligation associated with previous borrowing, and continued reliance on domestic debt market.

Commitment fees are also projected to increase substantially as a result of pipeline loans which require up to Shs 95 billion and approximately Shs 90 billion in respect of undisbursed external loan commitments within the existing portfolio. I refer colleagues to table 3 for details.

Madam Speaker, Treasury Operations is also responsible for management of the Contingencies Fund, which is required by law to be replenished annually with an amount equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the appropriated annual budget of Government for the previous financial year. Accordingly, Shs 361.88 billion has been provided in Financial Year 2026/2027 budget for this purpose.

Debt management fees are variable charges imposed by some creditors for the use of agents, legal firms, and insurance companies during the loan contracting and management processes. Some of these fees, such as, upfront fees, legal fees, agency fees, insurance premiums are one-

off payments, while others such as management fees may be payable annually, depending on the financing agreement. For Financial Year 2026/2027, Shs 238.5 billion is projected to cater for these expenditures.

The projected amount of the redemption of treasury bills and bonds in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 13.96 trillion, of which, Shs 547 billion represents the annual principal repayment on the Shs 7.7 trillion 10-year amortisation security issued to the Bank of Uganda.

In practice, the Government continues to roll over a substantial portion of domestic debt principle; when Treasury Bills and Bonds are auctioned, part of the proceeds is used to repay maturing principle obligations.

The projection for the court awards and compensation is Shs 327 billion. This provision will cater for the final instalment towards the International Court of Justice award to the Democratic Republic of Congo and other judgment creditors with claims against the Government.

Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General

Madam Speaker, the proposed budget for the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 123 billion, an increase of Shs 10 billion from 113.5 billion in Financial Year 2025/2026. The increase comprises Shs 7.2 billion on non-wage recurrent and Shs 2.8 billion on Government development. The budget comprises Shs 48.5 billion for wage, Shs 70.7 billion for non-wage recurrent and Shs 4.3 billion for Government of Uganda development. I refer you to Annex 2.

Vote 138: Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)

The proposed budget for Uganda Investment Authority in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 670.9 billion, representing a substantial increase of Shs 336.4 billion from the approved budget of Shs 334.5 billion in Financial Year 2025/2026. Refer to Annex 2 for details. This

sharp increase reflects the Government's priority to accelerate industrialisation and job creation through industrial parks and investment promotion.

The main drivers of the increase are:

- i) External financing; an increase of Shs 281.03 billion, from Shs 90.97 billion to Shs 372 billion, primarily to finance the development of industrial parks; and
- ii) Government of Uganda development; an increase of Shs 44.9 billion, from Shs 217.97 billion to Shs 262.9 billion to support infrastructure development at Mbale Industrial Park and institutional strengthening of the UIA, including systems, governance, and investor facilitation.

Vote 141: Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)

The proposed budget for URA in Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 917.3 billion, an increase of Shs 40.1 billion from Shs 877.2 billion in Financial Year 2025/2026. The entire increase is on the non-wage recurrent budget. The proposed budget comprises Shs 400.2 billion for wage, Shs 452.3 billion for non-wage recurrent, and Shs 64.7 billion for Government of Uganda development. Refer to Annex 2.

These resources are geared towards supporting the URA in implementing the successor Domestic Revenue Mobilisation (DRM) Strategy - meaning what is going out because this one is expiring, so we look at the new strategy of the DRM - and improving taxpayer education and compliance management.

Vote 143: Uganda Bureau of Statistics

The proposed budget for UBOS in FY 2026-2027 is Shs 148.4 billion, an increase of Shs 14 billion from Shs 134.3 billion in FY 2025-2026. The increase is driven by Government development, a Shs 23 billion increase despite a reduction in non-wage recurrent of Shs 8.8 billion. The budget comprises Shs 23.2 billion for wage, Shs 83.8 billion for non-

wage recurrent, and Shs 41.3 billion for the Government of Uganda development.

The additional development resources will support the construction of Statistics House in Entebbe and investment in modern statistical infrastructure, which are expected to improve data production, dissemination and coordination of the National Statistical System.

Vote 153: Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA)

The proposed budget for PPDA for the FY 2026-2027 is Shs 33.3 billion, an increase of Shs 3.5 billion from Shs 29.8 billion in the Financial Year 2025-2026. The increase comprises Shs 2 billion on wage and Shs 1.5 billion on non-wage recurrent.

The budget comprises Shs 16.5 billion for wage, Shs 15.5 billion for non-wage recurrent and Shs 1.29 billion for the Government of Uganda development. Refer to the attached annex.

Vote 163: Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA)

The proposed budget for URBRA in the Financial Year 2026-2027 is Shs 18.7 billion, an increase of Shs 4.4 billion from Shs 14.3 billion in the Financial Year 2025-2026. The increase is mainly on non-wage recurrent expenses by Shs 4.34 billion. The budget comprises Shs 7.8 billion for wage, Shs 10.1 billion for non-wage recurrent, and Shs 0.72 billion for the Government of Uganda development, plus Shs 0.057 billion in arrears.

This allocation is intended to strengthen URBRA's capacity to regulate the retirement benefits scheme, safeguard members' savings and deepen coverage for the formal and informal sectors.

Honourable colleagues, I have covered all the Votes. Suffice it to say that it is, therefore, prudent that we go straight to the observations of the committee Vote by Vote.

Honourable colleagues, I refer you to page 30 where we start with the National Planning Authority. I will go straight to the committee recommendation.

- 1) The committee recommends that the Government fast-tracks the amendment of the Physical Planning (Amendment) Act and any related legal instructions to clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of NPA and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in the area of physical and spatial planning;
- 2) Upon clarification of mandates, NPA should be allowed to absorb the requisite technical staff and provided with adequate funding to fully operationalise the physical planning department; and
- 3) The Office of the Prime Minister, working with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, should coordinate an inter-agency framework to avoid duplication, ensure effective collaboration and safeguard the original objectives of the rationalised exercise.

Vote 130: Treasury Operations

1. The committee recommends, under this Vote, that before the Government attracts any new loan, all key preparatory activities, including feasibility studies, detailed design, environmental and social safeguards assessment, land acquisition plans, and implementation arrangements, should be substantially completed to ensure rapid disbursement once the loans become effective;
2. The committee recommends strengthening the Public Investment Management (PIM) Framework to include a straight readiness filter such that only projects meeting agreed readiness criteria proceed to loan negotiation and signing; and
3. The finance minister should report annually to this Parliament, the level of commitment fees paid by projects, their

causes and specific corrective actions to reduce such costs going forward.

On domestic borrowing, the committee recommends that:

1. Government strictly adheres to its commitments to gradually reduce domestic borrowing and limits domestic borrowing to the financing of high return development projects rather than recurrent expenditure; and
2. The finance ministry accelerates fiscal consolidation measures such as enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation, rationalising non-priority expenditures and improving value for money in public expending to reduce the need for domestic borrowing.

Vote 123: National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board

The committee recommends that this Vote intensifies:

- (a) Enforcement and compliance activities nationwide, including regular licensing and inspection of the gaming premises.
- (b) Stronger enforcement against illegal and unlicensed machines in collaboration with URA, the police and local Government.
- (c) A comprehensive responsible gaming programme aimed at public awareness, early detection of problem gambling and referral to support services with particular focus on rural and pre-urban areas.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development develops and brings to Parliament, a comprehensive national gaming and betting policy that, among others:

- a) minimises the adverse social and economic effects of betting and gaming on the population;
- b) introduces targeted safeguards for minor, low-income groups and other vulnerable populations; and

- c) provides a framework for using a portion of the gaming revenue to finance prevention and rehabilitation programmes.

Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General

The committee recommends that:

1. The Office of the Auditor-General be provided with an additional Shs 8.05 billion in the Financial Year 2026-2027, specifically earmarked for strengthening audit coverage in emerging and high-risk areas;
2. The Office of the Auditor-General should be provided with an additional Shs 2.2 billion to conduct an impact assessment and perception survey; and
3. The Finance Ministry, together with OAG, develop a multi-year resource plan that aligns audit coverage with the size, complexity and risk profile of Government operations.

Under the Office of the Auditor-General, the committee observed that there are inadequate staff numbers and delayed implementation of manpower plans.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the OAG be provided with an addition of Shs 39.99 billion over the medium term to progressively implement its manpower plan, prioritising critical technical and support positions.

Recruitment and retention strategies, including competitive remuneration and professional development programs, should be strengthened to attract and retain high-calibre audit professionals.

Honourable colleagues, we also noted, as a committee, that there is an insufficient and aging motor vehicle fleet under the OAG. Therefore, the committee recommends that the OAG be provided with Shs 5 billion in the Financial Year 2026-2027 to replace its most critical aging vehicles and ensure reliable transport for field audits.

Two, a phased vehicle replacement plan should be agreed upon between the OAG and the finance ministry to avoid future accumulation of obsolete assets and ensure cost-effective fleet management.

Under Vote 138: Uganda Investment Authority, the committee recommends as follows:

- i) That the Government strengthens its project preparation and appraisal framework so that only projects with adequate readiness, land acquired, key approval secured, design completed, and implementation arrangements in place, are submitted for external financing;
- ii) The Ministry of Finance and Uganda Investment Authority, in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Ministry of Works and Transport and other relevant agencies, develop and implement a clear, time-bound road map to resolve all outstanding bottlenecks and fast-track completion of the Namanve project; and
- iii) Lessons learnt from the Namanve project be formally documented and integrated into the public investment management guidelines to minimise recurrence of similar delays in future industrial park and infrastructure projects.

In conclusion, the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development appreciates that the institutions under its jurisdiction are critical for achieving Uganda's socio-economic transformation agenda, including the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) and the Ten-fold Growth Strategy. However, prolonged capacity constraints and implementation bottlenecks continue to undermine their effectiveness.

Therefore, the committee is of the considered view that the budget strategy for the Financial Year 2026/2027 will be realised if the identified challenges are addressed and the above recommendations are implemented.

In light of the foregoing, it is the prayer of this committee that this House adopts this report and

approves the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 incorporating the committee's recommendations. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson, for this comprehensive report on Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Since it is straight forward, pursuant to Rule 156(2), I refer the report to the Budget Committee for reconciliation, harmonisation and consolidation. Thank you.

(VI) COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ethel, I will send you to the Budget Committee to make the addition. Thank you.

2.29

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. May I take the pleasure of laying on the Table the minutes of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs while receiving and processing the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS).

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KAJWENGYE: I will be very brief. The Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, on the Ministerial Policy Statements and budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027, considered the following Votes:

1. Vote 004: Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs;
2. Vote 009: Ministry of Internal Affairs;
3. Vote 309: National Citizenship and Immigration Control;
4. Vote 144: Uganda Police Force;
5. Vote 145: Uganda Prison Service;
6. Vote 135: Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory; and
7. Vote 137: National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).

Madam Speaker, I will highlight a Vote and make salient observations and recommendations. The

report was uploaded, so honourable colleagues can access it.

Introduction and background

There are important points I wanted to make on budget efficiency reforms, for example:

1. Alignment of frameworks for review of ineligible expenditures under the Government of Uganda development budget with frameworks used for external or donor financing;
2. Introduction of Accounting Officers' Budget Discipline Charter for managing public funds, which demands fiscal discipline, adherence to work plans, timely budget submission and robust internal controls; and
3. Implementation of a Rewards and Sanctions Framework to recognise good performers and sanction bad performers.

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) adjustment is there.

We looked at a number of things. The methodology is just like that of many other committees.

We also looked at compliance of the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 with the following - In this, we are looking at what the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) demands and other relevant laws, like gender and equity concerns. Whether the MPS is aligned with the National Development Plans, we did the scores.

The following are the committee observations and recommendations on the above:

The Votes' Budget Performance for the first half of the Financial Year 2026/2027. The Votes' budget performance for the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026 was summarised in the Annex, which is also attached. 6.2 is Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

The performance for the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026 is in the report.

We looked at the major audit findings for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and recommended as follows:

1. The ministry improves its budget execution as per the work plan to minimise budget absorption challenges;
2. The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs adheres to the procurement legal framework to safeguard against non-adherence to the contracts by contractors; and
3. The Ministry of Defence should closely monitor contract implementation for effective project implementation.

The budget estimates including arrears is also there. In the overall budget, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs will experience an increase in its allocation for the Financial Year 2026/2027 to reach Shs 5,386.89 billion from Shs 4,929.83 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026. That increase by Shs 457.06 billion is due to the Wage Bill by a Shs 46.01 billion rise and the non-wage budget by Shs 318.62 billion and a rise in the projected disbursement by External Partners (AUSSOM) whose contribution will increase from Shs 255.98 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 348.70 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027. This is consistent with the volatility of the security situation in Somalia.

Important to note is that the wage bill for the ministry will increase by Shs 46.01 billion from Shs 1,391.5 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 1,437.52 billion. This is as a result of recruitment of 10,400 officers currently undergoing training; salary enhancement for the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), which this House recommended last financial year, where Shs 31.8 billion is for the enhancement of our scientists in the armed forces, and the remaining balance is for promotions in the forces.

We recommend that a provision of Shs 260.07 billion be made available to enhance the UPDF operational readiness and capacity by replacing the aging utility, logistic military trucks, and buses over the medium term.

Shortfalls in foodstuffs

We recommend an additional provision of Shs 115.1 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the procurement of food.

Shortfalls in uniform

We recommend an additional provision of Shs 106.1 billion to the Ministry of Defence for the procurement of uniforms for our UPDF during the Financial Year 2026/2027

Maintenance of equipment and aircrafts

We recommend that the ministry be provided with additional Shs 71.2 billion for maintenance of equipment and Shs 27.5 billion for maintenance of aircrafts during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

UPDF National Referral Hospital

On this monumental achievement that the UPDF has already got, we recommend that the ministry be provided with Shs 93.2 billion to commence the construction of the cardiology and oncology departments during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Additionally, Shs 108 billion for the operational costs to be provided over the medium-term.

Capitalisation of Uganda Air Cargo

We have heard plans that Uganda Air Cargo Corporation (UAC) wants to acquire a mid-life Airbus A330-200 and C-130 to enhance their efficiency and profitability. It will further expand the existing UAC area of operation, including other services.

We recommend an additional Shs 381.1 billion to be provided to Uganda Air Cargo to procure new aircraft to increase its revenue streams and add to the strategic airlift capability.

Solar power plant

We recommend – this was established to reduce reliance on the grid but also to make

sure the UPDF and agencies can be able to run even when there is a power blackout.

We recommend a provision of Shs 74.1 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 budget and the medium-term to establish a solar power plant in Nakasongola. Nakasongola is where all the military industries reside. It is of importance that they are on the secure grid.

Domestic Arrears

In line with the phased plan of clearing existing arrears, the committee recommends that a provision of Shs 290 billion be made available to clear outstanding domestic arrears upon verification by the Office of the Auditor-General.

Gender Compliance; we scored them and they are good to go.

Vote 009: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Budget Performance – The annex is part of the report, Madam Speaker. Our recommendation to this is that the ministry expedites recruitment process of all its human resources before the end of the financial year to avoid the creation of wage bill arrears.

On performance of the development budget, we recommend that the Ministry of Internal Affairs design procurement plans reflecting the contract execution milestones consistent with the cash flow plans.

On the ongoing regulatory and legal reforms, our recommendation is that they should expedite completion of the policy framework of the national corrections policy to improve access to enhance offender rehabilitation and reintegration, while addressing the outstanding legal frameworks, but not limited to:

- i) Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill;
- ii) Sovereignty Bill;
- iii) National Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill; and
- iv) National Citizenship and Immigration Control Bill

These should be expedited to be implemented in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

On major audit findings; our recommendation is that the ministry should develop an annual M&E framework to guide assessment of the budget implementation and formalise appointments for contract managers to improve contract management and oversight in execution of contracts.

Budget Estimates

The ministry's overall budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 will increase from Shs 20.48 billion from the Financial Year 2025/2026, due to an enhanced wage budget by Shs 2.2 billion for additional recruitment of staff, and a non-wage recurrent budget by Shs 18.16 billion.

The additional non-wage budget allocation is towards management of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which registered an increase of Shs 4.8 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027. This is intended to develop and deploy comprehensive automation of the NGO Bureau services through consultancy services.

We recommend as follows:

- i) The ministry should prioritise and expedite the introduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill during the Financial year 2026/2027;
- ii) Consultancy services for automation of NGO services can be scaled down to Shs 3 billion since automation solutions are off-the-shelf, and what is required is the procurement of licences of the system which is done over a year, and consultancy fees as well. The balance of Shs 2 billion should be allocated as a subvention to the Amnesty Commission to fulfil its mandate;
- iii) The ministry should develop investment projects to be able to construct its headquarters and house other institutions and procure vital assets used in the discharge of its duties; and

iv) The Government should provide an additional Shs 3.82 billion to the Department of Community Services for social reintegration, stakeholder engagements, monitoring, and district service committee operations and National Community Service Committee operations.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) system

We recommend a provision of Shs 5.521 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to upgrade the TIP database into an online system to facilitate migrant workers' safety.

Recruitment systems

We recommend that Shs 1.2 billion be provided in the Financial Year 2026/2027 budget to develop and automate the recruitment system for the Uganda Police authority and Uganda Prisons authority.

On the implementation of the Explosives Act, 2023, which this honourable House passed, we recommend the provision of additional Shs 13.39 billion to regulate commercial explosives during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The Amnesty Commission

We recommend an addition of Shs 2.341 billion during the Financial Year 2026/2027 for demobilising, reinserting, rehabilitating and reintegrating reporters and victims.

Gender Compliance

We scored them at 70 per cent, they are good to go.

Vote 120: National Citizenship and Immigration Control (NCIC)

Budget Performance for the first half of the Financial Year 2025/26 is annexed.

1. The committee recommends that NCIC expedite the recruitment process of staff to improve wage bill absorption; and

2. The committee recommends further that the DCIC align its procurement plans with contract schedules and cash flow projections to improve timely resource utilisation.

Major audit findings as per the Auditor-General's report, which is a function of Parliament, Financial Year 2024/2025

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) NCIC should adhere to the Government commitments control system, annual work plans, and e-government procurement system as measures to prevent the accumulation of arrears;
- ii) NCIC should develop an annual M&E framework to monitor and evaluate budget execution; and
- iii) Government should provide adequate financing to enable NCIC to operate and automate border posts with a seamless data-sharing platform with all relevant institutions.

Budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/27

Overall budget

Custody Centre for Kampala Metropolitan

The committee recommends a provision of Shs 0.8 billion in the Financial Year 2026/27 to NCIC to procure land within the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area to construct a custody centre.

Post-entry management of immigrants

The committee recommends an additional provision of Shs 6.471 billion to undertake countrywide inspections and investigations, prosecutions, removal of immigrants and managing custody centres.

Passport booklets

The committee recommends that an additional Shs 7.89 billion be provided to NCIC during the Financial Year 2026/27 to procure an additional 50,000 passport booklets. Additionally, the joint venture for the production of security documents should expedite the implementation of the joint venture agreement.

Border automation systems

The committee recommends an addition of Shs 13.63 billion over the medium-term to upgrade existing digital systems, deployment to more service points, and establish the necessary physical infrastructure to support the automation process.

Diaspora access to services

We recommend a provision of Shs 2.1 billion to NCIC to decentralise immigration services to Ugandans abroad during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Gender compliance was scored at 70.

Vote 144: Uganda Police Force

Uganda Police Force registered 196,115 crime cases in the year 2025, compared to 218,715 in 2024. This is a 10.3 per cent reduction, posting a crime rate of 427 per 100,000 persons, down from 476 in 2024, based on an estimated population of 45.9 million. This was a monumental achievement by the Uganda Police Force.

We congratulate them.

Budget performance for the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026

The annex is attached.

Overall budget performance

We recommend that the Uganda Police Force should devise mechanisms to deal with attrition in the police force and improve procurement planning to be linked to the cash flow plan.

Supplementary expenditures should not be sought prior to adjusting the procurement plans, work plans and cash flow plans to achieve efficiency of resources.

Major audit findings as per the Auditor-General's Report of the Financial Year 2024/2025

We recommend the following:

- i) That the Uganda Police Force should invest in automation of all its processes over the medium-term to improve the level of efficiency;
- ii) It should also prioritise investment in improving investigation capabilities to improve the conviction rate of cases; and
- iii) Undertake recruitment targeting improvement in staff levels towards the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) and fire rescue services.

The overall budget for the Uganda Police Force

The Uganda Police Force budget is set to fall, unfortunately, from Shs 1200.727 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 1190 billion in Financial Year 2026/2027. This drop in budget results from a Shs 34.1 billion cut in the wage budget, which more than offset the rise in the wage bill by Shs 11 billion to cater for new officers and a rise in the development budget by Shs 12.46 billion for the construction of police stations at the stadia in preparation for AFCON 2027 at Shs 4.97 billion, among others.

We recommend that UPF should expedite the preparation and approval processes of the CCTV Phase III project to be included in the Public Investment Plan and submit to Parliament an evaluation report of Phase I and Phase II during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Traffic and Road Safety

We recommend:

- i) UPF should link the EPS to the NIRA database; and
- ii) An additional Shs 8.577 billion for the procurement of transport equipment and

installation of the IOV inspection lane and certification centre; Shs 21.6 billion to procure 10 mobile inspection stations for IOV.

Police accommodation and the ongoing construction projects

We noted that there is a shift in the Uganda Police Force now to construct accommodation and shift from asbestos; minimal but commendable.

The committee recommends that the Uganda Police Force and the Ministry of Internal Affairs harmonise in the development process of the accommodation project to comprehensively address Uganda Police Force accommodation challenges in the Financial Year 2026/2027. An additional Shs 24 billion be provided over the medium-term to renovate the existing barracks starting 2026/2027.

Subcounty policing model

This was passed by this Parliament. It involves deployment of a minimum of 18 personnel, two motorcycles per police station, a counter phone and radio communication, an office, and staff accommodation of at least 18 personnel. This is a pilot project, but it is doing well so far, and it has worked.

The Uganda Police Force requires Shs 191 billion in the next financial year. However, only Shs 44.15 billion is available.

We recommend, therefore, that the Uganda Police Force should first pilot this model with the existing funds provided in the budget and expand it, given the lessons learned in the piloted subcounties.

AFCON activities

The Africa Cup of Nations is coming to Uganda, and this Parliament is excited and has been budgeting. It forms part of our 10-fold growth strategy project.

The committee observed that security infrastructure logistics for policing the AFCON tournament will require Shs 21.159 billion. This funding is necessary to ensure large crowd management and safety inside and outside the stadium, intelligence gathering and surveillance, high visibility patrols and police order, safeguarding critical infrastructure including hotels, airports, and highway routes.

We, therefore, recommend that the budget requirements are largely recurrent in nature and be provided under the Ministry of Education and Sports budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Criminal investigations

Recommendations

We recommend a provision of Shs 10 billion for the CIID to carry out thorough investigations on crimes committed during the Financial Year 2026/2027 and Shs 24.252 billion to be provided over the medium-term.

Criminal Intelligence

We recommend an addition of Shs 5.949 billion during the Financial Year 2026/2027 towards crime intelligence gathering for the Uganda Police Force.

Wage Shortfalls

We recommend an additional provision of Shs 58.904 billion to provide for an additional 8,140 officers currently undergoing training during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Feeding in operations

The committee observed that the current feeding cost of an officer per day is Shs 10,000. Uganda Police Force (UPF) deploys an average of 35,000 officers per day at all vital and strategic locations, which translates into an annual budget of Shs 127.75 billion.

The available funding for this is Shs 58.200 billion. It can only feed 15,945 personnel.

We, therefore, recommend an additional provision of Shs 70 billion during the Financial Year 2026/2027 for feeding police officers during operations.

Inadequate provision for repairs and maintenance

We recommend a provision of Shs 53.366 billion over the medium-term, since the Uganda Police Force recently acquired new vehicles across the country and is still under repair warrant. A provision of Shs 6.545 billion be provided during the Financial Year 2026/2027 for aircraft maintenance.

Domestic Arrears

We recommend that the Uganda Police Force should adhere to the commitment control system and prioritise clearance of our outstanding arrears before acquisition of new ones during the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Gender compliance

As per the law, the Uganda Police Force has declined to 73 per cent from 75 per cent score for the last financial year. This is largely due to insufficient funding towards police accommodation facilities, among others.

Vote 145: The Uganda Prisons Service

The budget performance for the first half is annexed. The overall budget performance – I can just read this. The wage bill expenditure totalling Shs 73.53 billion, which is 49 per cent of the approved Shs 149.044 billion wage bill budget, slightly below the released amount of Shs 74.536 billion, indicating an absorption of 98.65 per cent. The non-wage recurrent expenditure performance was 51 per cent of the Shs 320.812 billion budget in the first half, with an absorption of 99.9 per cent.

Development Budget

The amount of Shs 59.707 billion was approved, and only Shs 16.994 billion was

utilised, reflecting an expenditure performance of 28 per cent. Out of what was spent, Shs 25.14 billion was released, indicating a release performance of 42 per cent, implying an absorption rate of 67.6 per cent.

The low absorption resulted from the ongoing procurements in the construction projects.

Recommendations

- i) That the Government should expedite judicial, investigative, and governance reforms in an effort to reduce the length of stay on remand; and
- ii) Most of the ongoing construction projects are based on force account. Then, procurement planning of supplies should be improved for the timely execution of projects.

Major Audit Findings

We recommend as follows:

- i) The Government should provide sufficient funding for the Uganda Prisons Service to recruit an additional prison staff to improve the ratio from 1:7 to 1:3 over the medium-term;
- ii) While the construction of 74 staff houses at the selected prisons is ongoing and at various levels, during the Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government has provided Shs 2.56 billion to construct 160 low-cost staff houses in selected prisons instead of the required 800 to increase permanent houses for the Uganda Prisons Service. The government should provide an additional Shs 10.24 billion to the Uganda Prisons Service to meet the 800 low-cost staff houses target next financial year;
- iii) With 41 prisons without safe water, the Government intends to provide boreholes for Kayanja and Rubirizi, leaving out the planned eight additional prisons in the Financial Year 2026/2027;

- iv) The Government should provide an additional Shs 0.24 billion to meet the target;
- v) The Government should provide an additional Shs 11.838 billion over the medium-term to construct and equip the TB isolation wards in 16 regions, except Arua, which has been provided with Shs 1.625 billion in Financial Year 2026/2027; and
- vi) The Uganda Prisons Service should collaborate with the relevant public institutions like the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to improve the productivity of the cotton farms.

Budget estimates excluding areas

It is also annexed. The overall performance is there.

Then we recommend that Uganda Prisons Service should submit to Parliament project completion reports covering the financial outputs, expenditures, lessons learned, and sustainability arrangements for the revitalisation of the prisons industries project after its closure.

The prisoners' accommodation

We note that the prisoner population is growing at 7 per cent per annum. We therefore recommend:

- i) That provision of Shs 2.983 billion be made for an additional 17 prisoner low-cost wards during the Financial Year 2026/2027;
- ii) Develop a project to construct mini-max prisons and low-cost prisons across the country; and
- iii) An additional provision of Shs 9.22 billion over the medium-term to implement the parole strategy.

Production of prisoners to court

We recommend an additional provision of Shs 7 billion for the production of prisoners to court in an effort to improve access to justice. Here, we noted that the rate at which courts are increasing is not matching; so, prisoners are located far away from courts. Consequently, you have to transport prisoners from far areas to court for justice. Therefore, we recommend that the amount be slightly cheaper than building a prison where court is located.

Staff accommodation

We recommend the development of a comprehensive project under the Ministry of Internal Affairs to provide accommodation facilities for the Uganda Prisons Service.

Relocation of prisons headquarters

Madam Speaker, this has been our topic for some time. This has remained outstanding throughout the current Fiscal Year 2025/2026. Plans for relocation must be finalised in the upcoming fiscal year – *(Interjection)* – Okay – to move from the existing premises on Parliament Avenue to create office space for honourable members of Parliament.

Uganda Prisons Service requires Shs 91.5 billion to construct its headquarters over two years. The first year requires Shs 43 billion for the construction of its headquarters for the 2026/2027 budget. However, a provision of Shs 10.50 billion has been made available, leaving a gap of Shs 33 billion.

We, therefore, recommend that the Government provides Uganda Prisons Service with Shs 43.56 billion over the medium-term to construct its headquarters in Luzira. The rest of the report, as it is uploaded –

On gender compliance, they were scored at 75 per cent.

Vote 135: Directorate of Uganda Analytical Laboratory (DGAL)

The performance is in the report.

The committee recommends that the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Public Service expedite recruitment approvals and staffing of DGAL before the end of the year.

We recommend strengthening planning and procurement processes to ensure absorption of funds in line with critical outputs, particularly those with an impact on service delivery.

On major audit, the recommendations are all there. The budget estimates for the overall are available.

Construction of the National DNA Databank
Madam Speaker, we recommend a provision of Shs 10 billion to complete phase II of the DNA databank to improve the investigative capacity of the country.

Maintenance of modern scientific equipment

We recommend an additional provision of Shs 1.015 billion to maintain modern scientific equipment in order to overcome the creation of backlog cases. Operationalisation is there. There is the acquisition of modern scientific equipment for the headquarters.

On laboratory reagents, chemicals and consumables, our recommendations are there. There are recommendations on the chemical waste incinerator, additional working hours for staff, accreditation and gender compliance.

Madam Speaker, this is a new Vote and the last in my report, which is: Vote 137: National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA)

The performance is attached - I am concluding, Madam Speaker.

We recommend that NIRA should undertake targeted registration outreach to schools, working closely with the Ministry of Education

and Sports, to ensure that school-going children are registered into the NIRA as well as have parish-based issuance of the 10 million national ID cards that have to be renewed.

Awareness and sensitisation of the exercise should be enhanced to improve uptake.

NIRA should also prioritise civil registration of births, adoptions, marriages and deaths by ensuring that they are all registered in the year of occurrence.

We also recommend that the Government should provide funds for the recruitment of staff to fill the approved staffing structure of 571 to effectively offer identification and civil registration services across the country.

NIRA should strengthen partnerships and collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Local Government, the Judiciary, cultural institutions, faith-based institutions, and development partners to improve institutional outcomes. In addition, it should strengthen communication - *(Member timed out.)*

MR KAJWENGYE: I am concluding, Madam Speaker.

In addition, it should strengthen communication on mass enrolment, civil registration and all that.

In conclusion, the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs appreciates that the institutions under it are critical in achieving a peaceful and secure country.

During the ministerial policy statements presentation, there was a shared concern that these institutions continue to attract minimal funding, making it extremely difficult to attain respective mandates. The budget strategy for the Financial Year 2026/2027 will only be achieved if the above institutions are supported in the execution of their mandates.

The committee has made adjustments to the budget proposals, as indicated in Annex 3 below, for effective utilisation of the resources.

Madam Speaker, in light of the above, it is the prayer of the committee that this House adopts this report and approves the budget estimates that incorporate the committee's recommendations for the respective Votes for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for this report. Hon. Paul?

3.41

MR PAUL OMARA (Independent, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to appreciate the chairperson for the elaborate submission and his report.

The President had targeted that every subcounty in Uganda should have at least 18 policemen. Recently, in the countryside, there have been some people who are hurting communities. They steal goats, animals, and the number of police in our subcounties are not able to respond quickly, as is required. This is so because of the number of policemen there; some of them are 10 or less. They also do not have housing and the necessary equipment for them to do their work.

I have listened to the chairman and the recommendations he has made. It is true that every subcounty should have at least 18 policemen. I would like to urge the House to make an effort because that is where the majority of our population lives. We should, therefore, make an effort to make sure that the police coverage is well within the country.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, if you give me a minute, we had budgeted that the salaries for our security forces will increase and the bare minimum – we did the numbers – that every soldier should be able to get, in the least as a private – Shs 1 million, but we have not yet reached there.

As a matter of strategy, we should be moving away from hardware to welfare. I, therefore, urge the House that even as we look at some of the investments in our security forces, we need to make sure that those in uniform also have a better salary. I submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rose?

3.43

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the Floor of the House, we spoke about the accommodation of the uniformed men and women. The chairman talked about removing the police from living in asbestos-roofed houses. I hope we are not taking them to uniports because they are degrading. Low-cost does not mean uniports.

Secondly, I want to agree with the previous speaker – my brother Paul – that when we are increasing salary, we should not only look at the army, but rather prisons, police, game rangers – all the armed forces.

Lastly, NIRA is doing a hell of a job. I have seen that the committee has put more and we are asking more from them. NIRA is paid peanuts. Their topmost staff, maybe the third in the district, are getting something like Shs 1 million, and yet they work even on weekends – Saturday and Sunday. Can the committee propose something for that donkey work; an increment of their salary? Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

3.45

MS SYLVIA BAHIREIRA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kamwenge): Thank you, Madam Speaker. My submission is on the health of prisoners. According to the report, there are around 41 prisons without safe water sources, and we have realised that the growth rate is high – at 7 per cent per annum. These prisoners are entitled to good health. When they are not healthy, we spend a lot as a country.

Therefore, my prayer is that these prisoners be prioritised when we are planning for water sources so that they have safe water and we minimise expenditure on them. It is also to ensure that they can have good health even if they are in the cells.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ibanda?

3.46

MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I also thank the committee chairperson for the good report.

I would like to talk about the issue of housing for police officers. Madam Speaker, I live in Bunga and I go through Nsambya Police Barracks. Sometimes, they allow us to use that route when there is traffic jam. Going through that barracks, you cannot believe what you see. It is high time this country prioritised accommodation for our forces, especially the police, the army and prisons.

On the issue of increment of salary of people in uniform, some of us who stay at the border would appreciate the mighty force, the UPDF – even the police – for what they do in safeguarding the peace that we are enjoying in Uganda. It is not by accident, but a deliberate move by the people in uniform.

The last issue is on domestic arrears by the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs. Madam Speaker, there are people who supply the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, the police and even prisons, but payment becomes a problem.

Businesspeople are moving out of business; they have nothing to do. They supply, but they are never paid. I do not know whether the issue is with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development or the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

I beg to submit, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, the issue of the accommodation of the police officers is a serious one. I went to Nsambya Police Barracks one time. I had lost one of my police officers and, so, I went to the police barracks. What I saw there was alarming. I wish we could do more to improve on the welfare of police officers.

I wish we could really do much more because these are the people who guard and protect us. They work with us every day, but when they leave the comfort zone of where they are guarding a big person, they go back to a house that has more than one family. When you are outside there, the neighbour will impregnate your wife. You see that kind of thing. *(Laughter)* So, it is good that we plan for these people.

Yes, Hon. Ethel?

3.49

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. At times when we face the wrath of the police, we just think: What exactly? However, true, when you go where they sleep – and these days - Madam Speaker, I wish to know from the minister, since he is here, we have these temporary barracks that get established. For places like Kira, right now, there is one at Kira *Gombolola*. It has not been there, but the UPDF and some few police officers have to reside there. These are temporary tents. They have been put there for some time now. How are they handling matters of the bathrooms? At least there are some latrines that exist, but you wonder how they are being handled. That is another key matter that we have to consider, because at times –

THE SPEAKER: What wrath did you feel?

MS NALUYIMA: Madam Speaker, I do not want to narrate what I went through during the campaigns. I do not want to, but –

THE SPEAKER: No, we are talking about their welfare.

MS NALUYIMA: Yes, it is what I am insisting on because right now –

THE SPEAKER: Let us leave alone the issue of the wrath because I do not think the police officer will attack you when there is no problem.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What we want to insist on is how

the police are catered for, deeper into their washrooms and what they use to bathe.

THE SPEAKER: Exactly.

MS NALUYIMA: This is what I am insisting on. At times when they put their temporary barracks at a certain school, at least we are sure that the latrines exist. What about the bathrooms?

Secondly, I would also wish to inquire from the minister: How far has he gone to rethink the matter of Uganda Prisons Service – the issue of accommodation for the juveniles? You realise that, many times – For example, in the case of what has been going on in Butambala, before the two juveniles were given bail, they had to reside with adults. That is a key matter in many prisons. We also have to rethink that matter and provide accommodation. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when the police officers or the army officers camp somewhere, do you have facilities for them? Do you have mobile facilities for them?

3.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, when contingencies demand that we make hasty deployments, we make provision for – if it is food, we have food on wheels; they take for them food. They take for them water. We make sure that, most times, we co-locate these deployments with where they can have latrines.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

GEN. MUHOOZI: Not to go – I know the insinuation of going everywhere to litter.

THE SPEAKER: At least, we have not seen the aspect of littering. Honourable minister, there was the issue of having 18 policemen per subcounty. Hon. Tebandeke has just shown me a very ugly picture of the panga-wielding men in his area. I think it has just happened. Can you bring it up?

3.52

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I talk to the issue at hand, I need to appreciate the committee chairperson for the report. I have observed that there is Shs 10 billion suspected to be earmarked for criminal investigations, Madam Speaker. That money is not properly clarified on, in terms of how it is going to be distributed per police station or post.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want to do the operational work?

MR TEBANDEKE: No, Madam Speaker, my point is –

THE SPEAKER: We will allocate – For example, if you allocate money to Parliament, you do not go into operational issues. We have accounting officers, and there are work plans. These people have only come with a block figure, but they have work plans attached to that Shs 10 billion. Tell us about the panga people.

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was only worried about whether the figure is divisible among the –

THE SPEAKER: That is the problem of overthinking.

MR TEBANDEKE: The issue of investigation with the police is still pending. For instance, in Kayunga – I have just got information and I have been following it. Since 2024, the *bijambiya* men are always moving and have caused serious harm and even death to some of our people. As I speak, 15 are reported injured –

THE SPEAKER: What is “*bijambiya*”?

MR TEBANDEKE: “*Bijambiya*” is panga. Madam Speaker, as we speak, 15 are reported to be affected, and four of them are dead. Two just died recently, and even –

THE SPEAKER: What do you mean by “recently”?

MR TEBANDEKE: Just last week, and one was buried in my constituency, at Nyondo. Those people have severally reported such cases to the police, but they have not got any rescue at all. Now, I am here, seeing a lot of money being allocated for investigation. That is why I was thinking and turning otherwise, that it should be scrapped and put into welfare.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you need to take up the issue concerning the “panga people”. Give him the information you were giving me because the minister is here.

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, as you directed, he has given me the report. We shall follow up on that matter but also may be taking advantage of the microphone, you alluded to – He said they report but there is no action taken. Madam Speaker, we shall respond in that direction.

Talking about the subcounty model, we have the ideal but with no matching means. So, if only we could have – and there are two ways to do this. Either we go big bang, get the resources and do it at once or we do it incrementally, which is what we are doing because the resources do not match the ambition we have.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, when we are talking about all these wish-lists, we should look at our revenue envelope. We wish to do everything at once but the problem is that we are limited. Yes, not the Leader of the Opposition, I want my Democratic Party (DP) man.

3.56

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also thank the committee chairperson for the report. My attention is drawn to the issue of the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA). About six months before the elections, the Government did us a wonder to undertake the renewal of the National Identification Cards.

THE SPEAKER: The IDs.

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO: You recall that six months was not enough and it was extended a bit for three months but interrupted by elections. In my constituency, so many people did not have the opportunity to renew their national IDs. So many students who came back for holidays did not register but above all, as we speak, they are now distributing the IDs that have already been printed.

The problem with it is that those who were hired to undertake renewal of the national IDs had their term expire and so they went back home. There are no staff to distribute the printed national IDs and they are now forcing locals to pay a little money to facilitate some of those people privately.

It would be good to add some money in this direction so that this very good project can be concluded; that everybody has their national ID renewed but also those who have renewed theirs pick them. I recommend that those workers be reinstated, at least for the next three months so that this is concluded properly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu.

3.59

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to thank the chairperson for being very elaborate. My problem with your report is that there is no consideration of new districts that do not have district police headquarters.

In some of our districts, we have those police headquarters that were used at the subcounty level, which are acting as district police headquarters. When you go to the new cities, some are still having battles between the mother districts and the new cities, where the police headquarters are located and the ownership of property.

I pray that in a phased manner, you help us. In Kalungu, we do not have police headquarters.

Honourable chairperson, you talked about Uganda Air Cargo. We need a comprehensive statement on the status of the air cargo. The last information we got is that there is one plane in Jordan for repair, and the others are not functioning yet we are talking about buying new ones. Madam Speaker, that is a non-tax revenue for UPDF if those planes are working. Is air cargo functioning or not?

Lastly, the issue of salaries. Whenever they talk about an increment for teachers, police officers also get excited. Can we know whether the 25 per cent that is coming for my fellow teachers is also embedding police officers? If that one is catered for – Science experts in the police are complaining. You have –

THE SPEAKER: In the forces, not in the police.

MR SSEWUNGU: In police. I have talked to police officers but since you have said forces, all of them, but UPDF is already getting – *(Interjections)* Are they not getting? Okay. They are complaining that they catered for science specialists in other areas yet in the general forces, they are not catered for.

Hon. Kajwengye, as you meet the other committee, kindly cater for those expatriates. Otherwise, you cannot only cater for civilian scientists while you are not giving it to the forces. I pray that it is given attention.

Madam Speaker, through your indulgence, when you are making repairs, there are structures that are dilapidated – You talked about Nsambya – the walls were as big as this box; do not destroy them. How would you maintain it? Can the Ministry of Works and Transport confirm? Continue improving those structures in a modern form, other than destroying them. Otherwise, what you are putting in place does not link up to the other side? *Asante sana*, General.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members. Pursuant to Rule 156(2), the report is referred to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation

and consolidation. Thank you, chairperson. *(Applause)* Next.

(VII) COMMITTEE ON LANDS

4.03

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LANDS (Mr Gyaviira Ssemwanga): Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon. Omara, for the compliment. Allow me to lay the minutes and the report of the Committee on Lands on the Budget Estimates and Ministerial Policy Statements for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR SSEMWANGA: Madam Speaker, the Committee on Lands is mandated under Rule 156(1) to review and consider the Ministerial Policy Statement and Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Uganda Land Commission, which fall under the following programmes:

- i) Sustainable Urbanisation and Housing (SUH) Programme, where the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is the lead agency;
- ii) Sustainable energy development, where the lands ministry provides technical support and supervision for the valuation component of energy development projects; and
- iii) Sustainable extractive industry development.

In addition, the committee is mandated to oversee the land component under natural resources, environment, land and the climate change programme.

The committee oversees the following Votes:

Vote 12: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, and Vote 156: Uganda Land Commission. There are also semi-autonomous agencies, which the Ministry

of Lands, Housing and Urban Development oversees for policy direction. These include, National Housing and Construction Company Limited, Physical Planners Registration Board, Architects Registration Board and Surveyors Registration Board.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of time, allow me to go to page number five.

Compliance of the Ministerial Policy Statements with the Public Finance Management Act

Madam Speaker, Vote 12 is compliant with the gender and equity requirement and it scored 73 per cent, which is satisfactory. Then Vote 156, which is Uganda Land Commission, complied, scoring 64 per cent.

On climate change responsiveness, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development scored 57.8 per cent, which is above the pass mark of 50 per cent.

Madam Speaker, allow me to go to page 10; that is Vote 12. The ministry's total budget is projected to decline significantly by 40 per cent from Shs 336.592 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 200.623 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027, as shown in table 5 on page 10.

Madam Speaker, the decline in the ministry's overall budget is further explained by the large reduction in the external financing of the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development project (UCMID), which is expected to fall from Shs 86.454 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026, to Shs 21.278 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, allow me to go to observations and recommendations, in the interest of time.

The committee notes that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is understaffed. The committee was informed that the staffing levels currently stand at 38.2 per cent and the ministry zonal offices, which are located in all the 22 zones of Uganda, are also understaffed at 45 per cent. This leaves a gap of

about 263 out of 584 positions, as referred to in Annex 1 of the report.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the Government provides additional funds of Shs 5.28 billion for wages in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to enable recruitment of staff in critical positions. These positions include surveyors and cartographers, because they are very critical in our zonal offices.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted that there is continued encroachment on gazetted and protected areas such as wetlands, forests and riverbanks. This is majorly due to absence of comprehensive spatial data and system integration. There is a need to integrate all fragile ecosystems into the Land Information System (LIS) to enable the Government to effectively conduct, monitor and enforce all vital ecosystems.

The committee recommends that the Government provides Shs 3.5 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to survey, demarcate, map, and integrate fragile ecosystems into the Land Information System.

Uganda continues to face challenges related to unplanned urban expansion, and this leads to a high cost in infrastructure developments and environmental degradation due to high urbanisation growth.

The committee was informed that the urbanisation growth rate stands at 5.2 per cent per annum. This is coupled with low levels of physical planning which stands at 15.1 per cent.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development requires an additional allocation of Shs 220 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027, to strengthen the physical planning function in the country.

The proposed funding will support development and implementation of enforcement of physical development plans aimed at advancing orderly development.

The committee observed that there is a physical planning overlap between the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the National Planning Authority. Madam Speaker, we all know the trade order which is ongoing. If we had planned well and provided enough resources, we would have avoided this instability and the outcry from the public.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Government provides Shs 220 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for development and enforcement of physical development plans.

The committee further recommends that the Government harmonises the existing physical planning mandate overlap between the National Planning Authority and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

I suggest that after the presentation, Madam Speaker, the honourable minister explains more about this mandate clash between the ministry and the National Planning Authority.

The committee also observed that the country continues to grapple with issues and complaints of unfair valuation rates. The committee commends the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development for the Land Valuation Management Information System (LaVMIS). The system is intended to improve reliability and efficiency of valuation.

The improved valuation system such as LaVMIS will enhance fairness and transparency, support compensation for public projects, reduce disputes, and strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation through better property rated assessments. This will also enhance investor confidence and orderly land markets.

The committee recommends that the Government provides Shs 3.06 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for roll-out and operationalisation of the Land Valuation Management Information System (LaVMIS), and development of the property index.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development developed the Land Information System (LIS) under

the Competitive and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP), as an online platform aimed at improving land management procedures, for both government agencies and the general public.

The ministry developed a system whereby you can use your phone, put in the details of your land title and you get to know whether the land has encumbrances or any problem.

The committee also went ahead to show, in a table on page 23, that this system has from the Financial Year 2013/2014 managed to generate Shs 1.1 trillion. Therefore, the committee recommends that an additional Shs 11 billion be allocated to support this.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes that the distorted, unclear international and national boundaries pose a serious threat to the lives and livelihoods of border communities, and disrupts trade along the borders of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda; Rwanda and Uganda; Kenya and Uganda and; South Sudan and Uganda.

The minister for lands informed the committee that, currently, only 25 per cent of the international boundary is affirmed and demarcated. Additionally, unclear national boundaries are a greater threat to the land registration process in service delivery due to boundary conflicts.

The committee observed that the affirmation of clear boundaries is critical to reducing boundary conflicts, promoting co-existence among border communities, addressing challenges associated with porous borders, easing land registration and facilitating the inter-border infrastructure development and trade.

The committee recommends that Government provides Shs 49.834 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for affirmation of international borders and national boundary.

Madam Speaker, the systematic land adjudication and certification is a project under Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban

Development. It is aimed at securing land rights for citizens through systematic land adjudication and certification.

Systematic adjudication involves the identification and verification of land rights, right holders and other interested parties in a methodical and systematic manner, parcel by parcel, for a large area. The approach is both supply and demand-driven, which goes to the grassroots and requires the majority of landowners in the villages and parishes to participate in order to enjoy the economies of scale.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted that only 30 per cent of the land in Uganda is registered. Further, most cost drivers of Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification Approach (SLAC) include procurement of survey equipment, motorcycles, field vehicles and facilitation to land management institutions and other stakeholders.

The SLAC project currently has a funding gap of Shs 929.334 billion. Accordingly, the ministry requires adequate funding to meet the cost drivers across all district local governments and to close the funding gap.

The committee recommends that the Government commits at least Shs 150 billion per financial year in a period of five years for implementation of SLAC in order to close the existing funding gap of Shs 929 billion.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development informed the committee that there is need to fulfil the Presidential Directive and Government commitment under the memorandum of understanding with the kingdoms and compensation payments to ranchers under the government restructuring programme and settlement of court awards. The ministry requires Shs 202.74 billion for land compensation to ranchers, kingdoms and other compulsory land acquisitions.

The committee noted that delays in the settlement of presidential directives and Government commitments could lead to

reevaluation, cost awards, and interest, which are costly in the medium- and long-term.

The committee recommends that the Government provides Shs 202.74 billion for land compensation to ranchers, kingdoms and other compulsory land acquisitions.

The Ministry of Lands informed the committee that despite the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) setting targets and initiatives to reduce the housing deficit, the housing deficit stands at 2.4 million houses.

Therefore, there is no performance achievement to showcase due to continued non-funding and the absence of houses in the housing sector.

The committee noted that the sector is very critical and central for social and economic development, and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution to the economy. The Ministry of Lands has positioned the National Housing and Construction Company as a key player in sustainable urbanisation and housing.

Therefore, the committee observed that there is an urgent need to resolve the shareholder challenge - honourable members, National Housing and Construction Company is owned by the Government of Uganda and the Government of Libya. The Government of Uganda has 51 shares, and the Government of Libya has 49. However, the Government of Libya is absent, yet it shares the profits.

Therefore, the committee requests that we transfer the shares of Libya to Uganda so that Uganda can enjoy all the benefits.

The committee recommends:

- i) Government of Uganda acquisition of Libyan shares to ease decision-making and general operation of the company; and
- ii) that the Government allocates Shs 309 billion required for compensation of Libyan shares in the medium-term.

Payment of outstanding subscription to Shelter Afrique Development Bank

The Government of Uganda is a shareholder in Shelter Afrique Development Bank, a Pan-African development finance institution that funds the end-to-end development of affordable housing across the African continent. While the Development Bank has funded housing developments in other African countries, outstanding annual subscription fees have led to limited Shelter Afrique's involvement and funding in Uganda.

The committee recommends that Government settles the outstanding Shs 21.5 billion arising from unpaid annual subscription fees to unlock Shs 250 billion debt funding to National Housing and Construction Company Limited and other developers.

Vote 156 - Uganda Land Commission

Operationalisation and effectiveness of the Land Fund

The Land Fund is established under Section 42 of the Land Act, Cap. 236 and managed by the Uganda Land Commission. The committee was informed that the Land Fund continues to focus predominantly on purchasing interest from absentee landlords in Bunyoro, Buganda, Ankole and Toro with significant balances unpaid for. For example, Shs 85.4 billion in Bunyoro, Shs 313.557 in Buganda, Shs 38.998 billion in Ankole and Shs 12.283 billion in Toro are unpaid.

The committee recommends that over the years, the funds appropriated by Parliament to Uganda Land Commission for Land Fund activities have been for acquisition of land largely to compensate absentee landlords and enable *bona fide* occupants to secure registered interests on such land. The Uganda Land Commission has, therefore, only been able to execute one aspect of its mandate. Adequate funding is required to enable full operationalisation of the Land Fund.

The committee, therefore, recommends that Government through Uganda Land Commission prioritises funding of the Land Fund so that it is fully operational.

Compensation of absentee landlords

The committee was informed that compensation of absentee landlords remains severely unfunded with an unidentified requirement of Shs 494 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 against the provision of only Shs 22.970 billion, leaving a funding gap of Shs 471 billion.

The committee noted that this underfunding has resulted in litigation, court awards, eviction of lawful and *bona fide* occupants, accumulation of domestic arrears and loss of public trust in the Government; like the pattern observed in previous years. The committee recommends that the Government allocate an additional Shs 471 billion to the Uganda Land Commission for compensation of absentee landlords in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Subdivision surveys, titling of beneficiaries and sensitisation

The committee observed that effective use of the Land Fund requires completion of subdivision surveys, processing of titles for lawful and *bona fide* occupants and extensive sensitisation of beneficiaries, for which Uganda Land Commission requires Shs 90 billion, but only Shs 3.5 billion was provided, leaving a funding gap of Shs 86.5 billion.

The committee notes that failure to undertake these activities has led to continued eviction, insecurity of tenure and challenges in implementing presidential directives in the Land Fund area.

The committee recommends that the Government allocates an additional Shs 20 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 towards subdivision surveys, titling and sensitisation as an initial instalment against the Shs 86.5 billion gap, prioritising regions where land compensation has already been paid but titles have not yet been issued. This is mainly for following up on the money that has been paid to the absentee landlords.

Madam Speaker, there is a need for an updated Government Land Inventory. The committee notes that only an estimated 33 per cent of Government land is currently titled and integrated into the digital land administration system.

It is also noted that the Uganda Land Commission is implementing a Government Land Inventory starting with 16 high-pressure cities and municipalities using three technical field teams for verification, boundary opening, surveys, geo-referencing and titling.

The committee was informed that a three-year project proposal cost Shs 108 billion to undertake a comprehensive Government Land Inventory, and only Shs 6.6 billion has so far been provided for this activity.

The committee takes cognisance of the step taken by the MDAs and local governments working with the Uganda Land Commission and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development towards the survey and titling of institutional land and urges the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure that accounting officers of MDAs and local governments that have not yet titled institutional land to prioritise this activity starting in Financial Year 2026/2027.

A ring-fenced annual allocation of at least Shs 20 billion should be provided to the Uganda Land Commission towards the Government Land Inventory, beginning with the completion of the 16 priority cities and municipalities.

Other Government land acquisition

The committee observed that the Uganda Land Commission requires Shs 100 billion for other Government land acquisitions, including land for foreign direct investment, and collaboration projects with other governments, for example, Burundi, Dubai and other agencies such as Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) among others.

The Government of Burundi gave the Government of Uganda land in the city of Bujumbura to build an embassy. They would also like to build an embassy here in Uganda. We, therefore, advise that Parliament look into this issue.

The committee recommends that the Government allocate Shs 30 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 towards strategic Government land acquisition.

Construction of the Uganda Land Commission office block

The committee noted that the Uganda Land Commission requires Shs 30 billion to construct a purpose-built office block to safeguard sensitive Government land records and support Government inventory. However, no resources have been provided for this investment in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The committee recommends that the Government provide Shs 30 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the construction of the Uganda Land Commission office block.

The Uganda Land Commission Bill and Institutional Capacity

The committee was informed that the commission had a draft Bill, the ULC Bill, which was prepared in 2017. Due to the passage of time, a decision was taken by the ministry's top management to update the principle of the Bill and, therefore, redraft the Bill to address and incorporate the developments that have emerged over this period.

To achieve this, a regulatory impact assessment is being undertaken. Therefore, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and Uganda Land Commission fast-track the processing of the ULC Bill.

Madam Speaker, you have heard the unfunded priorities in the Ministry of Lands and Uganda Land Commission. To achieve the tenfold strategy, everything that we do is done on land.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by asking that this House considers the ministerial policy statements and the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and Uganda Land Commission and recommend that the report of the committee on lands be adopted. Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. You have heard the report. What is crucial is that we need money for absentee landlords. That is the promise that was made. The other thing is, we need an updated Government Land Inventory.

Honourable minister, I would like to refer you to page 14, which outlines the challenges in lands, including increasing land disputes and conflicts arising from land evictions.

We also have fraudulent land transactions, encroachment on public land, double titling, and non-adherence to physical planning regulations and standards as the guidelines stipulate. There is also the issue of the growing slums and informal settlements in the slum areas.

You need to look at that, honourable minister, and see how to handle it because these are very serious issues. Where you need our support, we are available to help you. (*Hon. Naluyima rose*)

All the issues have been summarised. I do not see why you are standing. Honourable minister

4.34

THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Ms Judith Nabakooba): Thank you, Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: I would like to urge you, honourable minister, that whenever there is any disposal of land belonging to the Government, adhere to the Public Finance Management Act which requires that Parliament must approve.

MS NABAKOOBA: Taken note of, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABAKOOBA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the chairperson of the committee for the report.

Honourable members, the issues raised in our report are the real issues right now affecting performance of the ministry but nonetheless, we are trying to do what is required of us to deliver services.

I will begin with physical planning, which is a big challenge. Madam Speaker and Members, physical planning was done by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development working together with the local governments but during the RAPEX, the National Physical Planning Board was removed and it was taken to the National Planning Authority (NPA). When it was taken to NPA, because of the rush, we never harmonised on the roles that would be done within the ministry, because according to the rationalisation –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Judith, much as the Board was removed, the functions remain yours. It is your mandate. Nobody can take planning away from you.

MS NABAKOOBA: Yes, Madam Speaker. Right now, what we are doing is we have a Bill, which is going to be tabled in Cabinet on Monday to come back to Parliament to make sure that there is clarity on the roles.

Another factor affecting physical planning was funding. In a year, physical planning would get less than a billion shillings, yet according to the laws that were made by Parliament, the entire country is a planning area, meaning that from our villages, we need to plan up to the top.

During this term, which is ending, we managed to deliver on the National Physical Development Plan, which will act as a guide. That is a document which we have delivered, 2022-2040. Having used the National Physical Development Plan as a guide, the districts,

municipalities, town councils, and our villages now have to follow the plan we have approved and passed.

What we are asking for, Madam Speaker, right now is that after passing the law, then Parliament and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development get us the money because physical planning should be the activity that is done before anything is put on the land. Even if we anticipate that in 20 years this is where we want to be, at least we should have a plan on paper and in a location physically known to all the leaders and the population within that jurisdiction. That is where we are on physical planning and we have already harmonised with the Prime Minister and it will now be the Cabinet to send us to you, so that the Bill is executed and passed into law.

The challenges you have talked about in our report are the challenges. In land disputes, we conduct community engagements, but some cases are also in court. When cases are in court, we may not have much to say. We try to engage the Chief Justice and the Principal Judge, but when real action is not taken in courts of law, cases can take between 10 to 15 years, even 30 years, without being determined.

When they are still in court, remember activities can be taken on the ground, but what we usually do as a ministry is to write to the District Security Committee to halt whichever transaction is taking place, whichever activity, to leave the status quo as is, so that courts of law can expedite the processes. Where matters are not in courts, we try to mediate and handle and we have handled so many cases through mediation and engagements with the parties that are involved where disputes are.

For the transactions where you have talked about double titling, overlaps, the President told us to introduce what we call block chain. We believe that block chain technology is going to help us to handle the overlaps and the double titling because it uses artificial intelligence and it can sense where there are overlaps and double titling. Right now, the concept has been

developed, the company has been identified, and we are working with them to help us streamline the Land Registry, to make it digital but also authentic, and a Registry that can be believed in by the public and us, the users.

Encroachment on public land

Madam Speaker, public land is prone to abuse because of the public servants who are in those governments. First, the District Land Board is responsible for protecting public land. Then we have the land officers in those districts, and the Area Land Committees, who are mandated to require that, before giving away any public land, you go and inspect. But what you find is that somebody with money goes and corrupts all these institutions and by the time information comes to us as a ministry, land was given away.

We have to recall that these District Land Boards are independent and constitutionally established to manage public land. What we are now trying to do is to amend the Land Act so that we streamline the roles *-(Interruption)-* It is the Rt Hon. Speaker to give you that clarification.

Madam Speaker, on public land encroachment, we need to work together as teams and you MPs who come from these respective districts where public land is being taken, to ensure that at least our eyes are on that land, to ensure that there is protection, but also to ensure that where you need help, you come to the ministry or you go to police for enforcement and protection *-(Interruption)-* Ministry Zonal Offices (MZOs) do the work that comes from the Area Land Committee and also the District Land Boards. It is a chain. There is the Area Land Committee, which is where the activities begin.

From the Area Land Committee, the activities go to the District Land Board. The District Land Board comprises all officers mandated to manage land. If they approve and make that approval, and send it to the MZO, before you blame the MZO, first blame the structure that was given authority to manage land. At the end

of the day, they give a no-objection and send the files to the MZO. When such files are sent to the MZO, what the MZO do is to process titles because they are trusting your agencies, the District Land Boards and also the Area Land Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, what you also need to do is to identify all the land belonging to the Government, and you title it. Title all the land because you are the authority that does the titling, you do not need a lot of money to title that, apart from a small facilitation. Let us first have all that land titled, so that we know it belongs to the Government.

When you start making noise, when you shout, I will not give you people the opportunity to talk - *(Mr Mapenduzi rose)* - Please.

MS NABAKOوبا: Madam Speaker, we have tried to title some Government land, working with the district leaders. Now, what you have heard, titling of public land, we needed some little resources, and it is still an unfunded priority according to the Financial Year 2026/2027, but that will not stop us from going ahead. We would be doing it, but we are going to be moving at a slow pace because we are constrained by the resource envelope.

Another thing that I wanted to talk about is encroachment –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, do you have the inventory of all the Government land?

MS NABAKOوبا: That is what we are trying to build, Madam Speaker. We have some information, but we cannot take it to be authentic unless we verify and begin to cross-check whether what has been given to you –

THE SPEAKER: What you need to do - land is very precious, as a committee and the ministry, get the inventory together and then you will come and present to this House.

MS NABAKOوبا: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Mapenduzi?

MR MAPENDUZI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The clarification I seek is in relation to the part where the Chairperson of the committee talks about compensation for ranchers and kingdoms. You are aware that between 1996 and 2006 -

THE SPEAKER: Nineteen what?

MR MAPENDUZI: You are aware that between 1996 and 2006, there were several hundreds of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps that were established in Acholi, Lango, and later on in Teso.

At the time of return and resettlement, the owners of this land where the IDP camps were established were promised by the Government that they would be compensated as their land had been terribly depleted or degraded. The Government made this commitment and it is now almost 10 years down the road, yet no mention is made about this.

The clarification I seek is whether the honourable minister is aware and whether there is any plan for the ministry to put into action this commitment that was made by the President. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The good thing is that you are a member of the budget committee. You are going to raise that issue in the budget committee with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is also asking for money from finance. I will refer the report to the committee pursuant to Rule 156(2) for harmonisation, reconciliation, and consolidation.

I would like to get a report on the land inventory and all the issues and challenges raised on page 14. You will need to come with a report to the House on all those issues. I am the one who mentioned them – *(Member rose)* - a minute. I have given you all the challenges, and they are documented. You come back with what you think we should do on that and what you have done as a ministry.

Secondly, these assets, these titled pieces of land of Government, the ministry should work with the Accountant-General to ensure that all government entities-, you find some land, for instance, land belonging to schools belongs to the Ministry of Education and Sports. Land belonging to maybe another ministry belongs to a different ministry. We should consolidate all this and come up with all of that. Next item. The next presenters, I am giving you 10 minutes.

(VIII) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

4.48

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms Catherine Lamwaka): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171 and Rule 155 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay the following. One, report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Ministerial Policy Statement and budget estimates for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vote 006 and missions abroad, Votes 501 to Votes 538 for Financial Year 2026/2027 and the annexes thereto. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Two, the minutes for the committee meetings with the Votes. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Please lay.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, the report of the committee covers the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vote 006 and 38 missions abroad with Vote status 501-538. The ministry and the missions derive their mandates from Objective 28 of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which sets out the principles which are well entailed on pages 5 and 6. I request Members to read because I only have 10 minutes.

The ministry also executes functions that are outlined in the main report.

- i) Promotion of regional international peace and security;
- ii) Promotion of commercial and economic interests abroad. Honourable members have been complaining about where we are going to get money for funding the budget. This is the area of line, commercial and economic diplomacy;
- iii) Promotion of regional and continental integration; and
- iv) Promotion of adherence to international law and commitments, strengthening the provision of diplomatic protocol and consular services at home and abroad.

The strategic objectives of missions are spelled out in their respective Ministerial Policy Statements. If you read through the report, you will be able to see that they are well laid there.

Compliance with legal Requirements under the Public Finance Management Act

It is on pages 6 to pages 8, to page 8. You can see table 2 on page 6 to 7 clearly indicating missions that have complied. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has complied, but a number of missions abroad have not complied.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that the program-based budgeting system did not have a provision for capturing recruitment plans for missions abroad, and this is why the missions did not provide information.

The committee has recommended that Public Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, should create a provision within the program-based budgeting system for capturing recruitment plans for missions abroad to facilitate compliance with the law.

Gender and Equity Compliance

Members can read on pages 8 to 11. There is a table, table two on page 9, which speaks to that. Because of time, I will not go into the details.

Budget Allocation

It is in the main report, on pages 26 to 32. Budget Allocation for Financial Year 2026/2027

Vote 006: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Proposed budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027

The proposed budget for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 79.192 billion, including arrears. This reflects a 16 per cent increase, compared to the current financial year. The budget will support six development programs. Members can read the details of the report.

Observations

1. The wage category

The ministry's wage allocation for Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 20.681 billion, representing a substantial increase of Uganda Shs 6.563 billion from Financial Year 2025/2026. This increment is to support salary enhancements for selected staff as well as the recruitment of 31 new staff members on a replacement basis.

2. The non-wage category, the non-wage budget is Shs 40.497 billion in this coming Financial Year 2026/2027, reflecting 23 per cent increase. This increase is intended to bolster operational capacity and support the ministry's mandate. Additionally, only Shs 1.448 billion has been allocated for the accumulated Shs 90.231 billion to clear arrears related to contributions to international organisations.

3. Government of Uganda Development Budget

The ministry's development allocation is Shs 14.744 billion in the coming financial year, representing a significant increase of 76 per cent from the current financial year.

The Breakdown

- i) Shs 14.190 billion is earmarked for land purchase to extend the ministry's headquarters. The valuation report, when you look at Annex 6, the report is uploaded, and you will see the details; and
- ii) The remaining development funds will support retooling efforts, including Shs 381 million for light ICT equipment and Shs 0.172 billion for furniture and fittings.

External financing

The ministry has been allocated Shs 1.822 billion to coordinate the Northern Corridor integration projects. Planned activities include organising and participating in various summits, cluster meetings, field visits and infrastructure coordination efforts.

Vote 501-538: Missions Abroad - 38 missions

The proposed budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is well contained in pages 33 to 35. The proposed aggregated budget for Missions Abroad for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 442.493 billion, representing a 9.56 increase, compared to the current financial year. The budget will support development programmes that are highlighted from A to H. Honourable colleagues can read on pages 33 to 35.

Observation

Under the wage component, the overall wage budget is projected to increase primarily due to additional allocation for Missions in New York (Shs 995 million), Tehran (Shs 357 million), Doha (Shs 172 million), and Berlin (Shs 249 million). The increments are to support the recruitment of new local staff and address wage shortfalls.

Under the non-wage category, the total budget is projected to increase by 2.54 per cent, amounting to Shs 7.920 billion from Shs 303.295 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 311.215 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027. Fifteen missions have received additional funding, while

10 missions have maintained their current budgets. However, 13 missions, including Ottawa, Abuja, Washington, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Riyadh, Rome, Berlin, Moscow, Juba, Bujumbura, Kuala Lumpur and Mombasa have experienced budget reductions.

Under Economic and Commercial diplomacy, there has been a 15 per cent reduction in funding, decreasing from Shs 113.25 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 96 billion. I refer you to pages 41 to 45. I now go to -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, did you say that we have a Mission in Rome?

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: In Rome, we use Berlin.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, we have a mission and it got a budget cut under economic and commercial diplomacy.

THE SPEAKER: No, that is Italy. Rome does not have unless you are opening a Mission in Rome.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: On this list, I did not read Rome -

THE SPEAKER: Italy is not Rome. I am a regular visitor there.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: We have a Mission in Rome.

THE SPEAKER: No, we do not.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: An ambassador there as well.

THE SPEAKER: No, we do not. The Mission for Rome is the one in Berlin. The Ambassador of Italy is not the Ambassador for Rome. I am making a small correction because I am a regular visitor there. When we are going to Rome, we have to have the Ambassador of Berlin, but I know there is a proposal to have a Vatican embassy.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was reading under non-wage category where I read the list of different Missions Abroad and I read, among them, Rome, Berlin, and Moscow separate and the others.

THE SPEAKER: Which we do not have. Rome should be replaced with Italy. We do not have a Mission in Rome.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: We have an ambassador there.

THE SPEAKER: No, we do not.

MR NSEREKO: Madam Speaker, maybe you are talking of Vatican.

THE SPEAKER: The embassy we have in Berlin oversees Rome.

MR NSEREKO: Madam Speaker, from the records here -

THE SPEAKER: The Ambassador that we have in Italy - there is a difference between Italy and Rome.

MR NSEREKO: Madam Speaker, ambassadors are accredited to countries, it is true, not to cities. I agree with you partially. Uganda has an embassy in Rome which hosts the Ugandan Embassy that represents the interests of Uganda in Italy as a country. What I do not know is the one of the Vatican because it is an independent country and government. Whereas the Vatican is also encompassed in Rome as a city, it is an independent country -

THE SPEAKER: That one is managed by Berlin.

MR NSEREKO: Alright, maybe you want one for the Vatican in particular.

THE SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move to observations and recommendations. The minister, in his

response, will also clarify that as well as the papers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

and oversight role in the country's participation in international engagements.

Observations and Recommendations

Absence of a documented foreign policy

Vote 006: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The committee reiterates its concern that Uganda has not yet developed a comprehensive and documented foreign policy to guide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, missions abroad, and diplomatic staff in conducting bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Funds for contributions to international organisations

We recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expedite the consultations and finalises the foreign policy.

Members, look at pages 36 and 37. The committee is gravely concerned about Uganda's persistent failure to fulfil its financial obligation to these organisations. As of December 2025, Uganda's arrears stood at Shs 90.231 billion (Annex 10) and only Shs 1.448 billion has been allocated towards clearing these arrears in the forthcoming financial year, leaving a balance of Shs 88.783 billion.

Absence of diaspora policy

Additionally, no funds have been allocated for the annual assessment contribution totalling Shs 25.54 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027, implying that Uganda's arrears will continue accumulating.

Uganda lacks a policy framework for structured and meaningful engagement with its diaspora. This has resulted in inconsistent prioritisation of diaspora matters across missions, thereby limiting opportunities to fully leverage the diaspora's contribution to national development.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be allocated additional funding of Shs 88.783 billion to clear the outstanding arrears and Shs 25.45 billion for payments of annual subscriptions and contributions as obligations to the international organisations.

We recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expedite the finalisation of the diaspora policy to provide a coherent, coordinated, and strategic framework for diaspora engagement by both the ministry and its missions abroad.

Uncoordinated participation in international engagement

Failure to lay international agreements before Parliament

The committee is concerned about the uncoordinated participation by different MDAs in international engagements. In some cases, this has led to situations in which Uganda sends large, parallel delegations to international meetings, resulting in unnecessary public expenditure and undermining the country's international reputation. For instance, Madam Speaker, the UN General Assembly, the 78th Session, 2023, colleagues, you all know what happened.

The committee notes with concern the persistent failure by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lay before Parliament international agreements entered into by the Government of Uganda, as required by Section 4 of the Ratification of Treaties Act, Cap. 190 and Rule 41(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strengthen its coordination

We, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strictly adheres to the provisions of the law that I have stated, by ensuring that all international agreements, including protocols, are laid before Parliament within 90 working days of signing or of their conclusions.

Funding for economic and commercial diplomacy in the Financial Year 2026/2027 is provided on pages 41 to 45. The Government has earmarked Shs 103.5 billion for economic and commercial diplomacy, representing a reduction of 13 per cent compared to last year.

Shs 96 billion is allocated to 34 missions abroad, Shs 5.5 billion to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Shs 2 billion to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for coordination of the economic and commercial diplomacy programme. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that allocation of funding was based on half-year performance.

The committee, however, observed that some missions, which were ranked among the high performers, experienced a reduction in their Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) allocations. For instance, the mission in Juba, which was ranked among the high performers in Africa, had an allocation reduction from Shs 2 billion to Shs 1 billion, while the mission in Brussels, which was ranked high in Europe, experienced a reduction from Shs 3.2 billion to Shs 2 billion.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs enhances transparency in the allocation of ECD funds by ensuring that the criteria used for allocation are clearly communicated, well understood by all missions and consistently applied across all missions abroad.

The missions not allocated funds for economic and commercial diplomacy in Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, these are on pages 43 to 45. Five missions, namely; Rome – which you have guided on, Luanda, Havana, Khartoum and New York have not been allocated any funding for economic and commercial diplomacy.

The mission in Rome, which previously had an economic and commercial diplomacy allocation of Shs 2 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026, was not allocated any ECD funding for the next financial year.

We recommend that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development reinstate the allocation of Shs 2 billion for the mission in Rome because it was among the high-ranking performers.

Madam Speaker, the mission in Luanda informed the committee that Angola imports most of its food, presenting a significant opportunity to promote Uganda's exports.

The mission in Khartoum, Sudan, is accredited to Eritrea, Morocco and Chad, presenting additional opportunities for ECD.

The mission in Havana has a significant potential in Cuba, particularly in science and technology, health care and education, which could greatly harness our potential as a country.

We recommend that the missions in Luanda and Havana be allocated an initial Shs 500 million each.

As I draw towards a conclusion, let me talk about the accumulation of domestic arrears by the mission in New York, on pages 45 to 46.

The mission in New York informed the committee that they have a domestic arrears amounting to Shs 3.08 billion, arising from unpaid steam and electricity bills for the chancery building as well as outstanding property taxes. The mission indicated that these arrears were disclosed in its financial statements for the financial years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, and that all relevant documents were submitted to the ministry for verification.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifies the arrears and, thereafter, submits them to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for prioritisation.

Additional funding for Uganda participation in African Union Peace and Security Council meetings.

Madam Speaker, we recommend that the mission in Addis Ababa be allocated an

additional Shs 500 million because they require Shs 1 billion. They have only made provision for Shs 500 million.

Contingency plan for missions in volatile security environments

The committee notes that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan are operating in increasingly volatile and unpredictable security environments. In addition, missions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, which were previously considered secure, are now exposed to security risk arising from the ongoing conflicts in Iran.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a contingency plan aimed at ensuring the safety and security of diplomatic staff and Ugandan nationals, and to guarantee the continuity of mission operations.

The committee urges the mission to remain on high alert and to take appropriate contingency measures in the event of any escalation in the security situation in order to guarantee the safety and security of diplomatic staff, their families and Ugandan nationals within those accredited areas.

Proposed temporary relocation of the operations of our mission in Tehran due to the security situation there

The committee, accordingly, recommends that the Government considers temporarily relocating the operations of our mission in Tehran to any of the countries of accreditation until the security situation in Iran normalises.

Delayed settlement of the compensation claim by diplomatic staff in Khartoum

During consideration of the MPS for Financial Year 2025/2026, the mission in Khartoum informed the committee that five of its diplomatic staff lost personal properties, including vehicles, clothing and other things. This was following the war in Sudan in April 2023.

Following the incident, the mission submitted a compensation claim to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs amounting to Shs 518 million. However, to date, the claim has not been catered for.

We recommend that the office of the Chief Government Valuer expedites the valuation process of the property of the affected staff so that they are compensated.

Additional funding for renovation of mission property

The mission in Pretoria requires Shs 2.5 billion to renovate the official residence. The property has a leaking roof. The committee visited Pretoria and experienced this.

Therefore, we recommend that an additional Shs 2.5 billion be allocated to the mission in Pretoria to facilitate urgent renovation of the official residence.

Additional funding for the retooling of missions

Vehicles for missions in Kigali and Havana; an ICT equipment for the mission in Pretoria; and furniture fittings for missions in Abu Dhabi. The figures are well stated in the report, under Annex 18.

Madam Speaker, our mission in Ankara requires Shs 200 million for furniture fittings.

We made a general recommendation that the mission in Kigali be allocated an additional Shs 0.225 billion for procurement of the utility van.

We recommend that the mission in Havana be allocated Shs 300 million for the procurement of hybrid van.

The committee recommends that the mission in Pretoria be allocated additional Shs 36 million for equipment to effectively conduct meetings.

The committee recommends that the mission in Abu Dhabi be allocated Shs 1.224 billion for furnishing the newly acquired official residence.

Finally, we recommend that our mission in Ankara be allocated Shs 0.200 billion for the replacement of obsolete furniture to preserve Uganda's image abroad.

Funds for consular assistance to distressed Ugandans

Madam Speaker, this issue has been surfacing in this Parliament time and again – the issue of distressed Ugandans.

The committee notes that the missions in Riyadh, New Delhi and Kuala Lumpur have an exceptionally high demand for consular services due to the large population of Ugandan migrant workers in the Middle East and the increasing cases of human trafficking in some parts of Asia.

We, therefore, recommend that the missions be allocated additional funding in the Financial Year 2026/2027 as follows:

- a) The mission in Riyadh be allocated Shs 220 million for the establishment of shelters for distressed Ugandans in major cities across countries of accreditation and Shs 250 million for procuring a law firm to represent 300 Ugandans in prison and migrant workers with labour-related disputes:
 - i) Mission in New Delhi be allocated Shs 1.2 billion for repatriation and other costs for over 300 Ugandans girls who overstayed there. The committee met these girls, interacted with them - they are in dire need of coming home, Madam Speaker; and
 - ii) The mission in Kuala Lumpur be allocated Shs 500 million for rescuing over 1,000 Ugandans trafficked to Asian countries under the mission's area of accreditation, especially Cambodia and Myanmar.

Staffing gaps at the mission abroad Madam Speaker, the recommendation is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Public Service should expedite the review of staffing structure for missions abroad and thereafter engage the Ministry of Finance,

Planning and Economic Development to secure the necessary budgetary allocation for filling critical positions in subsequent financial year.

Absence of substantive heads of mission

Madam Speaker, the committee is concerned about the continued absence of substantive heads of missions in Nairobi, Tehran, Abuja and Ottawa. This situation undermines the effectiveness of these missions as it limits their ability to engage in the highest diplomatic levels and negotiate agreements to make timely and independent decisions.

On this particular one, we recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to engage the appointing authority on the need to appoint substantive heads of missions for the above-mentioned missions.

Home-based staff travel allowance

The rates that are decided upon in the country do not - the missions have requested the committee consider the night allowance rate equivalent to \$30, which is applicable to officers travelling within Uganda, and which the Auditor-General expected the missions to apply was inadequate given the high cost of living in many of the capitals of the host countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that it brought this matter to the attention of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and was awaiting a response. The committee recommends that the Ministry of Public Service provides clear guidance to missions on the applicable night allowance rates for inland travel within the host country. The rate should be reasonable, reflecting the cost of living in the host countries.

Delayed allocation of land to the Government of Burundi

On pages 56 and 60, the committee notes that the Chancery for the Mission in Bujumbura, Burundi was constructed on land donated by the Government of the Republic of Burundi in 2021 on the understanding that the

Government of Uganda would also allocate land to the Government of Burundi in Uganda for the construction of its chancery. However, to date, the Government of Uganda has not reciprocated.

The committee recommends that the Government, through the relevant ministries and agencies, expedite the allocation of suitable land to the Government of the Republic of Burundi in fulfilment of the reciprocal arrangement and to further strengthen the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries.

Madam Speaker, I now move to conclude. The proposed increase in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Budget by 16 per cent from 69.2 per cent, in the aggregated budget for the missions abroad from Shs 400.199 billion to Shs 442.493 billion is a significant step towards addressing the operational needs of the foreign service sector and strengthening the capacity of the ministry and its missions to effectively execute their mandates. In particular, the continued allocation of funds for Economic and Commercial Diplomats (ECD), which is going to help the missions to deliver on their mandate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

However, the committee notes that critical funding gaps persist, particularly in areas such as Uganda's subscriptions to international organisations, as well as the operational and retooling needs of the missions. Addressing these gaps, Madam Speaker, is critical to ensuring effective service delivery and optimal performance of the ministry and missions abroad.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the report of the committee be adopted. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson, for the report. (*Applause*) It is a very comprehensive report. I want to thank you so much. This report is referred to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation and consolidation. The funding gaps will be handled in the Committee on Budget. Yes, can we have the Committee on

East African Community Affairs?

(IX) COMMITTEE ON EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

THE SPEAKER: The Committee on East African Community Affairs has only one vote. So, I am giving you five minutes.

5.20

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (Dr James Nsaba Buturo): Madam Speaker, permit me to lay on the Table the report and minutes of the Committee on East African Community Affairs on the ministerial policy statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of East African Community Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay. Thank you.

DR NSABA BUTURO: Madam Speaker, the Ministry of East African Community Affairs was established in 2007 by Article 8(3)(a) of the East African Community Treaty (as amended), which enjoins partner states to establish ministries responsible for East African Community Affairs.

According to the Treaty, the regional integration process is envisaged to proceed through four pillars, namely; Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Federation.

The Ministry East African Community programme objectives

The Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) approved 18 programmes for the period 2025/2026 to 2029/2030, aligned with the programme-based planning approach. The ministry contributes to the achievement of three key NDPIV programmes namely; governance and security, private sector development and agro-industrialisation.

Madam Speaker, the budget provision for Financial Year 2026/2027 is Shs 50.463 billion, compared to Shs 46.120 billion in Financial

Year 2025/2026, reflecting an increase of 9.4 per cent. This increase is mainly attributed to an increase in non-wage by 15.1 per cent from Shs 39,822 billion to Shs 45,639 billion

The additional funding under non-wage recurrent is to cater for operations of the Planning as well as to address the funding gap for the minister's mandatory activities, which had previously been underfunded. There is an increase in wages of 41.8 per cent to Shs 2.229 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The development budget has also increased from Shs 0.093 billion to Shs 2.393 billion.

Madam Speaker, the summary of Vote estimate by programme indicates that the Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA) will receive Shs 400 million as recurrent budget and the Agro-Industrialisation Programme, Shs 1.73 billion as recurrent budget. Under the private sector development programme and under the Governance and Security programme, Shs 48.33 billion for recurrent as well as Shs 0.093 million for development.

Madam Speaker, by the end of quarter two, the ministry had received Shs 24.747 billion, wages of 0.914 billion, Non-wage Shs 23.802 billion, development, Shs 0.031 billion and arrears of Shs 0.22 billion. This represents 53.7 per cent of the total approved budget. Of the released funds for quarter two, 94.2 per cent was utilised.

Overall, Shs 23.33 billion was spent out of Shs 24.769 billion, reflecting a 53.7 per cent budget absorption rate. The under-utilisation of funds was primarily due to delays in submission of the required documents for pension, gratuity.

I beg your pardon, Madam Speaker. The total approved budget was Shs 46.120 billion. What has been released so far indicates an overall release rate of 53.7 per cent; Shs 0.190 billion was spent on Agro-Industrialisation, Shs 0.070 billion was spent on Private Sector Development and Shs 0.810 on Governance and Security.

Madam Speaker, the key achievements for half the year are related to coordinated participation in a number of conferences and summits, coordination, national participation in the concept development conference, regional meetings that were undertaken, and so on.

The principal challenges, Madam Speaker, relate to under-release of funds, continuous increase in prices from inflationary pressures, inadequate resources to undertake effective public awareness, slow pace of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in amending their respective national laws and failure by Uganda to attend some regional meetings due to lack of enough resources.

Madam Speaker, the committee has made the following observations and recommendations: On the Performance Indicator Action Plan, the committee recommends that the Ministry of East Africa, together with the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, and the National Planning Authority, review the indicators to ease tracking them.

On Kiswahili the committee recommends that the budget provisions for Kiswahili language popularisation be increased.

On the payment of East African Community gratuity and pension for former employees of the East African Community, the committee recommends that the Auditor-General expedites the re-verification process for the former employees of the defunct East African Community Organs to enable them to access their payment.

On the Mediation Agreement Act, 1984, the committee recommends that the Attorney-General, together with the ministry, come up with regulations to offer guidelines on the payment of pensioners of the defunct East African Community.

On the non-operational East African Community Protocol on peace and security, the committee recommends that the Government advocates for cooperation between Partner States through cooperation frameworks, as

well as binding agreements with all the Partner States. There is also a need to form joint patrols operating in border areas to curb border conflicts and smuggling.

On the non-operational Customs Union and Common Market, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that the ministry fast-tracks the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers across Member States to ease the cost of doing business within Partner States, which will widen the market. It should also advocate for sanctions and punitive actions towards non-compliance to EAC protocols and policies.

The committee further recommends that the ministry fast-tracks the removal of these non-tariff barriers across the region to allow free trade within the region.

On the payment of East African Community Legislative Assembly (EALA) legislators by respective Member States, the committee recommends that this new development requires that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an adequate budget to address this emerging issue.

Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, if the Members of Parliament of EALA are to be paid locally, doesn't that money go to Parliament? We just need clarification. Does it go to the Ministry of East African Community Affairs or does it go to Parliament so that they are paid together with other parliamentarians?

DR NSABA BUTURO: Madam Speaker, that is a very recent development. Those concerned have not given direction about what exactly -

THE SPEAKER: Because that is under legislation.

DR NSABA BUTURO: Madam Speaker, on several barriers faced by agriculture and livestock cross-border trade, the committee recommends that the ministry works hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries under the

Agro-Industrialisation Programme to fast-track the establishment of testing laboratories, and deploy quality assurance managers from relevant agencies for verification of goods at the borders.

There is also a need, to construct quality control infrastructure for handling agricultural exports at inspection points, national agricultural food safety laboratory and support centres, export animal quarantine, holding ground and abattoir facilities, land-border quarantine stations, land-border export inspection facilities.

In addition, Madam Speaker, there is need to empower agricultural officers to be able to issue of agricultural export certificates to ease the cost of doing business by traders.

On the poor state of infrastructure which causes delays in clearing, the committee recommends that the Government allocates resources to improve the road network across borders as well as revamp the railway network to enhance trade among Partner States.

The Government should also increase staffing at border posts in order to ease the movement of goods, people and tourists.

Madam Speaker, on the lack of automated one-stop border posts, the committee recommends that the one-stop border posts be automated and equipped with adequate personnel to man them, to ease trade among the border states.

On limited awareness about the existence and benefits of EAC integration, the committee recommends that the ministry holds localised media campaigns in local languages in order to sensitise the population, including the small-scale traders, about the benefits of integration.

On digital connectivity gaps, the committee recommends that the member countries fully operationalise the one network area within EAC to ensure seamless and effective communication, which is critical for business and overall regional integration.

Madam Speaker, on closed skies within the Community, the committee recommends the liberalisation of the aviation market to open

the skies of the Community. The region should shift from restrictive bilateral agreements to a multilateral liberalised aviation market, and the primary remedies should focus on policy alignment, cost reduction, and operational integration.

Last but not least, the committee recommends that the ministry should advocate for full Single African Air Transport Market implementation, where member states are urged to move beyond signing the African Air Transport Market and the Yamoussoukro Decision and actually operationalise them.

Madam Speaker, Uganda is currently the Chair of the Heads of State Summit. This development has additional responsibilities for Uganda. For this reason, the ministry needs to be supported by providing the funding gap of Shs 10.85 billion to support the ministry. The ministry's budget will strengthen further integration efforts with other Partner States.

The committee recommends that Parliament adopts this report and approves the budgetary estimate as follows for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, I pray that this House will support the statement as given now. I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairman. Honourable members, you have heard a report on MEACA. We refer this report to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, consolidation and reconciliation. Thank you.

(X) COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL
AFFAIRS

THE SPEAKER: On education - the Chairperson of the Committee on Presidential Affairs has just entered.

So, you people were seated outside thinking that you would just come in to present the report? You mean inside is too hot for you people to sit?

(XI) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
SPORTS

5.38

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya): I would like to lay down the minutes from the Committee on Education and Sports during our budget processing, and the report for the Committee on Education and Sports on the Ministerial Policy Statement and budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027, and 2030/2031.

Madam Speaker, I am going to begin on page 15. The rest are just narrations. On page 15, we look at the half-year performance for Vote 013, Ministry of Education and Sports, for the Financial Year 2025/2026. That first page has the details.

Page 16 has key highlights as at half-year performance for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Votes in the Education, Sports and Skills Programme.

Madam Speaker, when we go to page 17, what is clear there that I would like to mention is the operationalisation of the Busoga and Bunyoro Universities. This is something that I must report as per that page that Busoga University is almost complete and awaiting operationalisation, and Bunyoro University's construction is yet to take place.

Madam Speaker, page 18 is about TVET assessment, and the operationalisation or operational status of the TVET Council.

The other one is about the Uganda National Examination Board. We also looked at the provision of student loan schemes. That is on page 18.

On page 19, we talked about the rehabilitation of traditional secondary schools and 31 special needs education primary schools.

Madam Speaker, let me rush to observations and recommendations, but I will only be reading the recommendations.

On page 27, we have several votes:

- i) Vote 013, Education and Sports Ministry, where we observed that external funding to development projects of Shs 138.21 billion and Shs 69.01 billion for the operationalisation of UNITE and the TVET council;
- ii) Vote 164, National Council for Higher Education, and there we observed that Shs 18 billion was for infrastructure development;
- iii) The National Council for Sports for AFCON preparation activities was Shs 122.89 billion, but that one has been revised;
- iv) Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board;
- v) Vote 170 for UPAB, Shs 9.1 billion;
- vi) Makerere University, we looked at the infrastructure development, where it required Shs 67.01 billion;
- vii) Vote 302: Mbarara University, Shs 3 billion for construction;
- viii) Vote 303: Makerere University Business School. We looked at the support for infrastructure development for research, Shs 23 billion;
- ix) Vote 304: Kyambogo University, for evidence-based research of Shs 3 billion. Busitema University supported research and innovation, also Shs 3 billion;
- x) Muni University, Vote 306 of Shs 30 billion for the teaching hospital;
- xi) Vote 307: Kabale University for the expansion of Medical School, Shs 5 billion
- xii) Vote 308: Soroti University, construction of the School of Engineering, Shs 10 billion;
- xiii) Vote 309: Gulu University, infrastructure development of the Senate Building, storage facility, and lecture theatres at Shs 10 billion;
- xiv) Lira University: Vote 310, completion of university infrastructure at Shs 10 billion;
- xv) Mountain of the Moon University, for construction of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science, Shs 10 billion; and

xvi) Vote 612 for local government, which was a salary enhancement for primary and the arts teachers, which was Shs 500 35.01 billion.

When we move to page 29, I think those are narrations. Page 30 has tables you can read. I am rushing to the recommendations. I will

Key planned activities of Financial 2026/2027

Vote 013: Ministry of Education and Sports, the narration is there.

Vote 111: National Curriculum Development Centre. We have the narration.

Vote 128: Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB)

Here we note that no funds were provided for marking of the new secondary school curriculum papers. Last time, the markers rioted and there is a need to add UNEB money like we are going to make proposals.

Education Service Commission

The committee was informed that the Commission is also working closely with Chief Administrative Officers to ensure that human resources - there is that coordination between the Ministry of Education and Sports, CAOs' offices, and the Education Service Commission when it comes to human resource recruitment.

On National Council for Higher Education, the narration is there.

On Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, the narration is there.

About National Council for Sports, operationalisation of Hoima City Stadium and related facilities, the narration is there.

Vote 170: Uganda Health Professionals Assessment Board, you will look at the narration.

Vote 301: Makerere University also has the details there.

Vote 302: Mbarara University of Science and Technology - you can read.

Vote 303: Makerere University Business School - you will read on that page.

Kyambogo University - the same story.

Busitema University - we have such narration.

Muni University - you will look at the construction of the multi-purpose health science lab and the rest.

Kabale University, Vote 307 - the narration is there.

Soroti University, Gulu University, Lira University, Uganda Management Institute, Vote 313 for Mountain of the Moon University - you can read the narration.

Observations

Madam Speaker, we had general observations, and it was observed that the sub-programme was allocated Shs 989.82 billion at the time of the finalisation of the draft estimates.

Of course, we have the ULEARN project, the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) - the narration is there. However, there are key critical activities within the sub-programme that remain unfunded, yet they are critical in the attainment of the set targets within the five-year National Development Plan (NDPIV). This is the implementation of free and compulsory Universal Primary Education (UPE), which continues to be underfunded at Shs 309.16 billion.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development funds the various votes under the sub-programme in time within the first half of the financial year, to ensure timely financing towards the planned activities in order to achieve the set targets.

The finance ministry is also urged to allocate additional Shs 309.16 billion towards the implementation of free and compulsory primary education and Uganda shillings 14.95 billion towards the implementation of free Universal Secondary Education (USE) and Universal Post O-Level Education and Training (UPOLET) Education.

The Ministry of Finance is also urged to allocate an additional Shs 66.30 billion and Shs 21 billion towards the grant-aiding of 100 secondary schools in subcounties without government support, and 300 primary schools in parishes without government ones, respectively.

The Ministry of Finance is also urged to release funds to the Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) Council, to promptly avoid any challenges in the transition to the TVET Act because of limited funding to the council.

Vote 013, Ministry of Education and Sports

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that an additional Shs 5.11 billion be provided by the Ministry of Finance to cater for these increments, and supplement its efforts towards vocational skilling as envisaged by the National Development Plan IV.

The re-purposing of non-core Primary Teachers College (PTCs) into the eight health training institutions and eight TVET institutions.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates Shs 65.78 billion towards the re-purposing of the 16 non-core PTCs into eight Health Training Institutions (HTIs), seven TVET institutions, and one seed secondary school.

Increment in unit cost of the training grants and indentures, internship fees in health training institutions

The committee recommends that the finance ministry provides Shs 19.98 billion for an increment in unit cost for training grants and indenture, internship fees for 10,000 trainees in 20 health training institutes at a cost of Shs 3 million per learner per year.

For the limited funding for teacher and learners' inspection, the committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 8.10 billion for the enforcement of teacher and learners' inspection using electronic systems.

Another observation we made was about special needs education and especially to the teachers, which is referred to as inclusive education.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports treats this as a matter of urgency, carry out rapid survey of what is required in schools countrywide, and further engage the Education Service Commission and the finance ministry to recruit, and subsequently provide wages for such a cadre of teachers, to support special needs education.

Madam Speaker, I would like to mention here that in Kyambogo College School, they have 100 special needs students but only two teachers, who are not on the Government payroll. You can see how there is a dire need for the special needs teachers.

About operationalising of Bunyoro University, the committee recommends that the finance ministry provides an additional Shs 87.50 billion to operationalise Bunyoro University and establish facilities and core staffing.

On operationalising Busoga University, the committee recommends that the finance ministry provides an additional -

THE SPEAKER: Before you go far on that one -

MR KUBEKETERYA: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: On the Shs 12.5 billion that was given to Bunyoro University, has the construction started?

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, they are at design level and of course they have the challenge of getting adequate land. That is Bunyoro University.

THE SPEAKER: What about the land in Kikuube?

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, the committee was informed that the matter of land was settled, so they are now preparing for construction.

THE SPEAKER: Let the honorable minister give us more information.

MR OGWANG: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to confirm to the House that the land for Bunyoro University was identified. We even commissioned it formally. The President was there, and the Ministry of Education and Sports launched the commission of the construction of the university. And I am happy the chairperson, according to the report, is already - Government earmarked Shs 12.5 billion for the works to begin. So, if it is about land, we have the land.

THE SPEAKER: We want to find out how far it has gone. If the money was there, what has the Shs 12.5 billion done so far?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, as far as I am concerned, that money was already earmarked to the Governing Council, which is working on the design. At the same time, we are finalising with the contractor to get on the ground. There are two companies, which have been earmarked based on the guidance given to us, that is either the UPDF Engineers' Brigade or the National Enterprise Corporation. So that is where we are.

What I can promise the House is that the works will begin as soon as possible. What I request, of course, we needed an investment of about Shs 100 billion but what is available now is about Shs 12.5 billion. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: How much has the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development given you on Bunyoro University?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, what the finance ministry has given now is for the next financial year and it is about Shs 12.5 billion.

THE SPEAKER: An additional Shs 12.5 billion?

MR OGWANG: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, and how much has been given for Busoga University?

MR KUBEKETERYA: For Busoga University, if I may answer for him, it is Shs 19.5 billion.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, for the two universities, Busoga University is now ready for operationalisation, according to what the National Council for Higher Education has provided. So, we are waiting for a resolution from Hon. Ogwang, for the university to start.

THE SPEAKER: When can we have that resolution?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I want to pledge that the resolution will come out within the course of this month. I promise on behalf of my senior minister. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Thank you very much, honourable minister. That was on Busoga and Bunyoro University.

The rehabilitation of UPDF formal education schools

Madam Speaker, allow me emphasise that when budgeting, we have always glossed over the issue of the UPDF schools and even police schools that are really in a dire state. Last time, they had only 39 but nothing was done.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates Shs 54.5 billion in a phased manner,

with an initial allocation of Shs 10 billion under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), to ensure sustained improvements focused on providing quality and sustainable education for all students.

I am not going to mention the police primary schools where land-grabbing is taking place, where there is a lot of - Madam Speaker, we were in Kibuli school -

THE SPEAKER: It is not only police schools, even other schools like Nakasero Primary School.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, it is very okay but what perturbed the committee in Nsambya Police Children School, the goons come and even grab shoes from the pupils and yet it is on police land and the policemen are nearby.

Madam Speaker, we propose that the Committee on Education and Sports and the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs sit jointly and look for a solution. The head teacher tells you that they come and grab shoes and even shirts.

THE SPEAKER: And what with them?

MR KUBEKETERYA: They take away and they distribute -

THE SPEAKER: The land?

MR KUBEKETERYA: The land is not grabbed yet, but that is where it is like - let us continue, Madam Speaker.

Examination

These are the examination bodies.

Vote 170: Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board(UHPAB)

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates an

- additional Shs 2.67 billion to UHPAB, with the sector skills expert committee and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers to update the curriculum; and
- ii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 1.04 billion for conducting research to inform the assessment and curriculum development functions of the Board.

The other one is about infrastructure and institutional capacity.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates Shs 10 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to kick-start the construction of an office block for the Board, which will house its offices, simulation labs, and specialised equipment.

Digitalisation of the Board operations

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates Shs 1.95 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to the Board to acquire IT equipment to ensure digitisation of curriculum development and assessment.

Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB)

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 13.03 billion to address underfunding on the mandate of TVET curriculum development.

Vote 128: Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB)

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides Shs 8.3 billion for assessing the comprehensive-based curriculum/ continuous assessment for Universal Secondary Education (USE) aligned curriculum.

Enhancing field conduct of examinations

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 8.45 billion to cover the increased daily transport costs and supervision for the UNEB officials and markers.

About marking, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 6.52 billion to increase examination marking fees to attract the right number of examiners.

On ICT infrastructure, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development adds Shs 8.60 billion to cater for the establishment of a business continuity and disaster recovery site.

On the promotion of equal and fair access to assessment across all categories, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 3.15 billion to facilitate support for personnel of special needs education candidates.

About the construction of the E-assessment centre, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 27 billion for the completion of the construction of the E-assessment digital centre.

Other entities

Vote 166: National Council of Sports

About preparation for AFCON 2027, the committee was informed that the Council received additional funding of Shs 122.89 billion. However, the Council requires additional funding towards AFCON games 2027; Shs 1 billion for hire; Shs 2 billion for hosting the Four-Nations Tournament for at least a month and Shs 9.1 billion for equipment and personnel for maintenance of the completed

AFCON facilities.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 1 billion for the hire of five specialised technical human performance consultants for Uganda Cranes players; Shs 2 billion for hosting the Four Nations Tournament at least one month before AFCON 2027 kick-off, and Shs 9.1 billion for equipping and personnel for maintenance of completed AFCON facilities.

On funding the national team preparation for the major critical internal championship of Olympic and Paralympic games, and all African games for Islamic solidarity, we recommend that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides an additional Shs 4.2 billion for national team preparation for major critical international championships and tournaments.

Other critical activities

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends as follows:

- i) Shs 1 billion for the National Anti-Doping Organisation to fully implement its mandate;
- ii) Shs 6 billion to establish the national rewards and recognition scheme;
- iii) Another one is Shs 8 billion for the operationalisation of the Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre in Sebei;
- iv) Next is Shs 5 billion for the redevelopment of the Uganda Golf Course, Kitante;
- v) The other one is Shs 5 billion for hosting the World Challenger Series of Rugby in 2027; and
- vi) Then Shs 30 billion towards the rehabilitation of regional stadia, as guided by the National Council for Sports and necessary for funding for each stadium.

The Education Service Commission

The committee recommends that the Finance Ministry provides Shs 7 billion to facilitate the

initial phase of the construction of the ESC office block to address the shortage of office space and storage, and an additional Shs 0.4 billion to undertake evidence-based research to support the commission's mandate.

That the Finance Ministry should also provide the ministry with the wage to support recruitment of personnel to fill current staffing gaps in schools, to promote assistant education officers who have acquired graduate qualifications.

Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA)

There are several narrations about the removal of asbestos and all that, and lighting, as well as the Philip Omondi Stadium.

The committee recommends that the ministry of Finance –

- i) Allocates an additional Shs 12.0 billion to purchase land for the construction of city schools in KCCA;
- ii) Allocates Shs 1.05 billion to cater for the refurbishment and removal of asbestos in three schools, that is Mengo Primary School, Katwe Martyrs Primary School, and City High School;
- iii) Allocates Shs 1.6 billion to install lightning arresters in 79 UPE and 22 Government-aided secondary schools;
- iv) Allocates Shs 3.0 billion to construct 264 toilet facilities in Government-aided primary schools; and
- v) Allocates Shs 39 billion in a phased manner to complete the construction of Phillip Omondi Stadium. Honourable members, the Phillip Omondi Stadium, I think all members here consume the services of that stadium. So, let us hope you are with us because they are really in need of Shs 39 billion.

THE SPEAKER: Chairman, maybe I should just inquire. These training facilities you are talking about, Kakyeka, Mbale, Soroti; how much has the Finance ministry provided?

MR KUBEKETERYA: I think it is zero, and that is why we are making the recommendation where we say “additional.”

THE SPEAKER: Additional. Okay, then you have Bugembe.

MR KUBEKETERYA: All those are just not mentioned.

THE SPEAKER: But when you are making some of these observations, you need to first establish whether the land is ours or the kingdom’s, because that is our kingdom land. So, you need authority from the kingdom.

MR KUBUKETERYA: Madam Speaker, we shall find out but Bugembe actually has no controversy about land acquisition or land ownership. So, can I proceed to the National Council for Higher -

THE SPEAKER: You can also add Bukedea there, I have seen -

MR KUBUKETERYA: Yes, Bukedea Stadium can also be added. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: I am only asking the criteria that was used to determine those other areas.

MR KUBEKETERYA: The minister is going to give us the criteria. May I proceed, Madam Speaker? National Council for Higher Education

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates Shs 13.814 billion in a phased manner to enable the National Council for Higher Education to undertake all interventions as per the funding gap.

Vote 111: National Curriculum Development Centre

The National Curriculum Development Centre has issues, domestic arrears, finalisation of the teachers’ resource book, and other critical unfunded activities.

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) That the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 3.5 billion towards development of the A-level curriculum, Shs 4.08 billion for development, printing, and countrywide distribution of the curriculum documents for the renewed lower primary curriculum and secondary; and
- ii) That the finance ministry allocates Shs 0.810 billion to the centre to cater for the accumulated areas, Shs 4.7 billion for finalisation of the development of teachers’ resource book, and Shs 1.8 billion for purchase of vehicles for staff, and Shs 2.15 billion for recruiting or the recruitment of staff.

Public universities

These are general issues, Madam Speaker and Honourable members.

The committee recommends that the Government commits to addressing the persistent issue of underfunding in public universities to at least operate at an average of 50 per cent staffing level.

Next on the page, the committee recommends that Finance allocates sufficient funds to be commensurate with the number of Government-sponsored students to avoid situations in which the university has to use its operational funds to provide students with living out allowances, and to apply for a supplementary budget each financial year.

The Government, through the various public universities, should harmonise students’ food and living-out allowance to avoid agitation by other students.

Makerere University

The other issue, Madam Speaker, is about Makerere University. The committee recommends that the Finance ministry allocates Shs 1.269 billion to handle the renovation of its water and sewerage system across the main campus, as well as the renovation of the Welcome Trust, New Avenue, and Quarry

Flats, and Shs 7.55 billion towards outsourcing cleaning and security guard services.

Kyambogo University

On Kyambogo University, the committee recommends that the Uganda Land Commission and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development undertake a comprehensive land audit to resolve overlapping tenure conflicts.

Two, the committee also urges the finance ministry to allocate Shs 28.58 billion in a phased manner for the recruitment of academic staff in the medium term to bring the staffing level to at least 50 percent.

Gulu University

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 2.902 billion to cover shortfalls arising from salary harmonisation, Shs 18.643 billion in the mid-term to increase the university's staffing level to at least 50 per cent.

Secondly, that the finance ministry allocates Shs 28.41 billion for the completion of the construction of Gulu Constituent College in Moroto, and Shs 12.815 billion to complete the construction of the Business and Development Centre.

Muni University

For Muni University, Madam Speaker, we recommend that the Finance Ministry allocates Shs 14.698 billion towards the completion of the various construction projects which have stalled at the university, and Shs 15.302 billion towards kick-starting the construction of the teaching hospital.

Mbarara University of Science and Technology

The committee recommends that the Finance Ministry allocates an additional Shs 35.43 billion towards the recruitment of staff in the medium term to increase the staffing level to at least 50 per cent. Shs 0.491 for salary scale harmonisation for non-teaching staff. The

Finance Ministry is also urged to additionally give Shs 2.8 billion towards retooling of labs and workshops, with specialised machinery and equipment for teaching, research, and innovation.

Soroti University

The committee recommends that the Finance Ministry allocates Shs 5 billion for the procurement of the necessary equipment and machinery for instruction of the three new engineering courses.

Lira University

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) That the Finance Ministry provides Shs 5.0 billion to promote additional critical staff, and Shs 1 billion to cover shortfalls; and
- ii) Shs 1 billion to cover shortfalls within the welfare facilities and NSSF; and Shs 1.5 billion for the research and innovation fund.

Vote 307: Kabale University

The committee recommends that an additional Shs 3 billion be allocated to the university to support its research agenda for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Vote 305: Busitema University

The committee recommends that the ministry for finance provides an additional funding of Shs 14.862 billion to increase on its staffing levels from 10 per cent to at least 50 per cent. Shs 5.23 billion for strengthening labs and ICT to provide in the provision of its services in IT.

Vote 312: Uganda Management Institute (UMI)

The committee recommends that finance allocates an additional Shs 15.2 billion for the construction of a new purpose building at Kampala branch, new classroom office at Mbale branch, and new classroom office block at Mbarara branch.

The committee further recommends that the Ministry for Finance avails the institute with Shs 2.0 billion to support its research agenda.

Vote 303: Makerere University Business School

The committee recommends that the additional funding of Shs 2.6 billion for staff recruitment be given to the university.

The committee also recommends that the finance ministry allocate an additional Shs 3.10 billion to support the research agenda of Mountain of the Moon University.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the budget of the Ministry of Education, Sports, and skills sub-sector or sub-program for FY 2026,2027 be approved as per the draft estimates on the table below. I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, you have heard the lamentations from the education sector; they need more money for those facilities. We will forward the report for reconciliation, harmonisation, and consolidation to the Committee on Budget.

Can I request the remaining reports to just give us the budget allocation? Do not give us the unfunded priorities, just give us the budget allocations since we are still going to harmonise it with the -

(XI) COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS

THE SPEAKER: Each of you has five minutes and Health will take five minutes.

6.16

MS FLORA NATUMANYA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kikuube): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, allow me to lay a copy of the report, minutes and accompanying documents of the proceedings of the Ministerial Policy Statements for the Committee on Presidential Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, all these reports are captured. They are being laid on the Table. If you have issues that you need to raise - Hon. Peter, we have finished yours, do not go - Members, since we have all this, let these people lay on the Table and only give us the budget allocations, and then in case we have anything that we need to inquire, we follow up with the report to the Budget Committee. So, just give us the budget allocations - and it will be on the *Hansard*. Capture everything in the report.

MS NATUMANYA: I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, thank you.

MS NATUMANYA: Speaker and members, in accordance with Article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, Section 12 -

THE SPEAKER: Florence, go ahead and give us the budget allocations.

MS NATUMANYA: Okay, I am starting with Vote 001 - Office of the President.

The issues are salary enhancement for RDC

The committee recommends that a total of Shs 29.079 billion be allocated to Vote 001 to cater for salary enhancements for the 146 RDCs, 170 deputy RDCs, 432 assistant RDCs, FY 2026/2027.

Inadequate office accommodation for RDCs

The committee recommends that Shs 2.80 billion be availed to Vote 001 for the construction of four offices for RDCs, FY2026 -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Florence, go to the budget table on page 55.

MS NATUMANYA: Page 55.

THE SPEAKER: Vote 001 - Recurrent - 368.

MS NATUMANYA: The budget allocations are as follows:

Vote 001: Office of the President
 Recurrent expenditure - Shs 368,225,930,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 20,124,000,000.

Vote 002: State House

Budget item
 Recurrent expenditure - Shs 453,463,715,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 27,772,000,000.

Vote 003: Office of the Prime Minister

Budget item
 Recurrent expenditure - Shs 248,940,000,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 167,960,000,000.

Vote 023: Ministry of KCCA and MA

Budget item
 Recurrent expenditure - Shs 10,457,000,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 313,265,000,000.

Vote 107: Uganda AIDS Commission

Recurrent expenditure, Shs 25,936,453,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 557,000,000.

Vote 110: Uganda Industrial Research Institute

Recurrent expenditure - Shs 22,506,660,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 2,893,060,000.

Vote 112: Ethics and Integrity

Recurrent expenditure – Shs 15,659,957,000.
 Development expenditure – Shs 64,770,000.

Vote 122: Kampala Capital City Authority

Recurrent expenditure – Shs 331,950,000,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 517,391,000,000.

Vote 158: Internal Security Organisation

Recurrent expenditure – Shs 297,897,000,000.
 Development expenditure – Shs 55,241,000,000

Vote 159: External Security Organisation

Recurrent expenditure – Shs 126,612,000,000.
 Development expenditure - Shs 15,702,000,000.

Vote 167: Science, Technology and Innovation

Recurrent expenditure – Shs 519,334,000,000.
 Development expenditure – Shs 76,998,000,000.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, that is the -

MS NATUMANYA: I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is the breakdown of the Report of the Committee on Presidential Affairs. You can go and study it and follow this report to the Budget Committee. I refer the report to the Budget Committee for harmonisation, reconciliation and consolidation. Thank you, Hon. Flora.

(XII) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

THE SPEAKER: Capture all these reports on the *Hansard*. Committee chairperson, you are following what Hon. Natumanya has done.

6.23

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (Dr Joseph Ruyonga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am going to try to summarise.

I beg to lay on Table a copy of the report.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

DR RUYONGA: The report has been uploaded. On page 8, we have an overview of the health sector budget. The third column shows the budget estimate for Financial Year 2026/2027, in billions.

Under wage, we have Shs 484.486 billion. Under capital development, we have Shs 1,564 billion, and Government development is Shs 542.494 billion. External financing is Shs 1,254 billion, arrears is Shs 3.521 billion, for local

governments, we have Shs 1,268.5 billion, making a total of Shs 5.117 trillion. That is the overview of the health sector budget.

When we go to the Ministry of Health, which is on page 9 –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, go to page 63 where there is the recurrent expenditure for these Votes – Ministry of Health, Uganda Cancer Institute, Uganda Heart Institute, Uganda National Medical Stores, Uganda Virus Research Institute, Health Service Commission and Uganda Blood Transfusion Service.

DR RUYONGA: Thank you. On page 63, for the Ministry of Health, the recurrent expenditure is Shs 284.45 billion; for Uganda Cancer Institute, we have Shs 99.6 billion; and for Uganda Heart Institute, we have Shs 59 –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, when you are reading figures, for example, read: Vote 014: Ministry of Health – Shs 284,456,843,000.

DR RUYONGA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. For the Ministry of Health, which is Vote 014, we have Shs 284,456,843,000.

For Uganda Cancer Institute, we have Shs 99,603,096,000.

For Vote 115: Uganda Heart Institute, we have Shs 59,764,538,000.

For Uganda National Medical Stores, we have Shs 861,501,136,000.

For Vote 017: Uganda Virus Research Institute, UVRI, we have Shs 13,445,308,000.

For Vote 134: Health Service Commission, we have Shs 18,840,957,000.

For Vote 151: Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, we have Shs 40,081,599,000 -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, now you can read the subtotal for the referral hospitals.

DR RUYONGA: Madam Speaker, for the subtotal for referral hospitals, we have Shs 583,171,827,000. For the total recurrent, we have Shs 1,960,865,304,000.

Development expenditure

For the Ministry of Health, the total is Shs 1,667,096,872,000.

For the referral hospitals – that is on page 67 – the subtotal is Shs 130,143,468,000.

For total development expenditure, we have Shs 1,797,240,340,000.

The grand total proposed appropriation is Shs 3,758,105,644,000.

I beg to move that the report of the Committee on Health be considered. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred, pursuant to rule 156(2), for reconciliation, harmonization, and consolidation. If you have anything in particular, please follow it up with the Budget Committee – harmonise, reconcile, and consolidate it there.

We will have the House on Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. and, as I said, we will start with the tax Bills. All outstanding Bills that are with the committees should be presented next week, including the Sovereignty Bill. The House is adjourned to Tuesday.

(The House rose at 6.33 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 21 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.)

